

The CHOSEN

Episode Companion: Season 2, Episode 1

Did You Know?

“Shiva” is the week-long mourning period in Judaism for relatives after the burial of a loved one. The shiva period lasts for seven days following the burial. Following the initial period of despair and lamentation immediately after the death, shiva embraces a time when individuals discuss their loss and accept the comfort of others.



WAIT... IS THAT IN THE BIBLE?

Was “Big” James the first disciple to die? No the first disciple to die was Judas Iscariot shortly after Jesus’ crucifixion. James, however, was the first disciple to be martyred. He was beheaded by Herod Agrippa in 44 A.D. Acts 12:2.

Did Jesus heal the robber from the parable of The Good Samaritan? The parable does not identify any of its characters. Further, there is no writing of any miracles being done by Jesus while in Sychar. Rather, “And because of his words many more became believers.” John 4:41.

Did Jesus say "In this world...bones will still break. Hearts will still break. But in the end...light will overcome the darkness"? This line from The Chosen resonates with many people, and is true, but it is not a quote from Scripture.

Did Ramah join the disciples? Ramah is not mentioned in Scripture. However, we do know that some (perhaps many) woman followed and traveled alongside Jesus during his public ministry.

John referred to Mary as “Mother.” Was he related to Jesus? Possibility, but not as a brother. John’s parents were Zebedee and Salome. Many scholars think that Salome was a sister of Mary. If so, John was a cousin to Jesus. John calls Mary “Mother” because, while on the cross, Jesus told John “Behold your mother” and thereafter John took Mary into his household. John 19:26-27.

SOMETHING TO CONTEMPLATE

1. In the beginning of this episode the disciples share how they met Jesus. In their place, what would you remember the most? What words would have had the most impact on you?
2. The “Good Shepherd” leaves the 99 sheep to find the one. Have you ever felt like the Crippled Samaritan, the one Jesus pursued and healed? What was your life like then? How did you feel when you encountered the “Good Shepherd” for the first time? How did it change you?
3. In discovering the field belonged to the Crippled Samaritan, one who robbed a Jewish man on the road like the Parable, the show gives a fascinating twist to the famous story. Did this provide a helpful context to the Parable of the Good Samaritan Jesus tells in the Gospel?
4. Between Jesus asking them to get food and having James and John plow the field, Jesus was crafting a master plan and did not tell the disciples. Can you relate to this? In what ways has God had you take steps blindly before seeing the bigger picture?
5. Only James and John were given a "nickname" in scripture by Jesus. Did you ever find this unique before viewing the episode? What do you think of John now after viewing his passion and then the decision on how to start his Gospel?
6. Ramah’s father, Kafni, was resistant to Jesus and the idea of his daughter following Jesus. He made it difficult for Ramah and Thomas to follow Jesus. Why? Has there ever been a time when family or close friends have made it difficult for you to follow Jesus?



Send any questions or things you would like to have addressed to John Michael at harlow5@mac.com

Luke 10:29-37

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Luke 15: 3-7

Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.



From “Blessed are the Chosen”, Lesson 1.

James and John spent a lot of time with Jesus. They personally experienced His forgiveness, patience, and graciousness. They watched Him welcome all kinds of people with all kinds of problems—even Samaritans—with no strings attached. They witnessed Him heal the spiritually possessed and the physically oppressed. They saw Him turn the other cheek when He was mocked or rejected, pouring Himself out to serve and to seek and to save. Yet somehow, after all that, the brothers thought Jesus might give a thumbs-up to their murder plan.

Oh the irony of the Thunder Twins calling for harsh punishment of others when they’d been on the receiving end of unmerited grace. But that’s what we humans tend to do. We recognize our own desperate need for Jesus, only to forget it once we know Him. We compare ourselves to those we deem worse, judging the hearts and minds of others as though we’re in any position to do so, all the while failing to extend the very love and mercy we’ve been repeatedly shown by God Himself...

To be sure, the Samaritans who offended James and John had their own sin issues, and their prejudice toward the Jews closed their ears and hearts to who Jesus really was. But then their rejection of Jesus led to the disciples’ rejection of Jesus’s authority—at least in that moment. Because calling down fire from heaven to destroy an entire village is the opposite of what Jesus was teaching His followers to do. They took their eyes off their leader and hardcore stared at their circumstances, which caused their self-righteous self-sufficiency to wield its ugly head. Alternatively, when we’re bent low, it’s Jesus who lifts our heads. And it’s Jesus who leads us on. Which means those who are poor in spirit don’t have the time or inclination to judge others because they’re too busy (1) doing battle with their own ongoing sin, (2) continually experiencing the grace that saved them in the first place, and (3) keeping their eyes on Jesus and His kingdom. A kingdom that, incidentally, is already here.