

Group Study Guide

The
CHOSEN

EPISODE 3

For listening, discussion and reflection

MATTHEW 4:24



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 4: 23-25;
Psalm 139: 8;
Zechariah 14: 1-5

The Big Questions:

Which character speaks to you?
Why do you think God is highlighting that person to you?
What does following look like for the character?
What is your one BIG question from this episode? (What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?)

OUTLINE

Episode 3 gives us a window into everyday life as a disciple of Jesus. The episode title a reference to one of several occasions in the Gospels where dozens of healings are summarized in a brief line: "So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them."

The Chosen can sometimes follow a formulaic "miracle of the week" structure, in which each episode begins by setting up a person in need and then builds toward a climactic encounter with Jesus (usually with a few other side plots happening among the disciples). Episode 3 breaks the typical mold in a powerful and innovative way. Just as Matthew 4:24 glosses over dozens of miracles in a single sentence, episode 3 isn't interested in a particular miracle or encounter with Jesus. In fact, Jesus is off screen for almost the entire episode and we don't see a single miracle that he performs, although we do hear about them as newly restored Samaritans rush by, proclaiming his deeds to the disciples. The miraculous encounters between Jesus and these Samaritans are really just a backdrop for the real drama of the episode - the effort of the disciples to come together in the face of personal insecurities and interpersonal conflict.

This is a powerful and even uncomfortable episode. It's unique in the series so far in that it captures an evening of ordinary conversation among the disciples as they discuss: speculation about Messiah, exhaustion, simple questions about life - to get to know one another, the loss of a father, "I tried pork once" :), swapping stories, wanting to know about Jesus' birth, frustration with pace, questions about life, having expectations of Jesus.

OTHER QUESTIONS

1. What did you learn about the disciples?
2. Little James said, "He's healing the Samaritans. How many would believe in Him if he wasn't healing them?" How has your belief been impacted when Jesus hasn't done what you wanted? How do we know when we're following Jesus for *who He is* and not for what He can do for us?
3. What did you think about the interaction between Simon and Matthew? Think about Matthew 26: 34-35 where Jesus tells Simon Peter of his denial and Peter's realization of that denial in Matthew 26: 75.