

The CHOSEN

EPISODE 6 - INDESCRIBABLE COMPASSION

Transformation - Sometimes it's easier to come to Jesus than to stay with Jesus. We experience a crisis or need that drives us to Him, but old patterns of behavior reemerge. Bad influences, wrong thinking, past trauma, ongoing urges to sin—a host of things can creep back in, making it hard to believe a new way of living and being is really possible. But it is possible.

In episode 6 of *The Chosen*, “Indescribable Compassion,” a man suffering from leprosy comes to Jesus in desperate need. In ancient times, leprosy was a vicious condition with no known cure. It deformed its victims by causing lumps as well as scale-like wounds to grow on the body and could even lead to the complete degeneration of skin and twisting of bones. Fingers, toes, ears, and noses sometimes rotted away, making it difficult for people to breathe and likely for them to go blind. Doing the daily work required to survive became nearly impossible.

Those suspected of contracting the disease had to show themselves to the priest, who would evaluate their condition and diagnose them as “clean” or “unclean”—and “unclean” meant you were counted as good as dead and banished from the city to keep the disease from spreading. Lepers were forced to live in tents or caves in designated colonies, wore bells to alert people to their presence, and were required to yell “Unclean! Unclean!” should anyone accidentally come within the legal range. Having been ripped from their homes, families, friends, and all other comforts in life, their only hope for relief was death.

Correction. Death was their only hope apart from Jesus.

- What Does It Mean to Be Chosen?: An Interactive Bible Study

Main Characters - For each main character write things you learn about them: their past, current situation, struggles, personality.

Scenes and questions to consider can be found on pages 2-3. A more reflective guide can be found on pages 4-5. Use this one only after watching the episode.

Jesus -

Gaius -

Matthew -

Quintus -

Nicodemus -

Simon-

Shmuel -

The Leper -

The Egyptian Woman -

Other Disciples -

I. The Market

The modern use of the term leprosy is usually limited to Hansen's disease—a slow-growing bacterial infection affecting the nerves, skin, eyes, and nose, which can lead to loss of touch sensation, crippling, paralysis, and blindness. In biblical times, however, the term leprosy was inclusive of many different skin conditions.

II. Matthew and Gaius

1. Take note of the reactions of Matthew and the Romans to what they know and hear about the catch of fish. Why is this so impactful on Matthew? How do the Romans explain it away and why?

III. Nicodemus and Shmuel

2. In this episode take note of how Shmuel and Nicodemus actions, views and attitudes differ. Shmuel seems to represent the general view of the Pharisees. What is Shmuel struggling with? What he is he concerned about in this episode? What is Nicodemus understanding?

IV. Life on the Road

V. Matthew and Quintus

VI. Meeting People on the Road

3. In what ways does Jesus surprise the people (disciples, the Egyptian woman, the leper)?

4. We don't know a lot about Jesus' childhood, but we know some important details. How does this episode show how his childhood could have had a great influence on him?

5. How did the disciples' actions toward the leper change? Why?

6. Why is the healing of leprosy so striking and powerful? What deeper meaning does it have?

VII. Back in Capernaum

VIII. Jesus Teaches

7. Take note of how Jesus teaches in this episode. What do you notice? What lessons are taught? How do people react to his teaching?

IX. Nicodemus and Shmuel

9. What important topics do they debate concerning John, Jesus and God?

X. More teaching and a commotion

10. Take note of all the different reactions to Jesus' teachings and his actions. How do they differ and why?

Group Guide

For listening, discussion & reflection

EPISODE 6- Indescribable Compassion



watch | discuss | learn | rejoice

The CHOSEN

The Story of Jesus: For Us

EPISODE 5

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- ▶ Matthew 8:1-4
- ▶ Luke 18:1-14
- ▶ Luke 12: 36-48
- ▶ Mark 2:1-12
- ▶ Matthew 6: 1-18

CHARACTERS

Jesus, Mary Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus, Simon, Andrew, Tamar, The Leper, James, John, The Paralytic

The Big Question:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU & GROUP

1. Who would you equate with a tax collector today? A Roman soldier? A Jewish citizen?
2. There was a LOT of compassion emphasized in this episode. From not giving publicly to the healing of a leper. How did Jesus preach about and show compassion? Do you think there is a difference between compassion, giving, empathy and good will?
3. Let's talk more about leprosy, Leprosy is one of the major diseases in the time of Jesus. It was the sickness that renders a person no longer worthy of dignity, love or community. Are there any "like" situations in our society today that would cause a person to no longer have dignity? How do you think Jesus would treat them?

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QUESTIONS CONTINUED

4. What's holding you back from the kind of bold faith the leper had?
5. How can you connect with people in your life who aren't part of the "in" crowd, as Jesus did?
6. In order to take such extreme measures, what must the four men, who carried their friend, believed about Jesus?

QUOTES

The Leper: "Please don't turn away from me."

Jesus: "I won't."

Matthew: "They don't believe what I saw, but I do. I need to know, am I deceived?"

Nicodemus: "If God did something that you felt contradicted the Torah, would you tell him to get back in that box you have carved for him, or would you question your interpretation of the Torah?"

Mary Magdalene: "I don't want to interrupt the Teacher by causing a scene."

The Paralytic: "What if you were me?"

Jesus to Tamar: "Your faith is beautiful."