



SEASON 2 EPISODE 1 -THUNDER

The CHOSEN

Discussion Guide

Watch - Discuss - Learn - Rejoice

When Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony: "He told me everything I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them. And he stayed there two days. Many more believed because of his message. They told the woman, "We no longer believe because of what you said. Now we have heard for ourselves. And we know that this really is the Savior of the world." -John 4:39-42.

He told them this parable: "Which one of you, if you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that was lost until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls together his friends and his neighbors, telling them, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found my lost sheep!' I tell you, in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need to repent.

-Luke 15:3-7.

Watch

This episode centers around the time Jesus spent in Sychar in Samaria (John 4) It conveys the possible reaction of the disciples to the growing number of Jesus' followers in Samaria. (Recall Jews and Samaritans culturally despised one another.) The disciples are presented as disorganized, uncertain, and quick to stumble into interpersonal strife. They are uncomfortable in Samaria.

Discuss

- 1) This episode depicts John struggling with what to include in his gospel account. Note how it has him remarking, "Matthew already recorded that... etc..." Read John 14:26. Explain why Christians do not believe any struggles of the authors of the gospel accounts detract from their accuracy.
- 2) Review the difference between productions like "The Chosen" and the original gospel accounts.
- 3) James and John are depicted as working on a field as a project from Jesus. This episode ties it in with a fictional backstory for the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). Explain the role of the fictional character Melech. Note that Jesus does not call his story of the Good Samaritan a parable. Evaluate the screenwriter's choice to share Luke 10:25-37 from a different perspective.
- 4) Thomas is portrayed in season 1 with a fictional background story of serving wine and being called by Jesus at the wedding in Cana. He arrives with his new friend, Ramah, and her father, Kafni. [Kafni and Ramah are a fictional family operated vineyard business behind true account of the wedding of John 2:1-10.] Kafni does not trust Jesus. Her reluctantly consents to allow his daughter to follow him. Discuss how accurate this type of situation would have been.
- 5) Read Luke 9:51-56 and evaluate how this episode portrays and captures this type of incident.

Learn

- a) This episode presents a real cost to following Jesus by creating the struggle for Ramah's family. In what ways do you see the same struggle in families today?

- b) This episode makes "Melech" an object lesson for us of the parable of the lost sheep. Can you share any real-life examples of when Jesus' chased after the lost? How can you do the same?

- c) The Samaritan woman who Jesus met at the well is depicted as returning to a healthy relationship with her husband and supporting Jesus' ministry. Explain why this is an accurate conclusion to her story. Explain how this same type of storyline repeats still today.

- d) The disciples are presented as disorganized and attempting to take the lead over each other. Identify the source of their conflict and compare it to strife found within Christian ministries today. Identify the only solution to such strife.

- e) Identify what James and John needed to learn about passion and zeal. Apply it to your life.

- f) This episode shares the start of John's real gospel account with John clearly having in mind the context of Genesis 1 and reaching people who are lost. Defend that approach.

Rejoice

- 1) How does the portrayal of Jesus' attention towards the fictional character Melech fit with the true Jesus recorded in the gospels?

- 2) The quote below helps remind us that although Jesus is so far beyond our comprehension, we can share him using any portion of Scripture -- it all centers on him. Share your favorite part of the Bible and how it points us to who Jesus is and what he has done.

*John, when responding to the Samaritans limited Scriptures: "They are missing out on so much."
Jesus: "But we have to start somewhere."*
