

EPISODE 6 – INDESCRIBABLE COMPASSION



The CHOSEN Discussion Guide

Watch - Discuss - Learn - Rejoice

Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. 2 A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." 3 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. 4 Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." Matthew 8:1-4.

Read also the miracle recorded Luke 5:17-26

Watch

This episode leads up to the healing of the paralytic found in Scripture (Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26.) It opens with a scene depicting how a man with skin disease might struggle to survive. And portrays Jesus beginning to teach the crowds while the disciples, the Pharisees, and Nicodemus figure out how to respond to it all.

We are introduced to Tamar, a fictional character from Ethiopia. She portrays a friend of the paralytic in Luke 5:17-26 and one of the unnamed "many others" who followed Jesus (cf. Lk 8:3)

Discuss

- 1) This episode presents Jesus taking a few days to look after his mother as she travels home. Compare with what Jesus says at the cross to John and his mother (John 19:26-27).
- 2) Timeline: This series presents Jesus as living for a time in Egypt after the age of two. (For further discussion compare Lk 2:39, Mt 2:13-23) Note: most historians agree Herod died 4BC. Share what little we do know about Jesus' childhood and how it impacted his life.
- 3) Discuss the true, biblical teachings of Jesus shared in this episode ...about repentance (Luke 13:3-5) about boasting of good deeds (Mt 6:1-6) ...about how we are justified (Lk 9-14).
- 4) This episode implies one plausible reason the paralytic's friends had trouble reaching Jesus is that they were not Jewish. Evaluate. Discuss how similar barriers might be found today.

Learn

- a) Note how leprosy would leave a person void of dignity or compassion. Identify similar circumstances today in which people are overlooked and suffering alone.
- b) Jesus is portrayed in this episode as caring for family. In what ways can following Jesus change our relationship with family? (Compare: Mk 10:29-30; Mk 3:33-35; Lk 14:26; 1 Ti 5:8, 1 Cor 9:4-5,14)

- c) Note how the disciples are portrayed as responding to the leper crossing paths with Jesus. List some ways that self-preservation can get in the way of sharing the gospel today.
- d) Note how Peter is portrayed as responding to Matthew's curiosity about Jesus. List some ways that our interactions with "traitors to the faith" might poorly reflect on our mission.
- e) Mary Magdalene is portrayed as hesitating to respond to the paralytic and his friends. Share how we might hesitate when others need Jesus because we, "Don't want to cause a scene."
- f) Note how Mary Magdalene is hesitant to offer help to Nicodemus, "an enemy." How might we be blind to the opportunities to let genuine inquirers learn about Jesus?
- g) Retell the parable of the master and servants who should be ready. (Lk 12:35-48) What ought the servants of Christ to be doing while they wait for his return?
- h) Peter is portrayed as more interested in protecting Jesus than sharing him with outsiders. How might the Church today fall into this same type of misunderstanding of our mission?
- i) Nicodemus and Shmuel are portrayed as having two different approaches to interpreting Scripture. Agree or Disagree: "We are always learning new things from God's Word."

Rejoice

- 1) Jesus had to teach his disciples the importance of not overlooking the outcast. It even concludes with a scene of Jesus smiling at a confused and lost Matthew. Do you have an example of a time when a small gesture meant everything to you? How can even the smallest gestures of kindness help the lost?
- 2) Jesus, in mercy, always hears our cry. This episode portrays Jesus as not only healing the leper but inviting his disciples to offer him a spare tunic. And he not only forgives the sins of the paralytic but heals him as well. Describe how Jesus, in compassion, has done far more than just meet our greatest need, and gives us compassionate gift upon gift in his grace.

The leper: "Please don't turn away from me." Jesus: "I won't."
