

The CHOSEN with Hosanna!



SEASON 4: EPISODE 4 Calm Before

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

BACKGROUND NOTES

- When you see the road marker that says, "IERVSALEM," That is Jerusalem in Greek.
- More and more we are hearing the term "Messiah." In Greek, it is "Christ." In English, it means "Anointed One." Although all Jews believed the Messiah would be a descendant of David and save God's people, they had very different ideas about how that would happen. Some thought the Messiah would be a military leader to overthrow the bonds of empire. Others thought he would finally convince people to follow the Law perfectly to bring peace.
- It is hard to tell the Pharisees apart. The one seen several times in this episode is Yusef.
- Although it moves quickly, several months pass during the first half of the episode.
- Generally, a Gentile was someone who was not Jewish.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Why do you think Quintas murdered Ramah? He knew what the consequences would be. Does it matter what the consequences are in the heat of a stressful moment? How does a threat to our power or safety make us do irrational things?
- Quintas relied on power and position. Are those ever certain? If not, what *can* we rely on?
- Elisabeth Kübler-Ross described 5 Stages of Grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance (they're not always in that order). Where do you see people in those stages?

- Peter wants to “do something” for Thomas. He feels like he needs to be a rock for him. What does Jesus say Thomas needs? What does Peter do instead of being a rock?
 - When has someone been there for you in a tough time? What did they offer?
- Mary says, “What if we’d kept our eyes on her?” “I lost her.”
 - Why do we so often start asking “What if...” and blaming ourselves?
- Peter quotes Isaiah 55:9-12: “For my thoughts are not your thoughts...” Read that passage from the Bible.
 - Is this a satisfying answer for you when in the depth of loss?
 - If not, when *is* it a helpful thing to consider?
- When Thomas has to face Kafni (Ramah’s dad), Jesus says, “Thomas, I will go with you. We will face him together.”
 - How is Jesus with us, facing difficult times with us? What difference does it make?
- When asked, Thomas says that he is praying, but it’s hard to mean them sometimes.
 - When has your heart not been in your prayers? Or in the praise you’ve offered in church?
 - Why is it important to keep praying, even when you aren’t feeling it or meaning it?
- What do you think of Gaius confession: “I have seen enough. I have seen what he does for those who can be of no help to him whatsoever. I have heard him say words that both unscramble a lifetime of mystery and fill me with questions.”
 - How would you describe your faith in Jesus if someone asked you?
- Consider Gaius’ protest that Jesus couldn’t or wouldn’t help him, and Peter’s responses: “I’m not worthy.” -> “Neither was I.” | “You do not know the things I have done.” -> “Me, too” | “I’m an outsider.” “His favorite kind.” | “Someone who’s not Jewish?” “Yeah. Those dividing lines don’t matter to him.”
 - Have you ever questioned God’s love for you, or God’s care for your situation based on similar feelings of unworthiness? How do you think Peter would respond?
- Think about the contrast between the request of Gaius and the requests of the disciples... Obviously, James and John should not have asked what they did. But what was the disposition *behind* their differing requests?
 - Why did one “brighten Jesus’ day” and the other lead him to cry?
 - Which are your requests more like?
 - How did Gaius feel after his request? How did James and John feel afterwards?
- Jesus says, “All of you have been given leadership and authority . . . But you are thinking like the Gentiles, whose rulers lord their authority over their inferiors . . . This has to change . . . Whoever will be great among you must be your servant.”
 - What leadership and authority have you been granted as a person of faith?
 - How do you exercise that blessing?
- Jesus says that the Son of Man will release his people from bondage. The disciples don’t get it. If someone isn’t being held captive, who needs freeing from what?
- While walking alone in anguish, Jesus recites part of the book of Job, chapter 19. Read it from the Bible. What was Job feeling? What was Jesus feeling? When have you felt like this? What is our hope in times of despair?
- Lots of people give and receive hugs in this episode. Hugs can be comforting. But why? What is the power of the hug in *each* of these instances?