

# The CHOSEN with Hosanna!



## SEASON 4: EPISODE 3 Moon to Blood

### SCHEDULE

October 30-November 11 - Watch Episodes 3-4

November 12, 6:00-7:15 - Discuss Episodes 3-4

November 13-25 - Watch Episodes 5-6

November 26, 6:00-7:15 - Discuss Episodes 5-6

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](http://www.hosannatogether.org/chosen)

### BACKGROUND NOTES

- The episode opens in 980 BC, when David is king over Israel, shortly after Bathsheba gives birth to the child conceived in their affair. This scene is recorded in 2 Samuel 12:13-23.
- Andrew accompanies Thomas and Ramah because it was typical for a man and woman to require an escort whenever they were "alone," to help them keep from getting too close and crossing boundaries. And to ensure purity.
- God tells Jonah to go to the city of Ninevah to tell the people to repent (change from their evil ways), lest they be destroyed. Jonah ends up in the belly of a big fish when he refuses. He *hates* the people there, and he fears that if they repent, God will have mercy on them. That's exactly what happens--they change, and God has mercy.
  - The book of Jonah is only 4 chapters. Consider reading it this week.

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- The conversation between James, John, their mother, and Zebedee is interesting...
  - With the way they talk about "seeking the Kingdom," just about anything could be justified. What do *you* think it means to seek the Kingdom of God?
  - When have Christians (collectively and individually) justified greed, violence, and more throughout history by saying that they are furthering "The Kingdom"? When have you?
  - Research the term "Manifest Destiny" online.

- What are some ways we worry about others “getting in front of us” with God?
  - Do you struggle with the idea that God is merciful to people who have not been as faithful as you? The classic example is a death row inmate believing in Jesus on their deathbed.
  - Does the idea that bad people or non-believers might get into heaven trouble you? Why or why not? Should God be merciful to them? Or not?
  - What are the benefits of being a good and faithful Christian?
- When Shula points out to Jesus that he would be healing on the Sabbath to Jesus, he says with a grin, “That’ll make this more fun.” Later, the Pharisees accuse Jesus of creating division with God’s anointed leaders. Do you think God takes delight in being subversive?
  - When are followers of Jesus called to be peacemakers, and when are we called to stir things up, even if it causes controversy?
- A friend asks, “Who sinned? Josiah or his parents, that he was born blind.” Jesus responds, “It’s not that this man sinned. Or his parents. But that the work of God may be displayed in him.” Why do bad things happen? Is it punishment for unrepentant sin?
- When asked for another miracle, Jesus says, “That’s not how this works.” How *does* it work? When *does* God perform miracles? Is it when the need is great enough? When injustice is done? When someone prays enough? To make a point?
- Jesus suggests that those seeking signs and wonders so that they can believe are part of an evil generation who need repentance. What do you think he means by this?
  - Are we living in an “evil generation”? What do we (including yourself) need?
- Jesus tell the Pharisees: “Your obsession with what is clean and unclean goes farther than God intended. And does no good for anybody but yourselves.”
  - When do we go too far with our faith practices?
  - When does our condemnation of people who violate “God’s law” go too far?
- Jesus says, “You tithe mint and dill and cumin, measuring carefully the last speck, while neglecting what is actually important of the law: justice, and mercy, and faithfulness.”
  - Read Micah 6:6-8. What *does* God want from us? Are we doing it? Are you doing it?
  - What does it look like when justice, mercy, and faithfulness are lived out?

**-- MAJOR SPOILER BELOW. I SUGGEST NOT READING UNTIL AFTER WATCHING THE EPISODE ---**

- Recall the conversation between David and Bathsheba: “I asked the Lord God whether he might be gracious to us and let our child live. My prayer was not answered.” “Why not? Why some prayers and not others?” “I don’t know. I’ve never known.” “And still you worship?” “I do. Through sorrow, joy, and sorrow again. This is the meaning of faith.” “It can’t bring our son back.” “It can’t. Sooner or later we’ll both go to that same end. He will not be returned to us. We will go to him. Our separation is just for now . . . That time could be a long time. It could be tomorrow. This is the way of all things.”
  - How does this speak to Jesus’ inaction at the end?
  - If Jesus can heal people, why doesn’t he heal her? What does this say about God “letting” bad things happen in our lives?
- The final scene of the episode is not in the Bible. Why include it in the show? What does it reveal about God and how God acts?
  - Should every story with Jesus end happily ever after? Or is it significant that it doesn’t? What does this have to say about the life of faith?