

Bible Study on “The Chosen” (S1:E7) “Invitations”

- Watch “The Chosen” episode 7 of Season 1 (35 minutes)

Story Progression:

- Flashback: Moses is crafting a bronze snake to heal the people afflicted by serpents (Numbers 21:4-9).
- Matthew prepares himself to go to work as a tax collector.
- Nicodemus confers with the Roman Praetor (Quintus) about Jesus.
- Matthew visits his mother to ask for her advice about miracles; a very awkward visit.
- Nicodemus meets secretly with Jesus; Jesus explains how one must be born again (John 3:1-21).
- Jesus calls to Matthew to follow; and Matthew drops everything and follows (Matthew 9:9-13).

Matthew was not chosen based on what he could do. He was called because of what he was willing to give up, which was everything. He chose to take Jesus at His word: “Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it” (Matthew 10:39).

Discussion Questions:

1. It can be shocking to read stories like the bronze snake. God demands obedience and faith, and our reliance on self often gets in the way. Have you ever been bitten by life when you ignored God’s Word?
2. What have been some of the dramatic plot twists the Lord has orchestrated in your life?
3. There was so much for Nicodemus to leave behind. We rarely have to risk a lot to follow Jesus. But what are some things you'd have a hard time risking in order to follow Jesus?
4. Did it surprise you how quickly Matthew agreed to follow Jesus, especially in comparison to how reticent Nicodemus was? Both had a lot to lose. What were the main differences between them?
5. What daily habits can we develop and strengthen to become as quick to obedience as Matthew was?
6. Nicodemus kneels and kisses Jesus’ hand, quoting Psalm 2:12, “Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you perish in the way.” Jesus then quotes the next line, “Blessed are all who take refuge in him.” What do you think it means to “take refuge” in Jesus?
7. Simon was shocked at Jesus’ inviting Matthew to become a disciple. Simon felt Matthew’s past had made him ineligible for discipleship. How do you think one qualifies for discipleship?
8. What does Col 2:6-7 teach us about the difference between knowing about Jesus and believing in Jesus?
9. Placing our faith in God requires us to move beyond our finite levels of human comprehension and control. Has your own faith caused you to draw from spiritual wells of support that are beyond your own capacity?