

The CHOSEN with Hosanna!



SEASON 3: EPISODE 2

SCHEDULE

Before June 29 - Watch Episodes 1-2

June 29, 6:45-8:00 - Discuss Episodes 1-2

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

WEBSITES

- Hosanna's Study Website: www.hosannatogether.org/chosen
- Detailed Guide for Episode 2: <https://www.thebibleartist.com/post/two-by-two-exploring-the-chosen-season-3-episode-2-with-youth-or-small-group>

BACKGROUND NOTES

- The episode opens on the outskirts of Capernaum, a small city (of about 1,500) on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. This is the city where Matthew, Simon, Andrew, James, and John are from. Jesus performed several miracles there.
- Recall that Simon the Zealot (sometimes called "Z" in this episode) got that name because he was once part of a group of religious revolutionaries called the Zealots. Their intent was to purge Israel and Judah of the Romans.

THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION

- In the conversation with his father, Matthew talks about how much he loved affluence, being separated from people by bars and a booth, and having an armed escort.
 - Comfort is not inherently a bad thing, but we can use it to wall off the world.
 - What comforts do you enjoy?
 - Which ones wall you off from others, or keep you from following God's will?

- Matthew's father also asks for forgiveness, for saying things he never should have.
 - A wise pastor once said, "Conflict is inevitable, combat is optional."
 - What does this mean for human relationships?
 - How does Matthew's confession open door for his father's confession and their reconciliation? When both parties have done wrong, how hard is it to ask forgiveness first? Can you be that person in your relationships?
 - Matthew's mother insists his father should say that he forgives him. He assumes he had (he hadn't). How important is it to say those words out loud?
- What do you think about Simon flirting with his wife? Is it "appropriate" for a Bible figure?
 - How does this humanizing of Simon Peter change your perception of him?
- Eden recalls Jesus telling her that he sees her, and that she has a role to play in all of this. She tells Simon that it gets her through most days.
 - How does God seeing you get you through the day? What difference does it make?
 - Eden does confess that sometimes she can't remember what Jesus' face looks like. How is that struggle similar to our own? What difference does it make? How do we cope?
- Jesus says, there are many people, "in need of rescue, and *you* are going to help me rescue them... It is not sustainable for me to do all of the preaching, all the healing, and ministering... And there will be many more followers, and like those not here, all will have roles and responsibilities."
 - What are your roles and your responsibilities in helping Jesus with his ministry?
- To the gathered apostles, Jesus says, "You will proclaim that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. And while you are on this mission, you will heal the sick and the lame, by anointing them with oil. You will cast out demons, and . . . What? Why are you all looking at me like that?"
 - Is that how you imagined this conversation went? Why or why not?
 - What does this depiction make you think about it now?
 - How do you see yourself in some of their responses?
- When the apostles share their apprehension, Jesus says, "Don't fear those who kill the body, but those who can kill the soul... There will come a time when this will get far more difficult... At that time you will know what it means to actually give up your life."
 - How risky do you think this all really was? How risky is following Jesus for you?
 Jesus continues, "For this journey at least, I want you to learn what it means to fully rely on your Father in heaven, as well as those around you, and those whom you serve. And for food, Big James. And for your life, John. This is what it means to follow. And to lead."
 - When have you had to fully rely on God and the people around you? What was it like? How did you get through it? What did you learn from it?
- "Listen to me. None of you is what you were. Remember that. All of you... I am confident that the two of you [Simon the Zealot and Matthew] will do and say great things *because* of your pasts."
 - How often does your past impact your feeling worthy for being used by God?
 - How might your past be a resource for serving God and other people?

- Simon Peter and Eden begin making plans for a family. However, that's put on hold when the disciples are sent out.
 - What does this say about how God can interrupt our hopes and plans? Is it forever?
 - How should we respond when that happens?
 - Jesus does, however, arrange for Thomas to journey near Gafni, Ramah's father.
 - Do God's plans always have to interrupt ours, or can they more often work in tandem?
- Little James' conversation with Jesus about healing is intense:

"Why haven't you [healed me]?" "Because I trust you... In the Father's will, I could heal you right now. And you'd have a good story to tell, yes?" "Yes. That you do miracles." "And that's a good story... But think of the story you will have, especially in this journey to come, if I don't heal you. To know how to proclaim that you still praise God in spite of this. To know how to focus on all that matters, so much more than the body, to show people that you can be patient with your suffering here on earth because you know that you'll spend eternity with no suffering. Not everyone can understand that." . . . "I know how easy it is to say the song of David, that I am beautifully and wonderfully made, but it doesn't make this any easier, or this group, it doesn't make me feel any less of a burden." . . . "So many people need healing in order to believe in me. Or they need healing because their hearts are so sick. That doesn't apply to you. And many are healed or not healed because the Father in Heaven has a plan for that, which is maybe a mystery... So hold on a little longer. And when you discover yourself finding true strength because of your weakness, and when you find yourself doing great things in spite of this, the impact will last for generations... And remember, James, you will be healed. It's only a matter of time."

 - What do you take from this exchange? What nerves does it touch for you?
 - I admit that I (Pastor Mike) have mixed feelings. I like the scene, but I struggle with a few of the lines added to The Chosen that suggest God doesn't heal people so that God can "use" them. God does not use and abuse us the way a bad friend might use people. I believe God uses our gifts, passions, and experiences to do great and wonderful things, but that God does this without withholding goodness or causing pain. God uses our pains to bring good, but there's a fine line between using them for good and causing (or perpetuating) them for good. Although I wish this scene played out differently, I loved how Jesus talked about the "story" Little James has to tell. I wish it would have focused there even more-- that we can still trust God and praise God even when our lives aren't perfect (physically or emotionally), that our value is not determined by the abilities or disabilities of our bodies and minds, but by the God who can bring good out of anything. I love that Jesus trusted Little James to be faithful without needing kickback healings.
- One of the disciples says, "This is what we signed up for. We might not have known it at that time, but we go where he sends us."
 - Where has God unexpectedly sent you in your life, even though you didn't know at the time where it was headed?
- Simon begins reciting Psalm 3 at the end of the episode. King David wrote this psalm while fleeing Absalom, one of his sons, who raised an army and led a rebellion against his father.
 - Read Psalm 3. When have you felt as David did? What was the end result for David? For you?
 - What is the value of having scripture memorized so that you can recite it pivotal moments in your life?