

The Chosen ---Study #8 LCR, Marion

James: Rabbi, they're Samaritans.

Jesus: Good observation Big James. What's your point?

James: Rabbi, these are the people who profaned our temple with the dead bones, they hate us.

John: They fought against us with the Seleucids in the Maccabean wars. I've never even spoken to a Samaritan.



Jesus: And we destroyed their temple a hundred years ago. And none of you here were present for any of these things. Listen, if we are going to have a question and answer session every time we do something you're not used to, it's going to be a very annoying time together for all of us.

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰ The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, Isaiah 43.18-20

What surprises you about this episode? What do you find interesting? What questions do you have about the events portrayed in this episode? Did anything make you think differently about Jesus?



1. Nicodemus is there at the meeting point, and apparently (in the movie) he even left a bag of gold. Jesus seems to offer him one more chance as he cries out—is there anyone else? It could be thinking of the scene with the children, when the two kids are hiding from Jesus and then they have the courage to show themselves. What do you think this scene (Nicodemus hiding behind the wall)? Did you feel for Nicodemus? Was his reluctance understandable?

2. Trouble: I wasn't sure if I liked the 'score' selection of "Trouble" or not for when Jesus and the disciples were walking into Sychar. "Throw Me like a stone in the water; watch the mud rise up. Dress Me like a Lamb for the slaughter, pour Me in Your Cup. Should have known we'd bring trouble—trouble gonna find you here. Trouble, trouble, trouble."



What do you think the director was trying to say with this rather 'mucho' walk and soundtrack? Was Jesus trouble? Was there going to be trouble in Samaria? Is Jesus trouble?

3. The story of the Samaritan woman at the well is taken from John 4. Tradition says that her name was Photina, but we don't have that in scripture. We really don't know anything about her situation, so the directors decide to make her story one of abuse, shame and personal brokenness. This makes the encounter with Jesus very emotional. In the Gospel of John it



seems to me to be more intellectual---she actually goes toe to toe with Jesus talking about theology. In the movie when she assumes Jesus is a prophet she immediately suspects that she is about to get shamed again. Jesus rejects that notion—do you think people expect to be shamed by Jesus? By the church? What did you think of her joyful

departure?

4. This is the end of season 1 of The Chosen, what are your impressions thus far? Has the movie helped you deepen your faith or added more questions? What do you think are the benefits of such a movie that takes so much theatrical license to develop the backstories of the characters? Are there negatives to this? What parts of the life of Jesus are you hoping that the director will help you imagine in the episodes to come?



