

EPISODE 8 – I AM HE



The CHOSEN Discussion Guide

Watch - Discuss - Learn - Rejoice

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"... The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)²⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." ...²⁵ The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."²⁶ Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he. -*John 4*

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners. -*Mt 9:10-13*.

Watch

This episode begins with a depiction of Jacob digging a well in 1952 BC. He says, "(Our God) chose us." It then focuses on Jesus' early ministry of intentionally seeking after the lost. The timeline picks up from the previous episode with Jesus eating at the house of Matthew. Jesus then takes off from Capernaum with his disciples and travels south through Samaria. This episode ends with the scene of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well.

Discuss

- 1) This episode depicts a possible background story of the Samaritan woman (John 4) who is given the name Photina. Describe the marriage dynamic between Photina and her husband. Discuss how marriage and divorce were treated different in that culture compared to now. What aspects about marriage and divorce remain the same?
- 2) Share what you noted about the way different people in this episode treated or spoke about the sinful Samaritan woman and how they spoke about Matthew and his associates.
- 3) This episode includes some fictional dialogue between Jesus and Peter's wife, called Eden in this series. It leads into the biblical account of Jesus healing her mother (Mt 8:14-15). Evaluate this portrayal of Jesus' interactions with Peter's wife and family.
- 4) Quintas, a fictional character, is a Roman magistrate in Capernaum and Praetor of Galilee. This episode portrays him bothered by Jesus especially after Matthew quit his job as tax collector. It then portrays Quintas prohibiting all religious gatherings outside of the synagogues. Evaluate how accurate this Roman magistrate's prohibition fits the time frame.
- 5) This episode has many paraphrases and direct quotes from the scene at the well (John 4). Evaluate how well it captured and portrayed the true biblical account.

Learn

- a) List some of the things which are mentioned in the dialogue of Jacob with the Canaanite man, Yassib which make Jacob's God so different from the gods of Canaan. How is *El Shaddai* different from the many false gods of today?
- b) This episode portrays the event recorded in Matthew 9:10-13. Evaluate how well they captured this scene. Share why it is often a struggle for sinners to feel welcome around Christians. Explain exactly when, how, and why everyone ought to be made to feel welcome with Jesus.
- c) The gospel records that "many" tax collectors were at Matthew's house. Jesus went out of his way and out of a Jew's comfort zone to travel and meet a stranger in Samaria. Identify some of the most common ways that people outside of the Christian Church will first encounter Jesus.
- d) Nicodemus' wife speaks longingly of a Sabbath gathering. Note what she treasured most and what was missing. Explain why most Christians will attend worship on Christmas Eve, Easter morning, and Mother's Day, but many of them fail to regularly treasure time to gather for worship.
- e) Nicodemus is portrayed as telling his student, "Our work is for God, he chooses where it takes us." Discuss what makes a teacher in God's kingdom different from other vocations.
- f) How does this episode contrast Matthew with Nicodemus when it came to following Jesus?
- g) This episode portrays the Samaritan woman as initially frustrated that Jesus might have come to preach against her sin. Try to identify some of the gospel messages in this scene. What happens when preaching is focused on the law and absent of the gospel? What does the gospel do for sinners?

Rejoice

- 1) The route Jesus took through Samaria was intentional. "Now he had to go through Samaria." (Jn 4:4) He sought after the sinful woman. Explain how God has done that in your life.
- 2) The quote below comes from the episode's script for Jacob in the introduction. It summarizes the theme of the series and this season of "The Chosen". Explain why this is true for every Christian.

Jacob: "We didn't choose him. He chose us."
