



The Chosen

Episode #3 (Season #2)

"Matthew 4:24"

Many episodes of The Chosen focus on how Jesus encounters a person in need, performs a miracle to help them, and then reveals part of his identity to the person in need. In this episode, there's no sickness or struggle with sin that Jesus needs to heal. Instead, the focus is on the effort of the disciples to come together as a team. Pay attention to how different disciples get along and relate to one another: what bonds them together and what keeps them apart?

Scripture to read this week *(check the box when you've read the passage):*

- ☐ Zechariah 4:1-14
- ☐ Matthew 4:18-25
- ☐ Psalm 139
- ☐ Colossians 3:13-17
- ☐ Matthew 7:1-6

If He Wasn't Healing Them

As James and Thomas discuss the day's events, James points out that the Samaritans only praise Jesus because he's healing them. While people may have been drawn to Jesus because he healed them, healing is just another wonderful thing we can expect from the Messiah, according to Isaiah 35:4-6.

One of the ways we recognize that Jesus is the Messiah is that he healed people. Healing was the sign to confirm that Jesus was indeed the Messiah when John the Baptist asked him. In Matthew 11, Jesus tells his disciples to report to John with the evidence that fulfilled the prophecy in Isaiah. John would have his answer when he heard that Jesus was healing people just as Isaiah said the Messiah would.

Meat with Cheese

Thomas said he tried meat with cheese once when his parents were asleep to see what it was like. Traditionally, Jewish people don't eat meat and cheese together. This comes from the command in Exodus 23:19 and Deuteronomy 14:21, where God says not to boil a young goat in its mother's milk.

While this sounds like a strange way to prepare meat, it's thought that this was an idolatrous practice of the nearby Canaanites. Others believe this Law was given to foster respect for animals and the parent-child bond. For whatever reason, some Jewish people still take this very seriously. Today, many even have separate dishes for cooking meat and dairy to ensure they never mix.

Sukkot

Mary, responds to the disciples' question about how long she will be with them by saying, "*Through the Feast, and then we'll see.*" The "Feast" Mary refers to is **Sukkot**. According to Leviticus 23, there are seven feasts God commanded His people to keep.

Sukkot is called the Feast of Ingathering in Exodus 34:22. It occurs at the same time as the fall wheat harvest in Israel (September/October), so it's the perfect timing for a harvest festival. Sukkot is one of three festivals for which a pilgrimage to Jerusalem was made, along with Passover and Shavuot.



- ❶ Did this picture of daily life as a disciple of Jesus fit your expectations? In what ways could you relate to the disciples as they were depicted in this episode? Did they do things or have conversations that you could see yourself having?
- ❷ Imagine being one of the disciples on a day when he healed dozens of people. Picture what it would have been like. What do you think the disciples would have been up to while Jesus was busy healing?
- ❸ Philip says to Matthew *"no amount of learning can bring you closer to God, or make you more or less precious to Him. He's always right here, right now, with you, for you."* Matthew responds, *"I don't feel it"*. Philip says *"the feeling doesn't always come first. Sometimes you have to believe."*
Do you ever feel like you don't understand? Does it make you feel like you can't be close to God unless you do?
- ❹ What were some of the person vs. person conflicts among the disciples? Which of the disciples were fighting each other? Which of these conflicts did you relate to the most? Why?

PRAY

*Thank your Heavenly Father for inviting you into relationship with Him without you being perfect.
Ask the Lord to help you be as opening with others who sometimes show they're not perfect either.*