



The Chosen

Season 2, Episode 8

Beyond Mountains

The episode opens as a portion of the Promised Land given first to Abraham and then to his descendants, the tribe of Reuben, is being sold to two unscrupulous businessmen who claim to be from the tribe of Simeon. They take advantage of the landowner, leader of the tribe of Reuben, as they negotiate with him. Jesus and Matthew finalize the content of the big sermon. The disciples promote the upcoming sermon and make final preparations. Shammai, a high-ranking Sanhedrin member and rival of Shimon, is shocked by Shmuel's and Yanni's reports on Jesus. Thousands arrive for the sermon, including Eden, Zebedee and Salome. One of the two businessmen meets the disciples once more and introduces himself as Judas Iscariot. Jesus walks to the stage as he begins his Sermon on the Mount.

Characters – Season 2, Episode 8

Jesus, (Mother) Mary, the Disciples, Businessman, Judas, Reuben Tribe Leader, Romans (Atticus, Quintus, Gaius), Pharisees (Schmuel, Schammai, Shimon, Yanni), Tamar (Ethiopian woman), Zebedee & Salome, Barnaby & Wife

Discussion Questions

1. The land sought by the two businessmen was part of the Promised Land and was held by the tribe of Reuben which had fallen on hard times. The men knew the land would yield salt and make them rich. What did you feel as you watched the men con the tribe leader to sell at a very low price?
2. Were you surprised to learn that one of the two unscrupulous businessmen was actually Judas Iscariot or did you see that coming?
3. All of the disciples took part in the preparation for the Sermon on the Mount. They all went out to spread the word and tell the people to 'Come and See'. When you saw the results of their efforts – the actual volume of people that came to hear the sermon – what did you think?
4. As you watch the dynamics between the Pharisees and the Sanhedrin, between the religious and the political, throughout the last few episodes, did you find it enlightening? How would you compare it with what goes on in our world today?
5. On the last day before the sermon, Jesus and Matthew work together to complete it. Jesus dictates the final parts of it, including the Beatitudes. As he does so, the video shows the various disciples who are most fitting for the roles he mentions. Did you agree with the choices? When you read the Beatitudes, can you assign each of them to someone you know that seems fitting? Which do you feel fits you?

Scriptures and Texts

- Isaiah 40: 1-5 "Comfort Ye My People" is how this is used in The Messiah by Handel.
- The Beatitudes from:
 - Matthew 5:3-12
 - Luke 6:17-26

What Comes Next

Season 3

Season 3 begins exactly where Season 2 ends – with Jesus delivering the Sermon on the Mount. During Season 3, Jesus and the apostles feel the stress of their growing ministry. They endure personal tragedies and challenges. They face greater resistance from Jewish and Roman authorities and deal with greater conflict between themselves, all threatening to undermine Jesus' ministry.