



The Chosen

Season 2, Episode 4

The Perfect Opportunity

This episode flashes back to the birth of Simon the Zealot and his early years with his older brother, Jesse, who was crippled. Simon leaves home, joins a Zealot sect, and prepares to become a fighter. The episode returns to the time of Jesus's ministry finding Jesse languishing by the Pool of Bethesda hoping to be healed by the water while Simon plots with the Zealots against the Roman occupiers. Jesus and the disciples arrive at the Feast of the Tabernacles. Jesus finds Jesse beside the Pool of Bethesda and heals him. The episode ends after Simon Z, in the midst of a Zealot assassination plot, spots Jesse walking in the vicinity and aborts the plot so as to keep Jesse safe.

Characters – Season 2, Episode 4

Jesus, the Disciples, Simon the Zealot (Simon Z), Jesse (Simon Z's brother), Schmuel (Pharisee cleric), Atticus (Roman inspector), Rufus (Roman procurator), Zealots from Simon Z's sect

Discussion Questions

1. Simon and Jesse were very close as children. How do you suppose Jesse felt when Simon left home? Have you ever had to recover from losing someone in that way? How did you cope with that?
2. We see Simon the Zealot seeking to obstruct the Roman occupation of his homeland and later hinder the Zealots' attempt to assassinate the governor when he sees his brother, Jesse, in the area. While he seeks to help his people, he chooses to do so by causing difficulty through obstruction. Do you ever make it difficult for God's grace to reach you because your passion becomes obstructive?
3. Jesus repeatedly asks Jesse, "Do you want to be healed?" Jesse avoids the question, preferring instead to make excuses. Have there been times in your life when you have not owned your problems and placed the blame on someone or something else? How did that work out?
4. Was there a quote from this episode that was particularly meaningful to you? What made it so?
5. This episode offers a lot of insight into the religious culture and history of the first century Jews and how they impacted Jesus' ministry. What thoughts do you have about the Sabbath, the Zealots and their goals, the concerns of the Pharisees based on this episode?

Scriptures and Texts

- Psalm 88:13-18 – But I cry to you for help, Lord
- Psalm 89:1-5 – I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "the Cost of Discipleship"
"When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die".

What Comes Next

Season 2, Episode 5

"Spirit"

The Pharisees interrogate Jesse about his healing at the Pool of Bethesda. The disciples witness demon possession up close. Simon the Zealot joins the disciples to follow Jesus and some tension ensues.