

The CHOSEN with Hosanna!



SEASON 3: EPISODE 3

SCHEDULE

June 30-July 12 - Watch Episodes 3-4

July 13, 6:45-8:00 - Discuss Episodes 3-4

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 people playing with kids. It is a flashback to the past, of a young Jesus with his parents Mary and Joseph.
- The next scene has arriving back home in Nazareth, where he grew up and his mother lives.
- It is Rosh Hashanah, which in Hebrew means "head of year." It is the Jewish new year. This holiday happens in late summer/early autumn, and begins a ten-day period of penitence culminating in Yom Kippur.
 - The shofar (a hollowed-out ram's horn) is blown throughout the day as a wake-up call for Jews to mend their ways and repent.
 - People would eat sweet foods like sweet bread and apples dipped in honey, hoping to evoke a sweet new year.
- At the festival (15:00 in), we meet Rafi and Dinah again, who were the ones getting married when Jesus turned water into wine.
- We also meet Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha.
- Later in the episode, there is another flashback to a time when Jesus is young, with his earthly father Joseph. The passage Jesus is learning to read is from Isaiah 61.
- The name "Jesus bar Joseph" means "Jesus son of Joseph" in Hebrew.
- When Jesus reads the scripture, he wears to prayer shawl and uses a pointer to follow the text, as was Jewish custom when reading in worship.

THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION

- In their conversation, Jesus makes reference to James and Jude. These were his younger brothers (Matt. 12:46, Mark 3:31, Luke 8:19, John 7:5). Paul refers to “James, the Lord’s brother” in Galatians 1:18-19. There is also speculation that the author of the epistle of Jude, who identifies himself as the “brother of James,” is another sibling of Jesus.
 - What do you think about the idea that Jesus had siblings? What do you think their relationship would have been like?
 - Why might it be difficult for them now to be around him and the attention he’s getting?
- It is clear that Joseph has died. While the Bible doesn’t actually say that, he’s never again present after the episode with Jesus lost in the temple at 12 years old.
 - What difference does it make to consider that Jesus lost his earthly father at a young age?
 - What do you think Jesus (and therefore God) understands about death and loss?
- Jesus talks several times in the episode that his “time is coming.” What do you think he means by that?
- Mary seems to know exactly what’s happening when Jesus asks for “the box” and that he won’t be coming back.
 - How much do you think Mary knew? Did she know that Jesus was the Messiah?
 - How does this compare with your experience of the Christmas song, “Mary, did you know?”
 - What do you think it was like for her?
- What do you make of Jesus’ relationship with Lazarus? His other childhood friends?
 - What do you think of him playing a game? Does that sound like the Messiah you know? Why or why not?
 - How much do you think Jesus (and therefore God) understands about play? Friendship? Childhood? Being as “once awkward teenager” (as he describes himself)?
- Jesus reads from Isaiah 61:1-2: The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor.”
 - Verses 2b-4 they note that he omits is “and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.”
 - What do you think these words meant to the people headed into exile in Isaiah’s day?
 - What do you think they meant to the people in Jesus’ day?
 - What do you think they mean to us today?
- Jesus references two stories of prophets performing miracles for outsiders, while not doing so for the people of Israel:
 - Elijah visits the Widow of Zapheth, and provides unending food - 1 Kings 17:8-16
 - Elisha heals Naaman, a general in the enemy army, of leprosy - 2 Kings 5:1-19

- When Jesus talking about the year of Jubilee, he is referring the Jewish tradition of a Jubilee year. It is every 50th year, when Hebrew slaves and prisoners would be freed, debts would be forgiven, and the mercies of God would be particularly manifest.
 - What do you think Jesus means that he is here to proclaim the release of “spiritual debt”?
- Jesus says, “If you do not realize that you need a year of the Lord’s favor, then I cannot save you.”
 - What do you think Jesus means by this?
 - Is God’s power limited? In other words, is there anything God *cannot* do?
 - Does that influence how we understand this line?
- The rabbi asks, “Who do you think you are?” Jesus responds, “I AM the Law of Moses”
 - Where else have you heard God/Jesus say “I am”? Do a little research on Jesus’ “I am” statements, especially in the Gospel of John. How is this a loaded statement?
- The punishment for claiming to prophesy falsely is stoning, being hurled off cliff.
 - Why do they let him go?
 - What is the significance of him calling them each by name before they do?
 - How does this “close” encounter with Jesus impact him?
- Is Jesus in control of his destiny or not? Or is it some hybrid?
 - What difference does it make?