The Chosen Season 4

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Introduction

Welcome to Season 4 of The Chosen. You finished Season 1, 2 and 3 and I bet you can't wait to see what this season has in store for you! It is so amazing to watch the gospels come to life and this season has even more new stories for you to enjoy. You will experience these stories in a fun and exciting way as you watch God's words acted out. It will imprint a visual of the stories of Jesus in your mind that will change the way you read scripture and understand the bible. I am so excited you have decided to take The Chosen journey, you won't regret it!

This season we get to experience the ultimate miracle of Jesus, Lazarus being raised from the dead. The teachings of Jesus continue to be heard by many crowds, attracting unwanted attention from the Romans and Pharisees. But you can't stop Jesus' message. He preaches on many of his parables and publicly reprimands the Pharisees. Everyone is plotting against Jesus, the Sadducees, Pharisees and even the Romans are getting sick of him. But Jesus continues to heal the sick, he raises the dead and teaches the disciples to go the extra mile, literally. All of this leads up to preparing for Jesus' grand entrance into Jerusalem on a donkey.

I pray that in watching the show it creates a desire in your heart to get into your bible and read scripture. Now that you have SEEN the creator's depiction of the gospels, READ it for yourself. Nothing can take the place of actually reading the bible. As you probably know, no movie/show is ever as good as the book and this is the case here too. Get into your bible and read the stories they didn't include in the show, come to your own conclusion on the similarities and differences. God gave us the bible so we will know HIS story and because he wanted us to read it. Make sure you still get into the word! This is not a replacement, but a supplemental resource adding to what you would read in the bible.

I hope you enjoy the show and most importantly I hope you enjoy this study as you get into the scripture supporting each episode. My prayer for you is that the bible comes to life before your eyes and you grow closer to God in spiritual wisdom and biblical curiosity.

Background

In Season 4 more of Jesus' ministry is played out. We see the sad death of John the Baptist, but also the exciting new name that Simon receives. Crowds continue to form to hear Jesus teach his famous parables and how we should live out our lives. The miraculous raising of Lazarus from the dead gets lots of attention, both good and bad. And lastly Jesus and the disciples head into Jerusalem, preparing the donkey for Jesus' grand entrance.

This season is going to cover scripture references out of the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Similar to the prior seasons, the show also does a great job pulling in some Old Testament references which bring you back into stories before Jesus' time. Revisiting these stories will help you see how it ties into the episode. I have included these Old Testament references and the main New Testament references from each episode for you below:

- Episode 1 – Herod demands John the Baptist head (Matthew 14:6-11). Flashbacks from John the Baptist's life (Luke 1:18-64)

- Episode 2 – Simon is renamed to Peter (Matthew 16:13-18), Jesus tells the disciples they should forgive 77 times (Matthew 18:21-22).

- Episode 3 – Jesus heals the man born blind (John 9:1-34). Old Testament reference: David mourns the death of his son (2 Samuel 12:15-20).

- Episode 4 – Jesus heals centurion's servant (Matthew 8:5-13), James and John's mom ask for them to be seated at the right and left hand of God (Matthew 20:20-28).

- Episode 5 – Jesus says to walk 2 miles (Matthew 5:41), Mary and Martha serve Jesus and the disciples (Luke 10:38-41), Parable of the vineyard workers (Matthew 20:1-16).

- Episode 6 – Jesus says he is the Good Shepherd (John 10:1-21) and Lazarus gets sick and dies (John 11:1-15)

- Episode 7 – Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead (John 11:17-44)

- Episode 8 – Mary anoints Jesus' feet with perfume (John 12:1-8), Jewish leaders eat with Jesus (Matthew 25: 31-40) and the disciples prepare a donkey for Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-6).

Episode 1: Promises

Unfortunately, this season doesn't start out very happy. The first episode is all about John the Baptist, his life and untimely death. We get to see glimpses of him in his mother's womb, as a baby and then the very sad ending of his beheading. Let's dive into John the Baptist's life and see what scripture tell us.

The episode opens with Mary visiting Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John. Read the passage below and circle what happened when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting.

- ***Luke 1:39-45 (ESV)*** *- 39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the month of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."*

As Mary is talking to Elizabeth, we find out what happened to Zechariah. Read the scripture below and circle what happened to him.

- ***Luke 1:18-20 (ESV)*** *– 18 And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am in old man, and my wife is advanced in years." 19 And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. 20 And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time."*

A big banquet is brewing, and you can tell Herodias is scheming something big. We see her daughter practicing a dance for Herod and Herodias wants it to be perfect.

Bible Reference

John accomplished all that was prophesized about him. Read through the Old Testament verses below.

> ***Isaiah 40:3-5 (ESV)*** *- 3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."*
>
> ***Malachi 3:1 (ESV)*** *- "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.*

DID YOU KNOW??

There are verses all over the Old Testament that point to Jesus. Even though he may not be specifically named, the prophets and many of the writings point to Jesus coming as our savior.

Joanna is also approached about the banquet by her husband Chuza who asks her to be on her best behavior. Joanna knows something is up and tries to visit John. Unfortunately, she cannot see him as he is being prepared to go to the lower deck either to be freed or killed. Joanna has a feeling it is not going to lead to his freedom.

John was referred to as a messenger, the one who was to prepare the way for Jesus. He was the forerunner the hype-guy before the main act (Jesus) takes the stage. He told everyone the Messiah was coming and he baptized the forgiveness of sins. If you think about it, we are all called to prepare the way of Jesus. We are called to tell others about him. To plant seeds that Jesus can use to open the hearts of others. John is the example of what we all should be doing. How well are you preparing the way of Jesus in the hearts of those around you? Are you sharing your faith with loved ones and people you interact with? What is one thing you can do today to be more like John?

There was another flashback, this one was John as a baby at his circumcision. He was named at his circumcision. Circle the name they gave him; then underline what happened after Zechariah wrote his name down.

- ***Luke 1: 59-64 (ESV)*** *- 59 And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, 60 but his mother answered, "No, he shall be called John." 61 And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." 62 And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. 63 And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. 64 And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God.*

Just as stated in scripture, a big event occurred and Herod witnessed the dance. Circle who performed the dance. Underline what the girl asked for.

- ***Matthew 14:6-9 (ESV)*** *- 6 But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before the company and pleased Herod, 7 so that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask. 8 Prompted by her mother, she said "Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter." 9 And the king was sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he commanded it to be given.*

None of us wanted it to happen, but John came to his unfortunate death. Circle what his head was put on from the scripture below.

- ***Matthew 14:10-11 (ESV)*** *- 10 He sent and had John beheaded in the prison, 11 and his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother.*

Although the end of the episode is so sad, no one wanted to see John die, you do see a glimmer of joy and hope in his eyes as he looks out the window at the sun. He admires God's beautiful creation before his unfortunate death. He knows that he is not staying on the earth any longer, he will soon be with his

father. The mission that he was put on earth to accomplish was completed and now he gets to spend eternity in heaven, with God where there is no more sin, no more pain, no more suffering, shackles or chains. He is no longer bound and in a jail cell, he is free and with our Father.

What gets you excited about heaven? What are you looking forward to the most?

John the Baptist fulfilled his mission to prepare the way for Jesus. And how highly and lovingly, Jesus speaks about John. Read from Matthew below and circle how Jesus describes John.

- ***John 5:33 & 35 (ESV)*** *– 33 You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth... 35 He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.*

Read what Jesus says about himself below and circle how he describes himself.

- ***John 8:12 (ESV)*** *– Again Jesus spoke to them saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

Jesus is the light of the world. John shined that light on others as he prepared the way for Jesus. We all have Jesus' light inside of us through the Holy Spirit. Let your light shine! Be like Jesus and John. What can you do this week to shine your light on others?

Jesus quotes Job when talking with Little James. ***Job 1:21 (ESV****) – And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."*

Episode 2: Confessions

News has spread and everyone knows that John the Baptist has been killed. The episode opens with Jesus dreaming that John the Baptist is free and no longer bound by shackles. It's a happy dream after the sad realization that John is dead. Jesus talks to Andrew and they comfort one another and decide they will not sit shiva in a home. John's home was the wilderness, they will observe shiva on a journey outside in the wilderness. Jesus and the disciples head out for their trip.

While on the shiva journey, Jesus is approached by Thomas and Ramah regarding their engagement. Ramah asks Jesus to give approval since her father will not approve of the marriage. Jesus then talks about a divided house to them and the rest of the disciples. Circle what Jesus said he came for in the passage below.

- ***Luke 12:51-53 (ESV)*** *- 51 Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. 52 For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. 53 They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.*

As followers of Jesus, we are going to encounter division because there will always be people who reject Jesus. Do you have any family members who don't follow Jesus, or avoid conversations about God? Name them below and write a short prayer asking for God to work in their hearts.

One of the disciples questioned Jesus and said, "aren't we to honor our father and mother?" This is the 5th commandment that God gave Moses. In the space below add the first four commandments using Exodus 20:1-8.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. *Honor your father and your mother*_____

Did you notice the first 3 commandments are about God? We are to love God and honor him, even before our family. And unfortunately, this may cause division.

While on their shiva journey, they arrive in Caesarea Philippi where there are altars and a temple dedicated to Baal. Jesus stops the disciples and asks a question. Circle the place Jesus came to and underline the question Jesus asked of the disciples in the passage below:

- ***Matthew 16:13-14 (ESV)*** *- 13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."*

Jesus then asks a similar question. Underline the question and circle Simon's response.

- ***Matthew 16:15-16 (ESV)*** *- 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

Jesus then gives Simon a new name. Circle his new name below and underline the significance of this new name.

- ***Matthew 16:17-18 (ESV)*** *- 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Many people were re-named in the bible; it often signifies a change in that person. Using the scripture referenced below; fill in the chart with the original name and new name of each person. Note the significance in the new name given to that individual.

Scripture Verses	**Old Name**	**New Name**	**Significance**
Genesis 17:1-5			
Genesis 17:15-16			
Genesis 35:10-12			

Has there been a point in your life (possibly when you accepted Jesus into your life) that you had a transformation? What would your new name mean?

Current Name _____ New Name (after transformation) _____

Because Jesus gave Simon a new name, it elevated his status and the disciples began to see him as more of a leader. The disciples start arguing and James and John wish that they would have spoken up to answer Jesus' question. That evening Matthew approaches Jesus and questions why Peter is the leader when he is so temperamental and cruel to Matthew. It is through Jesus' questioning that Matthew thinks further into what he actually did to Peter. When Matthew finally looks at how his decisions and choices affected Peter he realizes he hurt Peter first, he put away excuses, put himself in Peter's shoes (well maybe sandals) and really evaluated how he hurt him. Even though he wanted to forget that part of his life, the actions he took still affected others, and he must repent for that!

Is there anyone that you have animosity towards, or they have animosity towards you? Could it be because of things that happened in the past? Put yourself in their shoes and reflect on why your relationship is hurting with them.

Matthew starts out his conversation judging Simon, saying he shouldn't be a leader because he is temperamental and cruel to him. I love what Jesus said in the show, he said that "he (Jesus) makes people what they aren't." So, flaws and all go to Jesus, he will fill in your weaknesses and make you a different, better, loving person. How can you remind yourself not to judge others? What can you do when you find yourself being judgmental?

Matthew ends up going to Peter and apologizing for all that he has done to him. Unfortunately, he doesn't get the response he was hoping for. Peter doesn't say, "oh, that's okay", he doesn't say, "I forgive you", he just leaves without saying a word. Sometimes we won't get the response that we want, but it is better to ask for forgiveness than to brush things under the rug or not say anything at all. Luckily, that's not the end of the story. More to come.

A couple of other things are going on in this episode. Shmuel gets accepted into the Sanhedrin and praised for handing over information about Jesus. Caiaphas decides to notify all of the Jewish leaders that they should look for heresy in Jesus' words to incriminate him. He also wants to convince Rome that Jesus is their problem and have them enforce man-made laws against him. Shmuel decides to try to find Jesus himself before the Sanhedrin. Once this news spreads and gets to Yussif, he hears of these plans and decides to use his father's influence to get on the Sanhedrin so he can help stand up for Jesus.

In this day and age, very few people are willing to stand up for someone else. People are more likely to get out their phones and record an altercation than step in and do something about it. At a recent seminar I attended to advocate against bullying, the speaker said if someone were to say something like, "hey, that's not right" or "don't talk that way about that person" the conversation would change direction within 6-8 seconds. We have power in our words and our actions to stand up for someone else. Is there negative speech that you say about someone else (this could be gossiping) or complaining about others that you need to stop doing? Alternatively, is there anyone that you need to stand up for? Reflect below:

Peter can't sleep the night after Matthew apologized to him. He finds Jesus outside by the fire and they talk about forgiveness. Read the scripture below and circle how many times we are to forgive someone.

- ***Matthew 18:21-22 (ESV)*** *- 21 Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times? 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times."*

I like how the show explained that this doesn't mean an actual 77 times. It is symbolic. Did you know, the number 7 is the number for completion? Answer the following questions, what do you notice?

- How many days did God take to create the universe? (Genesis 1)
- How many times did the Israelites march around the walls of Jericho before they fell? (Joshua 6:3-4)
- How many times did Naaman have to bathe in the Jordan river to complete cleansing and miraculously heal of leprosy? (2 Kings 5:10)

Now let's do a little Jesus math! Jesus says in the scripture we should forgive 77 times. He is taking the number of completion (7) and saying it's not just 7 but 77. Although we know the number 7 symbolizes completion, what he is really saying is we should extend endless forgiveness without limits. It's important to not hold resentment in your heart and to forgive just like God forgives us.

The end of this episode is so wonderful. The disciples are in the market, each doing their own thing and in comes Peter with a mission. He beelines it to Matthew and just embraces him in the biggest hug! He tells him that he forgives him right in front of everyone. It really pulls on your emotions because we just witnessed true forgiveness! Peter didn't just say a casual, "I forgive you man", no he bear-hugged Matthew and forgave him of everything he did against him. Wow! So powerful and inspiring!

That forgiveness is given to each of us every day from our loving father. No matter what we do, God forgives us if we just simply ask him. Every day we sin. Some days our sins seem bigger than other days, but it doesn't matter God will forgive us. Write a prayer below thanking God for his forgiveness and confess anything that you need to be forgiven for in your prayer.

Peter and Andrew talk about a story their Rabbi never explained from the Old Testament. This is a funny/ awkward one! They are referring to the story of Moses' wife, Zipporah, circumcising her son and putting the foreskin on Moses' feet, declaring him a "bridegroom of blood". This is found in Exodus 4:24-26. Check it out for yourself!

Episode 3: Moon and Blood

Things are starting to heat up in this episode, with Quintus furious that he is losing revenue because of the tent city. He goes on a rampage picking on all of the people outside of his building. He is angry everyone is there to see Jesus.

But Jesus isn't going to stop preaching, just because Quintus is mad. He is going to do the opposite. He decides to go outside, and a crowd starts to form.

Jesus notices a man who is blind and goes to him. In the scripture below, underline the question the disciples asked about the blind man.

- ***John 9:1-5 (ESV)*** - *1 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."*

I love the end of verse 3, "but that the works of God might be displayed in him." It is not the fault of the blind man; it is not the fault of his parents. His suffering is so that God might be displayed in him. Are you approaching your suffering with this mindset? Write a prayer below asking God to open your heart to this type of thinking. Thank him for using your suffering for his good.

- ***John 9:6-7 (ESV)*** - *6 Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud 7 and said to him "Go wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.*

Bible Reference

The episode opens with King David mourning his son, praying and fasting for him for 6 days.

- ***2 Samuel 12:15-20 (ESV)*** *15 Then Nathan went to his house, And the Lord afflicted the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and he became sick. 16 David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. 17 And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground, but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. 18 On the seventh day the child died….. 19 …..David understood that the child was dead. And David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "His is dead." 20 Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the Lord and worshipped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate*.

DID YOU KNOW??

Bathsheba and David will end up having another son, named Solomon. King Solomon was called the wisest man who ever lived because he asked God for wisdom.

Jesus healed the man who had been blind since birth, allowing him to see for the first time. Because Jesus healed him on Shabbat, the Pharisees were upset.

Read the remainder of John 9 for the rest of the story which was played out in this episode (John 9:9-34). Fill in the chart below:

Question	**Response** (write the answer from the verse referenced below)
Where did the crowd take the blind man?	*(Verse 13)*
What did the Pharisees say about Jesus?	*(Verse 16)*
Who did the blind man say Jesus was?	*(Verse 17)*
Why were the parents of the blind man scared to answer the Pharisee's questions?	*(Verse 22)*
Who did the blind man say Jesus was the last time he was asked by the Pharisees?	*(Verse 33)*

James and John talk to their mom about Peter getting a new name. Their mother encourages them to ask for an elevated position/ title as well. She is so worked up, she says she will ask herself. She quotes Jesus in the below scripture.

Matthew 7:7-8 (ESV) *– 7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and the one who knocks it will be opened.*

Do you have anything that you need to ask God for? Write a prayer below asking God for your request.

Ramah and Thomas share a sweet moment together talking about their engagement. Thomas gives her a small clock as a gift and tells her how he bartered cinnamon cakes for fish for a bookcase to finally get the clock he wanted to give her. Their relationship and love for one another is so touching.

Quintus lets his anger get the best of him. He is yelling at the crowd, trying to get to Jesus. In his anger he pulls out his sword and ends up stabbing Ramah. It didn't seem like he intentionally did this, but in his rage, he made a poor decision. Think about how you act when you are angry. Has there been a particular

situation that caused you to go into a fit of rage? How did you act, what can you do the next time this occurs?

Jesus comes back to the scene after Ramah has been stabbed. She is dying on the ground in Thomas' arms. Thomas is beyond upset, he is sobbing and holding her. When he sees Jesus, he asks him to heal her. It seems so easy and the perfect solution. Thomas believes in Jesus and his ability. He has seen him perform miracles, he knows Jesus is capable of healing her. But Jesus doesn't do it. He says it is not her time. Wow, what a hard answer to Thomas' pleading. But it happens to us too. Not all of our prayers are answered. We believe in Jesus, just like Thomas, and he doesn't answer our request. This is a really hard fact for us as Christians, but it is reality. Why do you believe Jesus has not answered some of your prayers?

Often an unanswered prayer isn't a "no", but a "not yet". Maybe you aren't ready for your request. Maybe what you are asking for is not part of God's plan for you because you can't handle it. Maybe he didn't heal you because you need that reminder that you aren't enough, you need God. Maybe he didn't heal that loved one because heaven is better than earth and you will be with them in the future. We don't know why God answers some prayers and not others, but we know his ways are better than ours, he has good plans for us (Jeremiah 29:11) and will work it all together for the good of those who believe (Romans 8:28).

James and John are deciding how to ask Jesus for an elevated status. Psalm 110:1 (ESV) is quoted "The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."

Episode 4: Calm Before

This episode is especially heartbreaking as everyone mourns the loss of Ramah. Thomas obviously is taking it the hardest, but everyone feels regret and is struggling to comfort Thomas in his grief. James is questioning why Jesus didn't heal her or bring her back from the dead like Jairus' daughter. Peter points out a piece of wisdom from the book of Isaiah. Read the passage below.

- ***Isaiah 55:8-9 (ESV)*** *– 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

Does this verse comfort you in the unanswered questions you have? Does it make sense to you? Have you considered this before? Reflect on the verse below.

The disciples are taking Ramah's body back to her hometown, to her grieving father, Kafni. When they meet up with Kafni, he is not just grieving but is mad and bitter. He expresses his anger towards Thomas and Jesus. He curses Jesus and says he is going to tell everyone he is a liar and murderer.

Oftentimes when someone dies, we don't know what to say. Peter was struggling with how to be "a rock" during this very difficult and sad time. Jesus tells him, he doesn't need to say anything, he just needs to be there for Thomas. Jesus also said that because Peter had experienced loss himself, he could understand what Thomas was going through and be there for him in his grief. Peter knew there were no words that would help Thomas. He had to be just there for him. As you have gone through loss in your life, what has helped you through it? Can you help others through their loss?

A few months pass and we see Jesus performing more miracles, healing, casting out demons and preaching. He is continuing his ministry and word continues to spread. Gaius has been promoted to Praector since Quintus was arrested for Ramah's murder. Gaius becomes aware of the growing hostility toward Jesus coming from Jerusalem. Concerned, he calls for Matthew so he can warn Jesus. When the Roman soldiers come for Matthew, Peter decides to go with him. Gaius warns that Jesus is safe in Capernaum, but not in Jerusalem, where the Pharisees are looking for a reason to arrest, harm or even kill him.

As they are talking, Peter brings up the servant boy and asks Gaius if he is still sick. Unfortunately, he is still sick. Gaius reveals he believes in Jesus and knows that he can heal his son, but he does not feel worthy. Recognizing the faith in his response, Matthew and Peter take Gaius to Jesus so his son can be healed.

Gaius asked Jesus for his servant boy to be healed. Jesus replies with a willingness to do so right away. But it is the centurion's response that surprised Jesus. Underline the centurion's response below.

- ***Matthew 8:5-8 (ESV)*** *- 5 When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, 6 "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly," 7 And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." 8 But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed.*

The rest of the story continues in the following passage. Read through the verses and underline Jesus' words to the centurion below. (Note this is also mentioned in Luke 7:1-10).

- ***Matthew 8:9-13 (ESV)*** *- 9 For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." 10 When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. 11 I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, 12 while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." 13 And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.*

Jesus didn't even come into contact with the servant. He didn't go to the house of Gaius and lay his hands on the boy. No, he commanded him to be healed, and it happened. And what was the source of the healing? It was faith. Jesus can do miracles in our lives even today when he is not physically in the situation. He just asks for our belief. He wants our prayers and faith so miracles can happen. Do you have a situation that needs a miracle? Write a prayer below, declaring your belief in Jesus and asking for your request.

Jesus is preparing for their next journey to go to Jerusalem. He tells all the disciples to get ready for another journey. James and John see the timing as an opportunity to ask for something they have been wanting, as prompted by their mother, to be seated at the right and left hand of God. In the show it is James and John who ask for this elevated authority. Circle in the passage below who asked in scripture.

- ***Matthew 20:20-24 (ESV)*** *- 20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked for something. 21 And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom," 22 Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." 23 He said to them, "You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left it is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." 24 And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers.*

Jesus was not happy with the request. He feels the disciples are acting like gentiles and Romans wanting authority, when that is not what he has been preaching. In the passage below circle each form of the word serve.

- ***Matthew 20:25-28 (ESV)*** *- 25 But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 26 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Jesus is calling us to serve others. He says the word over and over in this passage, as servant, slave, served, serve. Jesus is not calling us to power and authority. He is calling us to servanthood. He wants us to serve others, help them, love them and encourage them. We are not to elevate ourselves like James and John wanted, we are to elevate others by serving them.

Who do you currently serve? _____

_____

What are your giftings and resources that can be used to serve others? _____

_____

_____

Do you feel God calling you to serve any particular group of people? Who is it? _____

_____

Who can you bring alongside you to help serve others? _____

_____

Think about your responses above. What is one thing you can do this week to better serve others? Use the space below for your response. Then write a short prayer asking God for guidance, and the right door to open for you.

Episode 5: Sitting, serving, scheming

The disciples are traveling to Bethany when Joanna sends them a package of valuable items they can sell to support Jesus' ministry. Along the way, Roman soldiers stop them and, under Roman law, require the disciples to carry the soldiers' belongings for one mile. Read the following verse and circle the numbers stated in this verse.

- ***Matthew 5:41 (ESV)*** *- And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.*

Carrying the Roman soldiers' gear was humiliating for the disciples. The soldiers not only forced them to carry their belongings, but also mocked them and made inappropriate jokes. The disciples were frustrated about having to carry the gear for one mile, but when the mile was over, Jesus kept walking. He showed them that they would carry the Romans' belongings not just one mile, but two.

How did you feel about this scene? What did you notice about the demeanor of the Roman soldiers?

The Romans are surprised by the disciples' willingness to keep walking and stop mocking them. As they continue toward the second mile marker, the disciples and Romans help one another along the way. We may not be asked to carry someone's belongings for a mile, but we do encounter difficult people we are called to help. Sometimes that person may be at work, and helping them is part of our responsibility. Other times, we are not required to help, and it can be tempting to choose not to. Jesus is not simply telling us to do what is required; he is calling us to show kindness, grace, and patience beyond what is expected.

Write the name of a difficult person you interact with: _____

Are you required to help this person? Circle your answer: Yes or No

Are you willing to do more for that person because Jesus calls you to? Circle your answer: Yes or No

What can you do to go the extra mile for that person? _____

_____

Ask God to help you with the answers you noted. Write a short prayer asking for guidance, patience and kindness as you go the extra mile.

The disciples finally reach Bethany after all of that walking, including the extra miles they journeyed. Mary comes joyfully running to meet them! Let's read scripture about the disciples' visit with Mary and Martha. In the passage below circle where Mary was and underline what Mary was doing.

- ***Luke 10:38-39 (ESV) -*** *38 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching.*

Now circle what Martha was distracted with in the following verse.

- ***Luke 10:40 (ESV) -*** *But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me."*

Was serving the disciples a bad thing? No, hospitality is good and serving is something that Jesus calls us to do. But she was distracted. Her focus was not on Jesus; her focus was on busyness. How many times per day do you find yourself distracted? How many times do you find yourself so busy, you put off God? If we are honest with ourselves, it is probably every single day, multiple times per day. Reflect below on your answers to these questions above.

Circle the two words that described Martha in the verse below.

- ***Luke 10:41 (ESV) -*** *41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things 42 but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."*

Do you struggle with feeling anxious, troubled, or worried about many things? When we are anxious or worried, our attention shifts away from Jesus and keeps us from being fully present. Write what you are anxious or worried about below.

In the book of 1 Peter, we are told not to worry or be anxious. ***1 Peter 5:7 (ESV)*** – *Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.* Give your worries and your anxiety to God. Use the space below to write a prayer to God, releasing your cares to him. Then really do it! Trust in the Lord and give him your worries so you can be present in every situation.

As Jesus is in Mary and Martha's house, he tells the disciples a parable about the workers in the vineyard. Underline each hour of the day that is mentioned. Circle the amount of money he paid each person.

- ***Matthew 20:1-16 (ESV)*** *- 1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for this vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' 5 So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' 7 They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' 8 And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' 9 And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. 10 Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each one of them also received a denarius…….. 13 But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' 16 So the last will be first, and the first last."*

This passage can be difficult to understand, especially if you have ever worked hard for an entire day. But no matter when each worker began laboring for the master, they all received the same reward. What reason did the owner give for paying everyone the same amount? Does this seem fair to you?

Luckily, for us sinners, God's grace isn't fair. It is so unfair, that it saves us from having to worry about how we don't measure up, how we haven't put in enough "work" to earn our salvation. We can't earn our salvation because nothing that we do will ever be good enough. That is why we need God's grace. It is not fair that Jesus had to die on the cross for us, but he did it. It is not fair that we have sinned and God forgives us, but he does. His grace, mercy and forgiveness is given to everyone when they believe, no matter when they choose to believe. They could choose to believe at the beginning of their life or at the end, they are still saved through God's grace. Reflect on God's grace that he has given to you. Thank him that he doesn't apply fairness to our salvation, he gives grace, mercy and forgiveness freely.

Episode 6: Dedication

This episode opens during the celebration of the Jewish holiday, Hannukah. The opening scene shows the disciples in a state of panic as they just escaped being stoned. The following scenes lead up to that frantic moment.

Hannukah is a holiday that is celebrated over 8 days. It came about as a group of Jewish fighters; the Maccabees won their religious freedom. They cleared out the temple and miraculously burned one day's amount of oil for 8 full days.

The disciples exchange gifts to celebrate Hanukkah. Matthew and John give each other gifts connected to the writings they have been recording. Matthew receives a quill, and John receives parchment to continue his work. Both Matthew and John are gospels in the bible. How does knowing that they were disciples, eyewitnesses to the miracles and teachings of Jesus, give you comfort to the accuracy of their accounts?

Yussif talks to his father and quotes Jesus. Read the passage below and circle what gifts the Father gives us.

- ***Matthew 7:9-11 (ESV)*** *– 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!*

What gifts and blessings have God provided for you? Write a short prayer thanking him for them.

Bible Reference

In this episode, the women sing the Song of Miriam. This was a song sung by the Israelite women after they escaped from the Pharaoh and the red sea parted.

- ***Exodus 15:19-21 (ESV)*** *- 19 For when the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the people of Israel walked on dry ground midst of the sea. 20 Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. 21 And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea."*

DID YOU KNOW??

Miriam is the sister of Moses and Aaron. As seen in the verses above, the bible refers to her as a prophetess.

Jesus receives notification that Lazarus is sick. Circle what Jesus says about his illness.

- ***John 11:1-4 (ESV)*** *- 1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 It was Mary who had anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord he whom you love is ill." 4 But when Jeus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."*

It's easy to think that Jesus is just plainly saying Lazarus is not going to die. Little do the disciples know this is not the case, he will die. But more to come on Lazarus later. The disciples and Jesus head to Jerusalem for another teaching. Jesus talks about being the good shepherd. **Read John 10:1-21**. What do you notice about the relationship between the sheep and the shepherd?

What does it mean to you that Jesus is the good shepherd? Do you feel like he is the shepherd of your life?

The Pharisees get very upset with Jesus' teaching. Scripture tells us that they were almost stoned by the Pharisees. Circle where you see this in the passages below:

- ***John 10:31-33 (ESV)*** *– 31 The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. 32 Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?" 33 The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."*
- ***John 11:5-8 (ESV)*** *- 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. 7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again," 8 The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and you are going there again?"*

Luckily, the disciples and Jesus escape the stoning. But big James got hit on the head and was bleeding. As everyone is tending to James, the atmosphere in the home totally shifts when Jesus is notified that

Lazarus is dead. Jesus is upset but also knows that something big is coming that will increase the belief of the disciples. Underline what Jesus says to the disciples:

- ***John 11:11-13 (ESV) -*** *11 After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him. 12 The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover," 13 Now Jeus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep.*

Jesus states it more directly for the disciples. Lazarus is dead! Circle why Jesus is glad in the passage below:

- ***John 11:14-15 (ESV) -*** *14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, 15 and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."*

It's difficult to think that because someone has died, the disciples' faith is going to be strengthened. But God oftentimes talks to us and comforts us most when we need him. When we stop being self-reliant and look to the one who loves us to guide our lives. If you have gone through a difficult time, struggled in life, dealt with pain and loss, you know Jesus is there for you. As we close, reflect below on how your belief has been strengthened at a difficult time. Thank God for being there for you.

*When Judas and Jesus are talking, Judas quotes **Matthew 10:16 (ESV)** – "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves."*

Episode 7: The Last Sign

Everyone is still a bit shaken up from the attempted stoning. Big James is all patched up, little James is pushing through his pain, and everyone is talking not only about the stoning, but Lazarus' death. Jesus leads them on the journey to Bethany, and no one can decide whether they are going to be sitting shiva over Lazarus' death or something miraculous is about to happen.

Jesus and the disciples go to Bethany. Circle who comes out and meets Jesus first.

- ***John 11:17-20 (ESV)*** *- 17 Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. 20 So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.*

Martha talks to Jesus and shows him her faith. Underline Martha's responses displaying her belief in Jesus.

- ***John 11:21-27 (ESV)*** *- 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day" 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."*

Next read the passage below and circle who Jesus talks to:

- ***John 11:32-34 (ESV)*** *- 32 Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus saw*

Bible Reference

Mary Magdelene and Little James are talking as James quotes Psalm 13. He reflects on how sleep is often referred to in the bible as death. Read the full Psalm below:

- ***Psalm 13:1-6 (ESV)*** *1 How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? 2 How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? 3 Consider and answer me, O Lord my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, 4 lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken. 5 But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. 6 I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.*

After reading the Psalm, underline the phrase that resonates with you the most at this time in your life, be honest!

her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. 34 And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."

Then comes the shortest verse in the bible. Jesus wept. If you struggle with memorizing verses, this is an easy one for you!

- ***John 11:35 (ESV)*** *- Jesus wept.*

We know that God is omniscient (all knowing), so it is not a surprise to Jesus that Lazarus is indeed dead. Why do you think he wept? What does this tell you about Jesus?

Jesus knows sorrow, he feels sadness and empathy towards his believers. Jesus knew that Lazarus was dead, but he also knew what he was going to do and the joy that would bring to his friends. But Jesus doesn't just think about the resurrection of Lazarus, he meets Mary and Martha where they are in their grief and weeps with them. Think about it, we have a God that cares, that feels our emotions and weeps with us in our sorrows. That is amazing! Write a short prayer below reflecting on this.

Read the passage below and fill out the table on the next page.

- ***John 11:38-44 (ESV)*** *- 38 Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." 43 When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." 44 The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth, Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."*

Did you notice the parallels between this encounter of Jesus and Lazarus and Jesus' own death and resurrection? Fill out the table below:

Question	**Lazarus**	**Jesus**
Where were the men?	(John 11:38)	(John 19:42)
What was removed?	*(John 11:39 & 41)*	*(John 20:1)*
What bound them?	*(John 11:44)*	*(John 19:40 & John 20:5-7)*
What was left in the tomb?	*(John 11:44)*	*(John 20:9)*

Not everyone is joyful over Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. The Sadducees who witnessed this resurrection were outraged and went to tell the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem. They are ready to stir up trouble over Jesus' last miracle. Thomas also was feeling a lot of emotions over Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead and not Ramah. He starts to break down and sob. His sobs turn into anger then he starts to break things and yell in frustration. He talks to Jesus and Jesus explains that we will not always understand what the Father allows. He says to stay with him, and he will understand in time.

If you are going through something difficult right now and it just doesn't make sense, take this advice to heart. Stay with Jesus, don't give up on him. In time you will understand, and it might not be for weeks, months, or even years. It is possible you won't even understand on this side of heaven, but Jesus is worth it. Share your questions with God in a prayer below.

The episode ends with Mary sharing a poem that talks about the light and darkness. It is important to mention that this poem was entirely made up by the creators of The Chosen and is not from a writing of Mary Magadelene. Mary does not have a book in the bible, the poem was inspired by Psalm 139 and Isaiah 53 but is not biblical.

When Jesus is talking to Lazarus the book of Isaiah was quoted. ***Isaiah 53:3 (ESV)*** *– He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

Episode 8: Humble

The episode opens with King David entering a town as cloaks and palm branches are laid on the ground and the crowd sings, "Hosanna." This should sound familiar because someone else will soon make a grand entrance in a similar way! More on that at the end of the episode. David then selects a lamb for Passover with his son. The lamb's feet are anointed six days before the sacrifice. Did you catch his son's name in the show? Read the passage below and circle the name of the second son.

- **I Chronicles 3:1 (ESV)** - These are the sons of David who were born to him in Hebron: the firstborn Amnon, by Ahinoam the Jezreelite, the second, Daniel, by Abigail the Carmelite.

After Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, everyone is talking about it. This miracle draws even more attention to Jesus, and larger crowds begin traveling to Jerusalem for Passover. Pilate and Atticus discuss the growing excitement surrounding Lazarus, whom they refer to as "the ghost." Meanwhile, the Pharisees and Sadducees in the Sanhedrin are also discussing Jesus' latest miracle. Shmuel decides to take Yussif with him to speak with Jesus, while Caiaphas wants to turn Jesus over to the Romans so they can kill him. Jesus and Lazarus have become the talk of the town!

Have you ever had an experience that helped you know Jesus is real? What led you to believe in him?

At the end of episode 7 we saw Mary take money and rush out in a hurry. Mary went to a merchant who sells expensive perfume. But she doesn't want just any perfume, she wants the good stuff. She requests the best perfume the merchant has, spending 300 denarii – a year's wages. What she will do with it; we will find out.

In the show, Herod and Pilate are talking about Lazarus and the dilemma this ghost is causing among the Jewish people. Pilate suggests that if Lazarus was not alive, there would not be proof that he was raised from the dead. This differs from scripture. Read the passage below and circle who is plotting to kill Lazarus.

- ***John 12:9-11 (ESV)*** *- 9 When the large crowd of the Jews learned that Jesus was there, they came, not only on account of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 10 So the chief priests made plans to put Lazarus to death as well, 11 because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.*

The Jewish leaders arrive at Lazarus' home while Jesus and the disciples are eating. They join them and start asking Jesus questions. They want to know what his plan is. Jesus replies with the response below. Read the passage and underline the last verse.

    - ***Matthew 25: 31-40 (ESV)*** *- 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the*

sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him saying, ' Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

What does it mean to you when Jesus says, "as you did to the one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me"? Are you treating all of your interactions as-if you they are with Jesus? What do you need to do to have this mindset?

While Jesus is finishing up his response to Shmuel and Yussif, Mary comes in and goes straight to Jesus. Circle what Mary puts on Jesus' feet. Underline what she wiped his feet with.

- ***John 12:1-3 (ESV)*** *- 1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. 3 Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with fragrance of the perfume.*

Circle who spoke up after Mary put the perfume on Jesus' feet. Put a box around what the ointment was worth and underline Jesus' response.

- ***John 12:4-8 (ESV)*** *- 4 but Judas Iscariot, one of the disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, 5 "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? 6 He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. 7 Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. 8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."*

The disciples are concerned with Jesus' response. They question why they would not always have him. Jesus knows the end is coming and his death is approaching; however, the disciples still don't understand what is going on, even though Jesus has warned them many times.

Also at the dinner table, Jesus mentions a new commandment. Circle each time the word love is written.

- ***John 13:34-35 (ESV)*** *- 34 A new commandment I give you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*

This new commandment sums up so many of God's commands. When we truly love one another, we are not going to murder, steal, lie, or envy others. Our love for one another is how people will recognize us as followers of Jesus. How can you live out this commandment more fully? What actions can you take this week to show love to others?

They all decide to head towards Jerusalem as the Passover will begin soon. Jesus asks a favor of Simon the Zealot and Matthew. Circle what Jesus wants them to bring to him.

- ***Matthew 21:1-6 (ESV)*** *- 1 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." 4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 5 "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden." (Old Testament reference: Zechariah 9:9) 6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them*.

Word spread through Jerusalem that Jesus was coming. People laid down their cloaks, grabbed palm branches, and gathered near the city gates to welcome him. Joanna also left her husband, took palm branches, and joined the crowd. Before Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem, he spoke to his disciples. These words are not recorded in Scripture, but let's reflect on them below.

"My time has come to do the will of the father in heaven." We know what is in store for Jesus and its going to be a very difficult trial. Jesus is going to get out of his comfort zone and be obedient to the point of death. Knowing that God has a plan for you and his will is the best way, is there something that he is asking you to do to get out of your comfort zone and be obedient?

Jesus also asks the disciples, “Will you come with me?” Peter answers, “Where else would we go, your words alone are eternal life.” The disciples have committed to follow Jesus, will you? The last thing he says in this episode is “In this world, I loved you as my own and I will love you until the end.” Jesus is not only saying this to his disciples, but to us as well. We are children of God and he loves us so much. Write a prayer to God asking him to help you be a follower of Jesus. Thank him for his love and reflect on what it means to be a child of God.

The end of Season 4 is here! As Jesus prepares to enter Jerusalem, even more awaits in Season 5, *The Last Supper*. I hope you enjoyed this study and will join me for *The Chosen* Season 5 guide as we continue watching the gospel story come to life.

Appendix - References

This study is based on The Chosen show. Quotes and material from the show are included in this study.

The Chosen Season 4. Directed by Dallas Jenkins, The Chosen LLC, 5&2 Studios, Come and See, 2024.

Bible verses are referenced from the (ESV) English Standard Version of the bible.

The ESV Bible. (2001). English Standard Version [Online Version]. Crossway.

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