

The Chosen – Season 3 - Episode 6

Intensity in Tent City



You can watch this episode via The Chosen app on your smartphone or tablet, or via your web browser on thechosen.tv [here](#).

Scripture:

- > The testimony of John the Baptist about Jesus – [John 1:19-34](#)
- > “Behold, I will send my messenger” – [Malachi 3:1](#)
- > The dream of “Claudia” – [Matthew 27:19](#)
- > “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened” – [Isaiah 35:5-7](#)
- > Judas’ dishonesty – [John 12:6](#)
- > “You remind me of the children in the market place.” – [John 11:16-19](#)
- > “Are you the one who is to come?” – [Matthew 11:2-18](#)
- > In the Garden of Gethsemane – [Matthew 26:36-46](#) [Mark 14:32-42](#)
- > John’s opinion of the Pharisees. – [Matthew 3:7](#)

Synopsis:

The episode begins with Claudia¹ having a nightmare about Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane - a snake slithers its way past the sleeping disciples, creeping up on Jesus, while Jesus prays passionately. Claudia wakes to witness the Romans crucifying captured Jewish Zealots. After the opening credits we see the disciples, aware of the dangers all around them, sharpening weapons they feel they need to protect themselves and Jesus from reprisals and the surging crowds. Atticus meets with Pilate, saying “*I have much to tell*”. Quintus orders Gaius to shut down the tent city, with Gaius replying “*I know what I must do.*” Even though Andrew and Phillip followed Jesus’ instructions about preaching only to Jews,

Leander² comes in secret from Naveh³ to tell them that word has spread “to the ten cities of the Decapolis” and the region is in turmoil over their preaching—Judas’ observation: “Oh man, *you guys really turned the place upside down!*” Leander begs Andrew and Phillip to return to finish what they started. Tensions between Tamar and Mary are lessened as they learn each others’ painful past. We possibly get an early glimpse of Judas’ dishonesty when Mary goes to the safe for money to fund the olive garden’s soil improvement. John the Baptizer sends two of his disciples to ask if Jesus is the Messiah or should they wait for someone else. Jesus returns to Capernaum from Nazareth and is surrounded by people eager to see Him and desperate for healing. Assassins from the [Order](#) are sent to kill Zee but their leader has a change of heart when he witnesses Jesus’ miracles and hears him speak. Barnaby pleads with Jesus to heal his friend Shula and receives a joyous response. The episode ends with an emotional scene where Simon learns that Eden has suffered a miscarriage.

Memorable Lines of Dialogue:

Phillip (speaking about Jesus): *Reputation has never seemed much of a priority for him.*

Quintus: *Put out the fires Gaius, until it's too cold, dark and miserable to stay!*

Gaius: *I know what I must do, Dominus.*

Little James to Zee (Simon the Zealot): *You don't solve problems with a dagger anymore Zee.*

Leander to Andrew and Phillip: *The Decapolis is up in arms because of you. ... It's already barely holding it together – your preaching made it go pffoo!! ... The town is on fire ...The consequences of your mission were disastrous!*

Judas (listening to the conversation): *Oh man, you guys really turned the place upside down!*

Tamar: *This business is our contribution to the ministry.*

Mary Magdalene: *We have more to contribute than just supporting financially.*

Mary Magdalene to Tamar: *Do you know where Jesus found me? In a bar, drunk, possessed. I pray every day I will never be anywhere without Him again ... I'm doing everything day after day and I'm afraid I'm still broken. I worry I will never be enough.*

Tamar to Mary: *I am sorry for the pain and regret that you feel. Truly, it must be very painful. But Jesus forgave you and you **choose** to hold onto it.*

Pilate to Atticus: *He is Quintus - the Praetor of upper Galilee. He slips occasionally and claims the whole of Israel.*

Pilate: *Hmm... I'll kill him. Wait – Galilee does well ..., don't kill him.*

Atticus to Pilate: *He's the kind of man who wants to be remembered.*

Pilate: *Hmm... We are very different then.*

Assassin to Zee: *I'm certain that is a Roman soldier. Taxes are still being collected. This is no kingdom that I've ever been promised.*

Zee: *He is not what we thought brothers.*

Nadab (one of John's disciples): *He has been in prison a long time. ...He sent us to ask you if you are really the One who is to come or should we look for someone else? ... If you say you are here to free prisoners, to proclaim liberty to the captives, then why does he remain? He rightfully wonders why you would allow his entire ministry to be halted by an imposter king.*

Jesus: *Proclaiming liberty to the captives can mean more than just freeing inmates. There are many kinds of captivity that keep people.*

Jesus to the crowd: *And I tell you, John is who Isaiah and Malachi spoke of. ... Among those born of woman none is greater than John, and even he has questions*

Zee to the assassins: *The Messiah does not need our daggers.*

Shula to Barnaby (after Jesus has restored her sight) *I can see you're not as handsome as you said.*

Memorable Scenes:



[Starting at 12:28] Andrew and Phillip get feedback on their ministry trip.
"Oh man, you guys really turned the place upside down!"



[Starting at 16:09] Tension between Mary and Tamara evaporates as they share their concerns and learn each others' painful past.



[Starting at 43:44] Jesus returns to Capernaum and is surrounded by people eager to see him.



[Starting at 47:32] *"Are you the one?"* John the Baptizer's disciples bring his question to Jesus.



[Starting at 58:36] Barnaby asks Jesus to heal Shula.



[Starting at 1:04:30] Simon learns of Eden's miscarriage.

For Discussion:

1. What stood out for you in this episode? What caught your attention, touched your heart or was particularly relevant for you?
2. What were your impressions of Pontius Pilate in this episode?
3. There is no mention of a serpent in [Matthew's](#) or [Mark's](#) telling of Jesus' night in the Garden of Gethsemane. Why do you think the writers of The Chosen so prominently focused on the serpent in this episode's opening dream sequence?
4. In the opening dream sequence Jesus prays fervently, while his disciples are asleep. Today, where might we as Jesus' disciples be "sleeping" why he is praying passionately?
5. May Magdalene said to Tamar: *"... I'm doing everything day after day and I'm afraid I'm still broken. I worry I will never be enough."* How would you respond to a friend if they said this to you? (Tip: This [blessing](#) from Rabbi Jason Sobel⁴ may help you formulate an answer).
6. In the scene starting at 16:09 Mary and Tamar resolve their differences. What lesson(s) can we learn from their conversation?

7. At 31:23 Mary Magdalene finds (what we think at this point in the series is) Matthew's [tzitzit](#).



The Chosen commentator Brandon Snipe [notes](#) Matthew seems to be the only disciple not wearing the tzitzit, perhaps because he feels unworthy to do so because of his past as a tax collector for the Romans.

If a friend told you they felt unworthy to be a disciple of Jesus because of their past, what would you say in response?

8. **Preamble:** Pastor Andy Elmes writes:

Too often in the headlines we experience the reality of people, who are highly gifted or talented, one day finding themselves in a place where they can no longer exist or remain because the character part of their life was not strong enough or developed enough to keep them safe in their success.

From Pastor Elmes' [blog post](#): *Don't let your gift take you where your character can't keep you.*

As Mary Magdalene is looking through the safe for money to fund the Olive Orchard improvement she looks puzzled that one bag of coins feels lighter than expected. Perhaps The Chosen writers were alluding here to Judas' [weakness of character](#) that ultimately destroyed him

Question: How can we guard against our character destroying what we can achieve with our gifts?⁵

9. In [John 1:29](#) John the Baptizer speaks these words the moment he sees Jesus coming to him in the distance: *“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”* But now John is sending disciples to ask if Jesus is actually the Messiah *“Are you the one who is to come?”*

What caused doubt to creep into John’s heart? How does the enemy sow doubt in people’s hearts today? How can we guard against this weapon of the enemy?

10. In response to John the Baptizer’s disciples asking him why John is still being held in prison Jesus says: *“Proclaiming liberty to the captives can mean more than just freeing inmates. There are many kinds of captivity that keep people.”* What kinds of captivity do people struggle with today?
11. Again in this episode we see Jesus dramatically healing people. How would you respond to those who say *“That miraculous healing stuff all happened way back in the past. Miracles don’t happen in this day and age.”*
12. If you have had the opportunity to look at some of the Going Deeper resources (below), was there anything that stood out for you?

Going Deeper:

- From his *The Chosen Explained* series: Brandon Robbins’ deep dive on this episode is available on YouTube [here](#).
- From his *Is The Chosen Biblical?* series, David Pate walks us through this episode discussing what is biblical, what is artistic license and what, in his opinion, they got wrong. You can watch the video on YouTube [here](#).
- You can read more about Pontius Pilate [here](#), and about the Decapolis [here](#).
- Big James was concerned that the men claiming to be sent by John the Baptizer could be *“spies from any of the four philosophies.”* You can read more about the four philosophies Big James was referring to [here](#).
- Review Mary Magdalene’s statement to Tamara (see discussion question 5 above) and then reflect on and enjoy this [blessing](#) from Rabbi Jason Sobel⁴.

About This Companion:

This Episode Companion is offered as bread and fish for our Lord's use in spreading the good news of the Gospels. Its author, Peter McCaskell, lives in Guelph, Ontario, Canada and attends [Lakeside Church](#). You are welcome to contact Peter via email to peter.mccaskell@rogers.com

End Notes:

1. While not named in scripture, *Claudia* is the name traditionally given Pontius Pilate's wife.
2. Although not named, we may have seen Leander in Episode 3; he might be part of the crowd chasing Andrew and Phillip out of Naveh.
3. A map of Israel in Biblical times is [here](#). Naveh is thought to have been just north-west of the Decapolis, near the southern shore of the Sea of Galilee.
4. Rabbi Sobel is one of the commentators on the Biblical Roundtables for this series.
5. This question was inspired by the phrase Pastor Robyn Elliot (Lakeside Church, Guelph Ontario) includes with her email e-signature - *"We can easily destroy with our character what we build with our gift."*