

The CHOSEN

SEASON 2 EPISODE 5 - SPIRIT

Path's come together and diverge. God has his plans for us and we know his ways are good. We each have our own gifts and talents along with our own struggles and failures. In today's episode we find people coming together and then some going off on their own for different reasons.

One struggle we have as sinful humans is to forget the painful and the sinful filled paths we have been on. We know we are loved and forgiven but our mistake filled paths want to bring us back and down. We seem to be on a new path but when we are confronted by past pains or our past failures, it is easy for the devil and our own voices to tell us we are going right back to that path and nothing has changed. How easy is it to go back to that life and those ways? And then how much worse is it, because we tell ourselves we should know better and have ways of dealing with our past. We know God and his word and promises. We have other Christians and ways to escape temptation and to find healing and help. Yet while we are in this earthly life our past pains and huts, our past sins and mistakes tend to sneak back up on us and want to drag us down. This is one of the topics this episode and the next will consider.

Scripture Matthew 1 (The Birth of John and Jesus, The Song of Mary, The Song of Zechariah)

Matthew 3:1-17 & Luke 3:1-20 (John the Baptist Prepares the Way)

Mark 3:16-19, Matthew 10:1-8, Luke 6:12-16 (There are several Simon's listed in the New Testament, Simon the Zealot is mentioned in lists of the disciples.)

Matthew 8: 14-17 (Jesus heals and casts out demons)

Matthew 11:1-19 (Jesus heals and casts out demons)

Matthew 14:1-13

The Chosen Context - What happened last episode?

In Season 1, what did Jesus save Mary from? In addition to her demons, do we know anything about Mary's old life before she encountered Jesus? [fishing for "the Red Quarter" bit]

Matthew, Ramah, and Mary Magdalene are outsiders in the group. What knowledge do they lack that the others have? What did they decide to start doing in Episode 2 of The Chosen Season 2?

Who was John the Baptist? What does the New Testament tell us about him?

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 2-4. Additional questions can be found on page 4-5. Additional Information about the Episode can be found on page 5**

Jesse (paralyzed) -

Ramah -

Atticus -

Thomas -

Simon (the Zealot) -

Mary -

Shmuel -

Matthew -

Yanni -

Simon -

I. Mary

1. What shook Mary? Why? What was her response? (*Mary will explain later*)

II. Questioned

2. What happened before this questioning?

3. What do Jesse and Atticus discuss?

III. Meetings on the Road

4. Who does Simon meet? What is he struggling with?

5. Describe Mary's demeanor. Why is this?

6. What do John and Jesus discuss? How are they different? How are they similar?

7. During their conversation what does Jesus stress? What is talked about concerning prophecies?

IV. Two Visitors to Camp

8. Note how each person responds to the demon possessed man. Who confronts him and why?

9. What surprises Simon the Zealot?

10. Why does Mary leave?

V. More Inquiries

11. Why are Shmuel and Yanni frustrated?

11. What does Simon learn speaking to Jesus?

VI. Departures

12. What is Mary struggling with? What does she choose to do because of this?

13. Have you ever relapsed into a past sin or sinful life? What did it cause and how did it make you feel? What brought you back?

14. How does Jesus react to John's departure? Why?

VII. Next Steps

15. What are the Pharisees planning? What are their next steps?

16. What do the disciples discover? What instructions does Jesus give?

More Questions for Episode 5

1. What stuck out to you about this episode? Were there any scenes that you found interesting or moving?
2. Did you have any questions about what happened?
3. How would you describe the character of John the Baptist as he's adapted in The Chosen? Does it fit with the way you pictured him?

4. What did you notice about the way Jesus and John the Baptist related to each other?
5. Were you surprised at how John the Baptist and Jesus disagreed with each other?
6. What did they disagree about? How did their disagreement reflect their unique missions?
7. What did you notice about the way John and Jesus talked through their disagreements and came to an understanding of one another?
8. At the end, why is Jesus sad?
9. At the end, Jesus reminds John the Baptist to listen to God's voice when he confronts Herod Antipas. When confronting the evil of others, why is it important to still listen to God's voice?
10. Jesus affirms that John the Baptist is doing what he should be doing, and yet Jesus is also sad about the suffering John will experience. Have you ever had a moment when doing what God called you to do meant suffering? Do you believe Jesus was sad to see you suffer?
11. Like Mary, have you ever felt like you had a difficult experience in the past that you didn't want to remember?
12. When Mary attempts to confront the demon on her own, he almost overpowers her, but when Jesus shows up he is overcome. Why is it important to invite Jesus to be with us when we confront our past or the deep problems within us?

More Details about Episode 5

- John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus and that he baptized Jesus. We should remember his unique dress and his strange diet. Something we might forget is John's conflict with Herod Antipas, his arrest, and his ultimate fate. Although these details might be considered "spoilers" in a sense, this episode of *The Chosen* expects us to come in with a knowledge of what's ahead. Without the knowledge of John's fate, the meeting between Jesus and John actually feels a bit random and out of place, and the strong dramatic irony that *The Chosen* is going for will be missed. This is not a "twist" that *The Chosen* is trying to hide; it's a doom that the show foreshadows and marches toward with a sad solemnity.