

The Chosen ---Study #7 LCR, Marion

“When you realize that nobody else in the world cares what happens to you, you think only about yourself.” Matthew to Gaius.



1) Matthew: He’s an awkward social outcast, he’s ridiculously lonely, he picks up a stray dog, and he’s one of the most unlikely candidates for “Jesus disciple.” It appears to me that the directors are suggesting that Matthew is on the Autism spectrum. Perhaps because of this, social clues are hard for Matthew to discern. Yet, when Jesus calls him, his shock, and the way his mouth twitches in a half smile, when he realizes that Jesus really means *him* is so endearing. Not to mention the way he drops everything and runs to Jesus, to the surprise of everyone — Gaius, and the other disciples. So what do you think about Jesus calling Matthew---was it problematic? Is it problematic today---the people Jesus call? What emotion would you give to Matthew in that final scene?



2) Nicodemus: The director has some fun with John standing outside listening to Jesus and Nicodemus....afterall, this conversation is only recorded in John’s Gospel! The Bible doesn’t say Nicodemus was invited to follow Jesus, but what do you make with the idea that he was? Do you see

the contrast between this imaginary call to Nicodemus and the call to Matthew...but in context and in response?

3) Following: In the scene between Nicodemus and Jesus, Nicodemus quotes Psalm 2.12 (“Kiss his son, or he will be angry and your way will lead to your destruction, for his wrath can flare up in a moment.) and Jesus then finishes the

verse (“Blessed are all who take refuge in him.”). I was trying to connect this with the opening scene of Moses and Joshua from Numbers 21.4-9. Joshua saw judgment...snakes...Moses saw the means of mercy, the bronze serpent...that really didn’t make sense to Joshua. Nicodemus was worried about the anger of God, by missing out on the son...Jesus then reminds him of the blessing for all who take refuge. Do you think people still struggle with the duality of God as judge and savior...of wrath and love?



4) To be born again: Over the years this phrase has been used as a litmus test by some, to determine if a person is really a Christian or not. What did you think about how the movie portrayed this saying of Jesus. What do you think it means? Is it an experience, or a mindset, or a realization, or something different?

