

The Chosen – Season 2 - Episode 4

The Perfect Opportunity



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

Scripture references:

- >The Healing at the Pool – [John 5:1-30](#)
- >Keep the Sabbath Holy – [Exodus 20:8-11](#)
- >The Festival of the Tabernacle – [Zechariah 14:16-22](#)
- >Zechariah 's prophecy – [Zechariah 8:20-33](#)

Synopsis:

In a sentence: Jesus heals a crippled man during the Feast of the Tabernacle in Jerusalem. The miracle causes a last minute change of plan for an assassin and upsets the Pharisees because it was done on the Sabbath.

As the episode begins a young boy (Jesse) is crippled after falling from a tree. His younger brother (Simon) looks after him for several years but eventually leaves to join the Zealots fighting against the Romans. As he departs, Simon leaves behind a letter for Jesse.

The episode resumes after the opening credits with Jesse, now a man who has been disabled for 38 years, helplessly seeking healing in the Pool of Bethesda¹. Jesus, Simon Peter and Matthew travel to Jerusalem to take part in the Feast of the Tabernacle. Shmuel and his fellow Pharisees preach in the streets, warning the Jews about false prophets. Jesse's brother Simon takes part in a plot with his fellow

Zealots to assassinate a prominent Roman magistrate. Jesus heals the crippled man, drawing the ire of the Pharisees because he did it on the Sabbath. Simon sees that his brother has been healed and abandons, at the last minute, the assassination attempt. Commenting on how upset the Pharisees were with Jesus healing Jesse on the Sabbath, Matthew asks Jesus why he didn't just wait half an hour until Sabbath had ended. Jesus replies "*Sometimes you need to stir up the waters.*" We see part of the letter Simon left for Jesse as a child. The letter reads in part *When you stand on two feet I will know the Messiah has come.*

Memorable lines of dialogue:

Jesus' mother, Mary, to the disciples: "I know a thing or two about prophecies that sound impossible."

Mary to the disciples: "When a few raindrops get through, it is a reminder of our dependence on God."

Jesus to Big James: "Everyone has wandered through the wilderness at some point."

Simon in his letter to Jesse: "When you stand on two feet I'll know the Messiah has come."

Jesus to Jesse: "Do you want to be healed?"

Jesus to Jesse: "You don't need this pool; you only need me."

Simon Peter to Jesse:

“Don’t forget your bed. You’re not coming back here.
That life is over. Everything changes now.”

Jesus to Matthew:

“Sometimes you’ve got to stir up the water.”

Watch for this:



[Starting at 3:02]

What this touching scene where the children include Jesse in their game.



[Starting at 28:50]

In this scene we see Big James asking Jesus how Zechariah’s prophesy that Israel and its enemies will one day eat together can possibly come true.



[Starting at 33:00]

In this scene we learn some things about the Pool of Bethesda, and Jesus looks with deep sadness at the crosses as he enters Jerusalem.



[Starting at 44:37]

In this scene we see Jesus healing the leper, and the Pharisees’ reaction to the miracle.



[Starting at 55:00]

Watch Jesus’ answer to Matthew about why he didn’t delay doing the miracle for half an hour so Shabbat would be over.

Questions for discussion:

1. What stood out for you in this episode? Were there any scenes or dialog that particularly spoke to you? Why?
2. Jesus told Jesse the pool had nothing to offer him. Why do you think we sometimes turn/cling to that which cannot truly satisfy/heal us?

3. “*When you stand on two feet I will know the Messiah has come.*” As happened to Jesse’s brother Simon the Zealot, have you witnessed what you would describe as a miracle or a prophesy fulfilled? Did it change your life in some way?
4. Why do you think Jesus asked Jesse *Do you want to be healed?*
5. Thinking back over your life, where might Jesus have “stirred up the waters”. Why do you think he did that? What good things came from him doing so?
6. Jesus tells Big James “*Everyone has wandered through the wilderness at some point.*” Do you have a wilderness story you would be comfortable sharing?
7. Watch Brandon Robbin’s [third section of commentary](#) on this episode, in his *The Chosen Explained* series. Does this knowledge change your opinion of the Pharisees?
8. If you have had the opportunity to look at some of the [Going Deeper resources \(below\)](#), was there anything that stood out for you?

For personal reflection:

9. **Over the course of the coming week:** reflect on what, like Jesse, you might be clinging to that cannot truly satisfy/heal you.
10. **Over the course of the coming week:** ask Jesus what he wanted to show you or teach you in this episode. If you are comfortable doing so, please consider sharing what comes to mind with the group next week.

Going deeper:

- From his *The Chosen Explained* series: Brandon Robbins’ deep dive on this episode is available on YouTube [here](#).
- This episode’s Round Table discussion by a group of Biblical Experts can be seen [here](#).

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. You can learn more about the Pool of Bethesda [here](#).