



Key People & passages in this episode:

Mary visits Zechariah and Elisabeth

Salome: daughter of Queen Herodias

Queen Herodias: wants John the Baptist dead

Rhema hopes to marry Thomas

Joanna, wife of Chuza and supporter of John B

John the Baptist – forerunner of Jesus

Herod gives the order for John to be executed

Season #4

Key Bible passages used in this episode:

Isaiah 62:1-12

Luke 1:5-25

Luke 1:39-42

Mark 6:14-29

Revelation 19:6-8

What stood out to you or impacted you in this episode and why?

What lines stood out to you in this episode?

Did you have any questions, anything unclear, or any concerns from this episode?

1. Why do you think it was a blessing for Mary to go talk with Elizabeth?
2. How has someone helped you through a difficult time in your life?
3. What was at the root of Herodias' death wish for John the Baptist?
4. What strikes you about Judas' conversation with Simon the Zealot?

5. Rhema was deeply hurt by her father's rejection of Thomas and her choice to follow Jesus. How can you disagree with a person's choices, but not destroy the relationship we have with them in the process?
6. How was Herod "forced" to kill John the Baptist?
7. Why do you think John the Baptist started to recite the phrase: "*the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the poor have the good news preached to them?*"
8. What do you think was the significance of John seeing the lamb outside his window just before he was executed?
9. At John the Baptist's birth, his father (Zechariah) uttered a prediction of his son's life and ministry (see Luke 1:68-79). In what ways was this prophecy fulfilled in his son's life and death?
10. Do you think you could die as peacefully as John did if your life was about to be taken away from you? Would you feel as though God has let you down if God didn't stop the execution?
11. How does one's faith prepare us to face death (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
12. Jesus spoke to Andrew about tears and laughter coming together at the death of a loved one? Has that been your experience in any of your losses of a loved one?
13. Jesus states that there is not just one way to grieve. What ways have you grieved or seen others grieve the loss of a loved one?



Key People & passages in this episode:

Rabbi Joseph is working with Jairus in support of Jesus

Jairus: the synagogue administrator whose daughter Jesus raised from the dead

Dominus Quintas: the Roman official in charge of Capernaum.

Atticus: a Roman military spy who sees Jesus as a threat to Roman peace

Rabbi Shmuel: a Pharisee who regrets turning in reports against Jesus

Caiaphas: the high priest who wants Jesus to be turned in to the Sanhedrin

Gaius: the Roman officer who is leaning toward believing in Jesus and was

Key Bible passages used in this episode:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-3

Ecclesiastes 5:10

Luke 12:51-53

Mark 8:27-29

Matthew 16:13-20

Luke 9:46-48

Matthew 18:15-35

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14. Rabbi Shmuel had always wanted to be a member of a Sanhedrin. Why is his dream job turning into a nightmare for him?

15. What is Caiaphas' approach to Jesus?

16. Jesus asked his disciples who they think He is. If Jesus asked you the same question how would you respond?

17. Today - who does the world believe Jesus is?

18. Why did Jesus change Simon's name to Peter?

19. How did the other disciples respond to this?

20. What would you have felt, if you had called Peter "Peter" and he corrected you and said, "*my name is Simon*"?

21. What did Jesus mean by his statement: "*I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*" (Matthew 16:18-19 (NIV))

22. What was Matthew's issue with Peter?

23. What do you think of Jesus' statement: "*An apology is a sign of repentance. Forgiveness is a gift to be given or not given by the person wronged.*"

24. What should offering forgiveness look like – and what shouldn't it look like?

25. What was Peter's issue with Matthew?

26. What advice did Jesus give Peter in his relationship with Matthew?

27. How did Peter end up treating Matthew?

28. Is it easier for you to apologize to someone or to forgive someone? Why?

29. Why do we find it so difficult to forgive someone who's hurt us?



Key People & passages in this episode:

David & Bathsheba: They are praying for their child to live, but he died.

Dominus Quintas: Roma official over Capernaum whose taxes are behind

Gaius: The Roman official promoted by Dominus Quintas and is going through a personal crisis because one of his sons is dying

Thomas and Rhema: followers of Jesus and planning their wedding

Uzziah: name given to the man Jesus healed on the Sabbath by placing mud on his eyes.

Key Bible passages used in this episode:

2 Samuel 11:2-16

2 Samuel 12:11-23

Matthew 20:20-23

John 9:1-34

Matthew 23:23-28

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Did you have any questions, anything unclear, or any concerns from this episode?

1. What was one major prayer you prayed that God answered with a “No” and how did you feel afterwards?
2. Do you think John and James were wrong for wanting places of influence in Jesus’ kingdom? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think Jesus healed Uzziah on the Sabbath knowing it could cause problems?
4. How did you feel toward the Pharisees as they attacked Jesus?

5. What do you think is going on inside of Gaius when he refuses to arrest Jesus knowing that it could cost him his life?

6. What did you feel when Rhema died and Jesus didn't heal her?

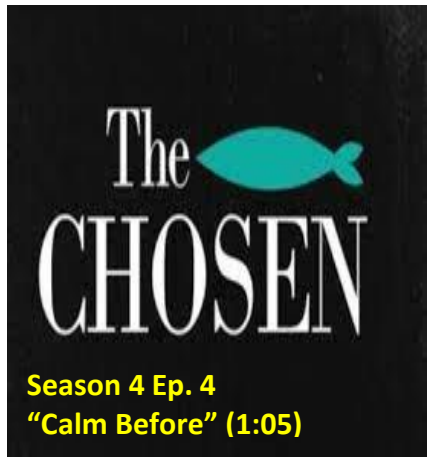
7. Why do you think Rhema's last words to Thomas were "*stay with Him, that's all I want*"?

8. When have you experienced a sudden unexpected death of someone very close to you and how did you feel?

9. If you had been Thomas, who do you think your response to rhema's death would have been? How would you have felt when Jesus refused to heal Rhema?

10. Why do you think Jesus chose not to heal Rhema or raise her from the dead?

11. When have you ever questioned God's actions?



Key People & passages in this episode:

Quintas – The former praetor of Capernaum who is removed from office for the murder of Rhema

Atticus – The Roman military cohort who promotes Gaius

Gaius – Former guard for Matthew becomes new praetor of Capernaum and has a sick son at home.

Thomas – Jesus' disciple grieving the death of Rhema, his bride to be

Kofni – the father of Rhema

Key Bible passages used in this episode:

Matthew 8:5-13

John 4:46-54

Mark 10:35-45

Psalms 38

Isaiah 55:8: *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts neither are your ways my ways."*

Luke 22:24-30

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Did you have any questions, anything unclear, or any concerns from this episode?

1. Over the course of the past few seasons, what have we learned about Gaius' family life and personal struggles?
2. Describe Gaius
3. What did you learn and connect with in the way in which Peter tried to help Thomas deal with his grief?
4. What's the most effective way others have helped you with your grief?

5. Peter, James and John were worried that if Jesus raised anyone else from the dead, it would destroy Thomas. Do you agree or disagree with their assessment and why?
6. What exactly were James and John asking Jesus for when they asked to be seated on both sides of Jesus in His kingdom?
7. What is Jesus' response to James and John's request and what did Jesus mean by it?
8. Why were the other disciples upset with James and John?
9. Jesus modeled and taught "servant leadership". What is that and where have you seen it modeled?
10. Describe the interaction between Kofni (Rhema's father) and Jesus.
11. Do you think Kofni was too harsh? How would you have reacted if you were Kofni and your daughter was killed following Jesus?
12. When Jesus told the disciples he had not found such great faith in all of Israel as he did in Gaius, how do you think this made the disciples feel?
13. There's only one other time that Jesus declares someone had great faith. Who was it?
14. What do you think is the most frustrating thing for Jesus in this episode?
15. What do you think was the author and director's intention in including the final scene of Jesus being troubled looking at the grapes being crushed?



Key People & groups in this episode:

Sanhedrin: the supreme council and court in ancient Israel, composed of 71 members, including chief priests, scribes and elders. The Pharisees and Sadducees often had representation within the Sanhedrin.

Joanna: one of the women financial supporters of Jesus & his disciples

Rabbi Shmuel: a Pharisee from Capernaum who at first wanted to expose Jesus as a heretic, but later changed his mind about Jesus

Rabbi Joseph: a Pharisee from Capernaum and close friend of Jairus, who tries to protect Jesus. He received a seat in the Sanhedrin because of his father's wealth.

Key Bible passages used in this episode:

Luke 8:3 lists some individuals who helped support Jesus' ministry

John 12:4-7 We see Judas' greedy side

Luke 10:38-42 Jesus' interaction with Mary and Martha

Matthew 20:1-16 Parable of the workers

Matthew 5:38-42 Jesus' teaching on carrying someone's stuff a mile

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Note: With The Chosen slated for seven seasons of eight episodes, Episode 5 of Season 4 officially transitions us into the second half of the show. The transition is pronounced. In the first half of the season, Jesus' ministry was centered around Capernaum. In Episode 5, Jesus sets his face toward Jerusalem and steps onto the long, difficult road that ultimately leads to the cross. Up until this point in the show, Jesus has faced sporadic persecution and an ominous edict, but Episode 5 marks the beginning of the premeditated plot that will actually result in his execution. Not coincidentally, the episode also sets Judas on the trajectory that will culminate in him betraying Jesus for silver.

1. Is Jesus' teaching, in Matthew 5:38-42 practical in today's world? How have you seen this played out?
2. How did you feel watching the Roman soldiers make Jesus and his disciples carry their gear? What was Jesus trying to teach during this?

3. The Sanhedrin talks about using Pilate's illegal activities and atrocities against the Jews, which have gotten him in trouble with Tiberius Caesar, against him. What were these activities and atrocities and how did the Jews use this against Pilate at Jesus' trial and crucifixion?
(Note: you'll have to do some research to find this answer)

4. At Mary and Martha's home, Martha gets quite upset with her sister for not helping her prepare the meal. Who was right in this situation: Mary or Martha and why?

5. What was Jesus' response to Martha?

6. Do you tend to be more of a Mary or Martha in your walk with the Lord? Why?

7. Jesus was both truly God and truly human. What in this episode caused you to see his humanity in a way you had not seen before?

8. What advice did Judas' mentor advisor give him?

9. Why do you think Judas is having such a hard time with the way Jesus is going about building his kingdom?

10. Is there anything that causes you to question God's way of doing things?

**Key People & groups in this episode:**

Big James: Jesus' disciple who suffers a blow to his head

Rabbi Joseph: the Pharisee who wants to protect Jesus

Jairus: the synagogue administrator who is a follower of Jesus and sends a message to warn Jesus and the others of a plot to kill Jesus.

Zebedee: the father of James and John and delivers a message from Capernaum

Key Bible passages used in this episode:

John 11:1-16 Lazarus is sick

Matthew 10:16 *"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."*

John 10:1-19 Jesus is the shepherd and we are the sheep

John 10:22-30 Festival of Dedication

John 10:31-33 Jesus' Jewish opponents try to stone Jesus

What stood out to you or impacted you in this episode and why?**What lines stood out to you in this episode?****Did you have any questions, anything unclear, or any concerns from this episode?**

1. What is the Feast of Dedication?
2. Judas thought he had a good plan to raise money for Jesus' ministry...but no one would listen to him. Have you ever had what you thought was a good plan, but you were not able to get anyone else to want to go along with it? How did you handle the rejection of it?
3. Jesus' disciples buy Thomas a new pair of walking sandals to try to cheer him up. How would you have tried to cheer Thomas up?

4. Grieving Thomas tells Peter that *“the only time he doesn’t feel awful is when he has a task at hand.”* Can you relate to Thomas’ feelings from your own experiences with grief?

5. What were the different reactions of the people as Jesus sat on the temple steps teaching? How are they similar to what we find in the world today?

6. What claims of Jesus got him in the most trouble with the religious leaders?

7. In Jesus’ teaching in John 10:1-19
 - How does Jesus describe himself?
 - Who are Jesus’ sheep and what characterizes them?
 - Who is the thief ?
 - What is the goal of both the thief and the shepherd?
 - How is Jesus different than a hired hand?
 - Who are the sheep of another fold and what’s Jesus’ plan for them?

8. What comfort do you find in Jesus’ words that *no one can snatch his followers out of his hands”* and what does that mean? Does that mean God supersedes our free will?

9. Jesus compares the intimate relationship between him and his sheep to the relationship he has with his Father. What does this tell us about the type of relationship he wants to have with us?

10. The Father’s love enables Jesus to lay down his life and then take it up again. How does the love of Jesus have a similar effect on us?

11. Why did Jesus tell his disciples that Lazarus would not end in death?

12. Why do you think Jesus told the disciples that He was glad that He was not there when Lazarus died?

13. What do you think is Jesus’ emotional state at the end of this episode?



Key People & groups in this episode:

Adnan: One of Lazarus' former business partners before he died

Mary and Martha: sisters and Lazarus' sisters

Lazarus: raised from the dead by Jesus

Thomas: struggles with Jesus not raising Rhema but raising Lazarus

Key Bible passages used in this episode:

John 11:1-48 Jesus raises Lazarus from the tomb

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Did you have any questions, anything unclear, or any concerns from this episode?

1. This episode gives us greater insight into perhaps what Thomas meant when he said concerning Jesus trip to see Lazarus: *"Let us go and die with Him"*. According to this episode what did Thomas mean by his statement?
2. What did big James mean by *"Pain has a way of flattening things out"*?
3. Mary and Martha both say to Jesus, *"If you had been here, my brother would not have died."* Is this a statement of faith, blame, or anger? Why do you think so?
4. What stood out in the scene prior to Jesus raising Lazarus from the grave.
5. Describe Thomas' reactions during this time period. What do you think you'd be feeling and thinking if you were Thomas?

6. Thomas wants to die over the loss of Rhema. When is it proper for a Christian to genuinely long to die?

7. Little James asked Mary about following Jesus, *"Is this what you expected?"*
In what ways has following Jesus been different from what you expected?

8. What does it mean to you to know that Jesus is the resurrection and the life?

9. What was your initial reaction to seeing Jesus breaking down and crying? Is this what you had imagined before when you read the verse *"Jesus wept"*?

10. Jesus tells his disciples, *"I am glad for your sake that I was not there, so that you may believe."* Why would Jesus make this statement to a group of people who already believe in Him?

11. What were the following individuals reactions to Lazarus being raised from the tomb?
 - the crowd:
 - Big James:
 - Judas:
 - Thomas:
 - Jesus:

12. What do you think your reaction would have been to Lazarus coming out of the tomb?

13. How would you answer Thomas' question, *"why did you do this for Lazarus, but not for Rhema or for John your own cousin?"* When was a time you felt like Thomas?

14. What do you think is the reason for the author showing Mary Magdalene alone at the tomb?



Key People & groups in this episode:

King David & Abigail:

Jess: the brother of Simon the Zealot and the man Jesu healed who had been lame at the pool of Bethesda

Veronica: the woman Jesu healed when she touched the hem of his garment

Pontius Pilate: the governor Caesar had appointed over Judah

Caiaphas: the Jewish high priest and leader of the Sanhedrin

Rabbi Joseph: a member of the Sanhedrin who believes in Jesus

Rabbi Shmuel: a member of the Sanhedrin who wants to make sure Jesus gets a fair hearing before the Sanhedrin

Key Bible passages used in this episode:

Matthew 26:6-13, John 12:1-8: Jesus anointed with expensive oil

John 11:45-53: the Sanhedrin's plot to kill Jesus

John 12:1-8: Judas' motivation for betraying Jesus

Matthew 25:31-46: teaching of what it means to serve Jesus

Matthew 21:1-7: set up for Jesus' triumphal entry on Palm Sunday

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1. When Caiaphas says one man should die for all the people, what does he mean? In what sense does he mean Jesus should die for his people?
2. What was Jesus' point in Matthew 25:31-46?
3. Today, if Jesus was going to list some of the "*least of these my brothers*" that he identifies with, who do you think he might mention?
4. In Matthew 25:31-46 is Jesus teaching salvation by works?

5. Mary's perfume that she anointed Jesus with would be equivalent to about a year's worth of wages for an average person at the time. Would you be tempted to see Mary's acts as wasteful?

6. What do you think Thomas is really doing in burying the time clock? Can you think of something in your own life you needed to bury before walking closer to the Lord?

7. Jesus challenged Rabbi Joseph on his expectations of the arrival of the Messiah? What are you really hoping for and expecting when Jesus returns?

8. What kind of help was Rabbi Joseph trying to provide to Jesus? Why didn't Jesus need his help?

9. Why do you think the author includes the scene with Jesus and his mother concerning the gift in the box even though it's not found in Scripture?

10. What was the mood of the disciples in the episode as Jesus prepared to ride toward Jerusalem? Is this how you imagined the ride would be launched on Palm Sunday before seeing the episode?