

The CHOSEN with Hosanna!



SEASON 4: EPISODE 8 Humble

SCHEDULE

November 27-December 9 - Watch Episodes 7-8

December 10, 6:00-7:15 - Discuss Episodes 7-8

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

BACKGROUND NOTES

- The episode opens around 1,000 years earlier with King David returning from battle. Abigail was his second wife (several before Bathsheba). They had a son Chileab, also called Daniel.
- The story of the Passover comes from Exodus 12. Consider reading it.
- Pontius Pilate was prefect (governor) over Judah (generally, the Southern Kingdom) 26-36 CE, during the reign of Emperor Tiberias. Pilate was disliked by the Jews for putting Roman religious symbols everywhere. He was known for his cruelty, which eventually led him to be recalled to Rome, where he killed himself on the order of Emperor Caligula.
- Herod Antipas was tetrarch of Galilee and Perea (generally, the Northern Kingdom of Israel). He is the one who had John the Baptist executed. He and Pontius Pilate were similar in their power and rank, just covering different territories.
- When Herod and Pilate are eating, they lounge at a table called a *triclinium*. This is how most people ate, not sitting at a table like we see Jesus and the disciples often eating.
- Joanna appears a lot in this episode. Recall that she is a rich woman who visits John the Baptist, warns the disciples of danger, and funds their ministry. Although she is named in the Bible, as a secret supporter, much of what happens in The Chosen is imagined.
- Recall the bridle that Joseph gave to Jesus in Season 3, Episode 3 (43rd minute). When giving it to Jesus, Joseph says, "Thousands of years ago, when our people were finally set free from slavery, as they were leaving, one of our ancestors from the great tribe of Judah used this every bridle to lead mule laden with supplies out of Egypt. Of course, the mule eventually died, and everything was lost in the wilderness. But, this was in his hand when he escaped. The men in our family have handed this down to each other for 40 generations as a remembrance of our bondage, and even more importantly, in remembrance of being let into freedom in the promised land." Although a wonderful symbol in The Chosen, remember that it is not Biblical.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- When Jesus asks Schmuel what he hopes for the Messiah, he responds, “To usher in a new Davidic kingdom that drives out our oppressors and restores justice and glory for Israel . . . On a glorious throne with prosperity for all. A new golden age, with Israel as the light to the nations, revealing God to the peoples of the world.” “And what will you do in that day?” “Worship? Serve, I hope. How could I possibly know until that day comes?”
 - How would you have answered: What is your hope that the Messiah does? If that happens, what will you do in that day?
- Jesus tells the parable of the sheep and the goats. Consider reading this again in the Bible in Matthew 25:31-46.
 - Call to mind specific people are the “least” of Jesus’ family. How do you serve them?
 - What do you do to them or for them?
 - Why do you think the righteous were surprised that they had served the Lord? Think of a time that you fed, clothed, healed, visited, or cared for someone else. What difference did it make to God?
- What do you think it means that “the Son of Man, the Messiah, is identified with the lowest of all people--the hungry, the poor, the stranger”? Do you agree with Schmuel that this is a hard teaching? Why is it so hard?
- Jesus quotes Micah 6:8. What does it mean to do justice? Love kindness? Walk humbly with your God?
- Jesus says, “A new commandment I give you, that you love one another just as I have loved you. By this, all people will know that you are my disciples. That you have love for one another.” Do people know Christians for their love? Why or why not? Do people know you are a follower of Jesus because of your love? Why or why not?
- What do you think of Mary anointing Jesus with the expensive perfume?
 - Why would she do this? What was the purpose?
 - What do you make of Jesus’ response to the anointing? Does it contradict what he’d just said? What does his response say about the character of God?
 - Was this a waste as Judas and Schmuel insist? Why or why not? They both want good things, so what are they missing?
 - What do we as followers of Jesus do that some might consider a waste? What do we spend money on that would be better spent on caring for people?
- Schmuel says, “I came here to give you a chance, and you’ve ruined it.” When has God “ruined” the change you gave God to prove Himself?
- Claudia (Pilate’s wife) talks to Joanna about the dedication of the Jews: “They come on foot, hundreds of miles to an overcrowded city with uncomfortable lodging options. Do you believe in anything so much?” Do you? What have you given up to follow God? How far would you go?
- Joanna says, “What can someone like me ever do? I feel like a prop in their theater of power. Like a decoration.” Claudia responds, “I think we could be more than that, if we believe in something as much as they do.” What can someone like *you* do? What motivates you?

- Why do you think people rush to meet Jesus, Joanna included?
 - What could move *you* to that kind of excitement and expectation?
 - Have you ever felt such deep excitement in your life of faith? Why or why not?
- Jesus tells his followers: “No matter what happens this week. No matter what you see or feel or think or do, I want you to know that in this world, I loved you as my own. And I will love you to the end.” Do you believe you are included in this love?
- Although the episode is 1 hour: 27 minutes, the action ends at 1:07. After 11 minutes of credits, the final 6 minutes are outtakes from filming. A little bit of the “magic” is lost by watching them, but it also offers an interesting window into the filming. You may choose whether or not to watch these.
 - If you do watch them, what thoughts do the outtakes bring to you?
 - Which one is the most humorous to you?
- Season 5 will begin with Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. What are your expectations for seasons 5-7? Do you think the show will get better or worse? More enjoyable or less enjoyable? Why?
 - What do you want to see? What do you *not* want to see?