

The Chosen – Season 3 - Episode 7

Ears to Hear



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 parable of the Great Banquet
– [Luke 12:12-24](#)
- > Purim - God saves the Jews from the genocidal schemes of Haman – [Esther 9](#)
- > The genealogy of Jesus – [Matthew 1:1-17](#)
- > The parable of the wheat and the tares
– [Matthew 13:24-30](#)
- > Jesus heals a man deaf and mute from birth
– [Mark 7:31-37](#)
- > “Behold my servant in whom I am well pleased.” – [Isaiah 42:1](#)
- > “Behold, I am doing a new thing”
– [Isaiah 43:19](#)
- > “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”
– [Matthew 11:15](#)

Synopsis:

The episode begins with families joyfully celebrating Purim¹, except for Simon Peter who we see on a rooftop venting his anger about Eden’s miscarriage. A little girl is mimicking his actions. After the opening credits we learn more about how Andrew and Phillip’s *two-by-two* ministry (see Season 3 Episode 4) caused turmoil in the Decapolis; particularly their choice of teaching the parable of the Great

Banquet which alienated both the Jews and the Gentiles. As they express their anguish Judas suggests they ask Jesus for help but Big James doesn't think it's wise to send Jesus into such a situation so fraught with danger; but Jesus insists on going. Simon wonders into the Roman quarter where he learns Gaius' ailing servant boy is actually Gaius' son by an extra-marital affair. Gaius and his wife (Lydia) are growing increasingly desperate as doctors will not treat the boy because he is a slave. Lydia hopes Simon may be the "Jewish doctor" she's heard Gaius talk about. Matthew is working on the genealogy of Jesus and notes both Gentiles and prostitutes are in Jesus' ancestry. In a flashback we learn the origin of the prayer tassels Mary found in Matthew's house in episode 6 and we see again, some 30 years later, a shepherd from the original Christmas [pilot](#) that led to The Chosen tv series. Mary Magdalene helps Matthew address an issue from his past and encourages him to wear the symbol of his "priceless inheritance of faith". Shmuel continues his attempts to gather evidence against Jesus but is disappointed the man he is currently investigating is "*not the swindler I am looking for.*" Simon misses an important meeting with Jesus and the disciples as they prepare to travel to the Decapolis so that Jesus can address the turmoil caused by Andrew and Phillip. Against his wishes John is left behind to wait for Simon who Jesus says is "essential to this trip". As they enter the Decapolis region, at the request of the man's son Jesus heals a man who has been deaf and mute from birth. The miracle infuriates a local Jewish healer (Nashan) who regards the man's infirmities as being a punishment for his or his parents' sins. The episode draws to its end with a glimpse into the turmoil awaiting Jesus and the disciples: one group is demanding to see the miraculous signs they've heard rumors of. The Nabataeans join in, ridiculing the idea of the Messiah, and some local Jews arrive, taking issue with Jesus consorting with Gentiles. As the episode concludes a large crowd starts to gather as word spreads of Jesus' arrival.

Memorable Lines of Dialogue:

Phillip: *The whole place [the Decapolis] was torn apart ... all because of our teaching.*

Andrew: *John (the Baptist) caused controversy all the time.*

Phillip: *Yes, but among the Jews, Andrew. We caused a multinational crisis on the verge of erupting into violence, maybe even war. We might have blood on our hands.*

Phillip: *We have a big problem in the Decapolis ... we need Jesus to intervene.*

Big James: [with disgust] *On behalf of Gentiles?*

Tamar: *I'm sitting right here!*

Rabbi Shmuel to the man
reporting he had given money to
“the messiah” to help raise an
army to fight the Romans: *This is not the swindler I am looking for.*

Mary Magdalene to Matthew: *It wasn't about the tassels, they're just a symbol. That man wanted you to have his faith. That was the last thing he had; his most valuable thing in the world. ... That man wanted you to be Jewish again, and you are! That was his dying wish.*

Matthew: *Why would he want that for someone like me?*

Mary Magdalene: *Because sometimes God sends a dove ... that old man was your dove.*

Simon to Gaius: *Shalom Shalom Gaius*

Gaius: *Why do you say it twice?*

Simon: *Well once means peace. Twice means perfect peace ... complete wholeness.*

Gaius: *Well, that'll be the day.*

Thaddeus to Matthew: *When we wear them [the prayer tassels] on our garments ...*

Matthew: *[interjecting] It's like being surrounded by God's word all day!*

Thaddeus: *[claps] You're practically a Rabbi already!*

Jesus to a discouraged
Andrew and Phillip: *Boys, this is part of it. Sometimes when you try and carry heavy things one gets dropped. But you pick it up and keep going forward.*

Jesus to John: *This isn't going to be easy. The Decapolis will be perilous. The hearts I must reach there are hard, Jew and Gentile alike. Our time will be fraught.*

Jesus to John: *You will stay and wait for him. The success of this trip depends on Simon.*

Nashan to the deaf and mute man who Jesus has just healed: [in a demanding manor] *Who healed you! I want to know who did it! Your deafness was no doubt punishment for some ghastly sin committed by you or your parents!*

Jesus: *It doesn't work that way.*

Simon to John: *I trusted Jesus. Trusted that Eden would be okay, safe while we were gone.*

Memorable Scenes:



[Starting at 2:05] During the celebration of Purim a little girl imitates Simon's destructive behavior.



[Starting at 16:40] Rabbi Shmuel continues gathering evidence against Jesus but is disappointed his witness had encountered "*not the swindler I'm looking for*".



[Starting at 32:35] "Because sometimes God sends a dove."



[Starting at 40:05] Matthew ties the prayer tassels to his clothing.



[Starting at 42:09] Andrew and Phillip ask Jesus' help to address the chaos they caused in the Decapolis. John is left behind to wait for Simon. "*John, it has to be this way ... no more questions.*"



[Starting at 51:20] Jesus heals a man deaf and mute from birth.



[Starting at 59:20] "*I trusted Jesus. I trusted that Eden would be okay, safe while we were gone.*"

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. At 2:05 we see a little girl imitating Simon Peter's behaviour during the Purim celebrations. What lesson is there for us in this scene, when it comes to our interactions with children? [the poem below may help in your reflection]

CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

--Dorothy Law Nolte--

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.
If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.
If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.
If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.
If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.
If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.
If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.
If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.
If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.
If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.

3. Reflecting on the poem in question 2, who contributed to your faith development when you were a child? How did they do it?
4. Preamble: At 33:28 Mary Magdalene says to Matthew *"Because sometimes God sends a dove. ... I never told anyone this before but I was going to end my life the day I met Jesus. I was going to leap from a great height when a dove caught my eye." That old man was your dove."*

Reflecting back on your faith journey, where has God sent a "dove" into your life? Share your story if comfortable doing so.

5. Preamble: As he is tying on the prayer tassels, Matthew asks: *"Why do we wear these anyway?"* In response Thaddeus tells Matthew the 600 threads and 13 knots of the prayer tassels they wear on the tallit katan (undergarment) are to remind them that God's word should surround them all day long.

What practices are helpful to you in keeping God's word near to your heart?

6. Jesus told John “*The success of this trip [to the Decapolis] depends on Simon.*” As with Simon’s role amongst the disciples, Pastors, Elders and lay leaders all play an important role in today’s church. What practical things can we do to support and encourage them?
7. Preamble: the events celebrated in Purim are recorded in the Old Testament book of Esther. A central theme in Esther is that *events that appear to be a coincidence are in fact part of God’s plan* – we sometimes refer to these as God incidences.

Reflecting back over your faith journey, where have you experienced a *God-incidence*?

8. Preamble: Some people commenting on this episode in discussion forums say the poem [FootPrints In The Sand](#) comes to mind during the scene where Simon Peter feels betrayed that Jesus did not protect Eden while he was away on his *two-by-two* ministry.

Reflecting on the poem, what thoughts come to mind?

9. 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](#).
- [Why Christians Should Celebrate Purim](#).

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

Episode Companions for previous seasons and episodes of The Chosen are available for free download on the Navigators Canada website [here](#).

End Notes:

1. The basic Purim story can be found [here](#).