

The CHOSEN with Hosanna!



SEASON 3: EPISODE 6

SCHEDULE

July 14-26 - Watch Episodes 5-6

July 27, 6:45-8:00 - Discuss Episodes 5-6

July 28-August 16 - Watch Episodes 7-8

August 17, 6:45-8:00 - Discuss Episodes 7-8

WEBSITE

- Hosanna's Study Website: www.hosannatogether.org/chosen

BACKGROUND NOTES

- The episode opens with Pontius Pilate's wife dreaming.
- The Decapolis is a cluster of 10 Roman cities around the border of Rome's direct control (where you could be considered a Roman citizen) and their occupied territories (like Israel and Judah). This is the city Andrew and Philip had gone to on their missionary journey, and that is referenced by Leander and John the Baptist's disciples.

THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION

- The scene when the disciples are sharpening all kinds of pointy objects is striking.
 - Who or what are they afraid of? Didn't Jesus teach them to turn the other cheek?
- Gaius is clearly conflicted by Quintas' attitude and his duties. How does he resolve that conflict?
- Leander says that Philip and Andrew's preaching has set the Decapolis on fire, causing political upheaval. Why would preaching the Gospel, teaching that Jesus is the Messiah, and healing people impact politics?
 - Should religion and politics be connected? Separate? Where's the line?
- At the end of the conversation between Mary and Tamar, Mary says, "I judged your strength against my weakness. Pitied myself." Why do we dislike people who seem stronger, richer, or "better" than we are?
 - How does listening to Tamar's story change Mary's attitude?
 - How can we listen and learn better in our world today?

- What do you make of Pontius Pilate in The Chosen? Are you surprised by how young he is?
- When Simon tells the other Zealots about the Messiah bringing the Kingdom of Heaven, they point to a Roman soldier (Gaius), and they imply that if the Romans are still around, the Kingdom of Heaven isn't there yet. Shortly after, John the Baptist's disciples asks, "We have heard our former comrades Andrew and Philip have gone to the Decapolis. Is that where you are planning to launch the revolution to overthrow Rome?" Jesus: "I have something in mind for the Decapolis, and it will be revolutionary, but probably not in the way that you are thinking."
 - Many people thought the Messiah would force out the Romans and reestablish Judah.
 - If the Messiah isn't there to do that, what *IS* the Kingdom of Heaven? For a clue, pay attention to what the Roman soldier (Gaius) is doing when they point to him.
- John the Baptist's disciples wonder why, if Jesus is proclaiming release to prisoners, is John still in prison, holding back his ministry. Why doesn't God do more to support those who support God? Why isn't the church today flourishing with lots of people and resources?
- Jesus says, "Proclaiming liberty to the captives can mean more than just freeing inmates. There are many kinds of captivities that keep people." What does he mean?
 - What holds you captive? (If your answer is "sin," be specific of what specific sin.)
- Jesus says, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the mute speak, and the poor have the Good News preached to them. Blessed is the one who is not offended by me."
 - How does this answer John's question about whether Jesus is the Messiah? How is it related to the earlier question about the Kingdom of Heaven?
- During his explanation to the crowd, Jesus seems kind of angry, especially when he looks at the rabbi questioning him. Why do you think that is? What is so frustrating to him?
- Many of Jesus' words come directly from Matthew 11. Read it the from the Bible.
 - What is Jesus preaching against? What is he preaching *for* (see verses 28-30)?
- When Jesus talks about "wisdom," he's borrowing from Proverbs 8-9. Read those two chapters. Some have theorized this is an early reference to the Holy Spirit. Who or what do you think is "Wisdom" or "Lady Wisdom"?
- Jesus asks Shula, "Are you afraid to ask for healing?" "Yes." "Do you believe I can heal you?" "Yes. Of course!" "Then why haven't you asked?" "You have so much to do, Rabbi. So many people need you more. . . You redeemed my friend. Mary's miracle was so clear to me, I didn't need sight." "I know. You see better than most people in this region."
 - Do we downplay our own hurts because "others have it worse"? Should we?
 - After being healed, what is Shula afraid to see?
- When Simon asks why Eden didn't tell him about losing a baby, she says, "I didn't want you to regret your choice, because what could be more important than [serving the Messiah?] I thought that I could just keep it to myself. But I didn't know the hurt would go on so long."
 - Does serving God take precedence over caring for ourselves and our loved ones? Read Matthew 10:37-39 and 19:27-30. How does following Jesus multiply relationships?
 - Why did Eden think she could keep her loss to herself? When have you kept loss to yourself, only to make that hurt go on longer than expected?