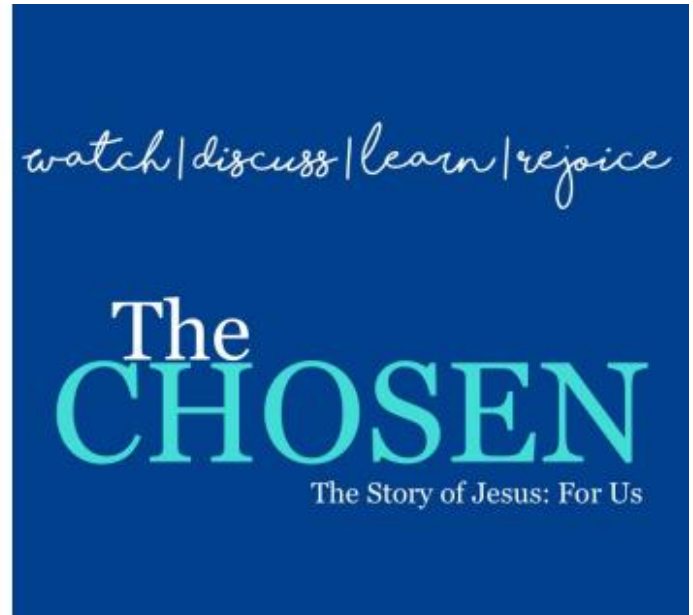


Group Guide



For listening, discussion & reflection

EPISODE 7- Invitations



EPISODE 7

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

- ▶ Numbers 21:4-9
- ▶ John 3:1-21
- ▶ Psalm 2:11-12
- ▶ Matthew 9:1-13

CHARACTERS

Jesus, Nicodemus, Matthew, Mary Magdalene

QUICK SUMMARY

This episode starts with a thousand year flashback to Moses. Jesus continues to call His followers, forging a core group of people He will prepare for fantastic works ahead. These disciples have various backgrounds, and many personal issues; but they are prepared to follow their kind, brilliant, miracle-working rabbi anywhere He goes.

After reading through the summary, watch this episode, then work through the following reflection questions:

CONVERSATION STARTER

Share a time when you received an invitation to something you didn't want to attend. Talk about a time you were excited to receive an invitation to something.

TheBigQuestion:

What is your one BIG question from this episode? Which character, event or line stood out to you most? Why?

Bring to Group:

What quote from this episode was the most meaningful/impactful to you? Why?

EPISODE 7 QUESTIONS

1. Did it surprise you how quickly Matthew agreed to follow Jesus? Especially in comparison to Nicodemus' hesitation?
2. Stories like that of the bronze snake can be shocking to us today. What caused the Israelites to suffer? What daily habits can you cultivate so that you obey as quickly as Matthew did?
3. What did you think of Peter's reaction to Jesus calling Matthew? How can you have the same reaction today?
4. When have you felt like Matthew when he said, "...when you realize no one in the world cares what happens to you, you think only about yourself...?"
5. When did you understand that you receive eternal life by believing that Jesus' death on the cross was full payment for all of your sin? Did you struggle believing it was that simple?
6. In the episode, Nicodemus struggled with leaving a life of status to follow Jesus. Matthew struggled with leaving a wealthy lifestyle. When have you felt this type of tug of war when you sense Christ's invitation to follow Him?

PERSONAL NEXT STEPS

Renew and Refresh – This week read John 3:1-21; Numbers 21:4-9

Self-Check

o Jesus taught Nicodemus that people who believe in His sacrifice receive eternal life. In the episode, Jesus kept inviting people to follow Him. While many Christians enjoy knowing they have eternal life, the question remains, are they following Jesus - here and now. How could you follow Jesus more closely this week?

o Do you struggle to believe that Jesus would invite you to help Him build His Kingdom? What can you do to reassure yourself of His belief in you?

Go Forth – Who do you know that needs to hear the incredible news about belief in Jesus' sacrifice and receiving eternal life? Think about having a conversation with this person and ask for God's wisdom and timing.

Pray – Thank your heavenly Father for the gift of eternal life. Thank Him also for Jesus' example for living life today. Ask Him to help you follow Christ more closely.

QUOTES

Matthew: "My whole world, everything I thought I knew, what if it's wrong?" Jesus to Andrew: "You are there to guide our guest, not to be my protector."