

The Chosen Season 3

Discussion Questions and Bible Study

Episode 7- Ears to Hear This episode opens with the celebration of Purim, but not everyone is happy. Several disciples are worried about a crisis they set off in Decapolis with the banquet parable. Simon is distraught. Matthew and Mary share some hope. Rabbi Shmuel is on the hunt for heresy. This episode contains one of Jesus' major teachings, the Parable of the Great Banquet, (Gentiles will be welcomed into the kingdom,) as well as a minor miracle story about the healing of a man who's deaf/mute.

Scriptural Basis

Esther 4-9: Read about Esther and how Purim came to be celebrated

Matthew 1:1-17 – genealogy of Jesus

Mark 7: 31-37

Luke 14: 15-34: The parable of the banquet and ‘He who has ears.’ verse.

Discussion Questions

1. What stuck out to you about the episode? What did you connect with the most?
2. Did you have any questions? Was anything unclear?
3. What did you know about Purim before? What did you learn about this Jewish holiday? What does Purim teach us about the character of God?
4. Over the centuries, the Jewish people experienced oppression under many different Gentile empires like Egypt, Babylon, Greece, and Rome. How do you think that affected the way Gentiles were viewed by Jews?
5. This episode reminds us that back in Episode 2 Jesus instructed the disciples to not share the Gospel with Gentiles but instead to focus on preaching to the Jews. Why do you think Jesus began his ministry by explicitly avoiding ministry to the Gentiles?
6. Under orders from Jesus, Andrew and Philip initially attempt to address the situation of the Decapolis on their own before finally returning and asking Jesus to intervene. Phillip and Andrew are frustrated by the “failure” of their mission. Did they misunderstand what Jesus asked them to do? Did they overreact or overestimate their impact? Do you think they are to blame for the situation? Why or why not?
7. There were scam artists claiming miracles and to be Jesus. What did Shmuel tell the scammed man he should have looked for in a prophet before funding him? Did this surprise you?

8. Trying to escape his grief, Simon stumbles into the Roman Quarter unnoticed and ends up in Gaius' home. In what ways was this interaction significant? What surprised you? What does "Shalom, Shalom" mean?
9. Mary asks Matthew about the prayer tassels she discovers and Matthew's response surprises her. When he comes back to apologize, we learn the story of the old man who gave the tassels to Matthew. What was the significance of this gift?
10. Mary tells Matthew about being suicidal and that God sent her a dove that led her to Jesus. She then tells him the older man who impressed Matthew with his math and prayer tassels was his dove. When have you experienced a dove moment in your life? How can we look more for them?
11. Mary goes on to tell Matthew that "our lives are often painful and we have a tendency to think that life is full of scarcity and not abundance. But then there are those times when out of nowhere somehow the world expresses its longing to be whole and suddenly God steps in and we are pulled out of our blindness and we're invited into redemption. How has this been true in your life or the lives of your loved ones?
12. What does Jesus say to Andrew and Philip about the situation in the Decapolis? How can this point be an encouragement to us as well when we are given weighty tasks?
13. Imagine you were a Jew in the time of the early church and you heard that Gentiles were being invited in to become members of the people of God. How do you think you would feel? What would your concerns be?
14. Imagine you were a Gentile and you were aware of the negative way that you were viewed by many Jews. Even if you believed that the Hebrew Scriptures were true, why might it still be difficult to join the people of God?
15. What are some of the unique obstacles that Jesus and the disciples face in trying to minister to the Gentiles of the Decapolis?
16. When some Gentiles in the Decapolis overhear the teachings of Jesus and begin to repent, what is the fallout?
17. Why do you think Jesus insisted that John be the one to wait for Simon? What did you think of John's response to Jesus at this request?
18. How can we make sure that we are not leaving people in pain behind?
19. What points of humor did you enjoy?