

The CHOSEN

Indescribable Compassion Episode 6

Key Bible Verse

Jesus was in one of the towns where there was also a man covered with a skin disease. When he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged, "Lord, if you want, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out his hand, touched him, and said, "I do want to. Be clean." Instantly, the skin disease left him. Jesus ordered him not to tell anyone. "Instead," Jesus said, "go and show yourself to the priest and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses instructed. This will be a testimony to them." News of him spread even more and huge crowds gathered to listen and to be healed from their illnesses. But Jesus would withdraw to deserted places for prayer. ~Luke 5:12-16

Meet the Characters



The Leper – Matthew 8:2-4, Mark 1:40-45, Luke 5:12-16

An outcast in his society (Leviticus 13:46), this particular leper receives compassion and healing from Jesus. Such gifts would have been shocking both to him and to any onlookers. He is only the first of many lepers and other social outcasts that Jesus healed (Luke 17:11-19). The Gospels record Jesus healing many different people.

Salome – Matthew 20:20-28, Mark 10:35-40, 15:40, 16:1

The mother of James and John and the wife of Zebedee, Salome is named twice in Scripture but is highlighted several other times. In Matthew 20:20-28, she requests for her sons to have a special seat in Jesus' kingdom. She seems to be a devoted follower of Jesus, though, and is there at his crucifixion (Mark 15:40) and resurrection (Mark 16:1).



Matthew – Matthew 9:9-13, Luke 5:27-32

Also known as Levi, he was a despised tax collector when Jesus called him from his tax booth to follow Him as one of the 12 disciples. Matthew "left everything and went with Jesus." He invited many friends and co-workers to a dinner with Jesus so they could meet the Son of God. He wrote the Gospel of Matthew.

Peter – John 1:40-42, Luke 5:1-11, Matthew 16:13-28, Mark 14:66-72

A fisherman known as Simon until Jesus renames him. The name Peter in Greek is petros, meaning rock. He is introduced to Jesus by his brother, Andrew, and follows Jesus after a miraculous catch of fish caused by Jesus. He is well known for walking on water, slicing off a soldier's ear, denying Jesus three times before being asked by Jesus three times to feed his "sheep." He is attributed with writing 1 & 2 Peter.



Andrew – John 1:40-42, John 6:8-9

One of the first to follow Jesus and known for introducing his brother Simon/Peter to Jesus. Together with Peter along with fellow fishermen James and John, he leaves everything to follow Jesus after the miraculous catch of fish. He plays a key role in feeding of the 5,000.

Is that true? (clarifying artistic imagination)

Did Jesus grow up in Egypt and speak “Egyptian”?

Joseph and Mary fled to Egypt to avoid the massacre of boys under Herod (Matthew 2:13-15). They returned to Nazareth after the death of Herod (Matthew 2:19-23). They may have been in Egypt for several years, though there is no time in the gospels of Jesus speaking an Egyptian language.

Did people really lower a paralytic through a roof?

Yes! Both that story (Mark 2:1-12) and the cleansing of the leper (Mark 1:40-45) are biblical accounts!

Did Joseph die before Jesus began his ministry?

Likely, because there is no mention of Joseph after Jesus begins his ministry. Joseph is last named in Luke 2:48.

Did Nicodemus ask Mary for a meeting with Jesus?

We know that Nicodemus “came to Jesus at night” (John 3:2) but we do not know how that meeting was arranged.

Was Jesus constantly teaching parables?

Few people knew how to read so parables were used to explain and retain life lessons. Merriam-Webster defines a parable as “a usually short fictitious story that illustrates a moral attitude or a religious principle.” Jesus’s parables were short, ranging from a single verse (Matt. 13:33) to a couple of dozen (Luke 15:11-32). They all used everyday examples and were relatable stories to those who heard them. And they had a truth that Jesus was attempting to get across to those he was teaching. The parables seem to be told more intentionally later in his ministry after He is further rejected (Matt 13:10-17). It is likely that Jesus told many of His stories more than once.



Growth Questions

1. What is one question you have about the Bible, Jesus, or other characters as a result of watching this episode?
2. What emotions did you feel as you watched the scenes with the leper?
3. Let’s talk about Leprosy. Leprosy is one of the major diseases in the time of Jesus. It was the sickness that renders a person no longer worthy of dignity, love or community. Are there any “like” situations in our society today that would cause a person to no longer have dignity? How do you think Jesus would treat them?
4. Do you pull back from people with certain types of brokenness? Why?
5. Have you had any kind of experience where you have felt cleansed or healed by Jesus?
6. If you were one of Jesus’ disciples at this point, what questions would you want to ask Him?
7. Nicodemus says, “We are still students. All of us! Our understanding will never be complete.” How open are you to new understandings of God? How can you nurture such a humble hunger to keep growing spiritually?
8. Read the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector in Luke 18:9-14. How can you see this parable in the characters so far? How can you apply this parable to your life?
9. Tamar helps bring her disabled friend to Jesus and lowers him through the roof to get him in front of Christ. Jesus tells Tamar, “Your faith is beautiful.” What do you think a beautiful faith “looks” like?
10. Can you relate at all to Matthew’s spiritual journey at this point? How do you see Matthew processing what he is witnessing of Jesus?
11. In the episode, the children asked Matthew if he was lost and he said, “Yes.” What do you think he meant? When was a time you felt lost?
12. What else did you learn about Jesus from this episode? Are there any ways in which your impression or understanding of Jesus was sharpened, challenged, or changed?