



The Chosen

Season 5, Episode 5

Because of Me

Pre-Intro Flash Forward: The disciples argue among themselves over who is the greatest, prompting Jesus to rebuke their worldliness and command them to serve one another. A tense moment unfolds as a defensive Judas tries to deflect suspicion by suggesting Thomas is the true threat. The episode shows Jesus' warning to tear down anything in the Temple that does not bear spiritual fruit and declares the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified. The Sanhedrin debates the legality and strategy of arresting Jesus. Schmuel tells Caiaphas about Judas's whereabouts. Atticus tells Pilate of the plot to seize Jesus. Claudia is deeply troubled by her nightmare visions of the crucifixion.

Key Themes

Shattered Expectations and Shared Grief, Trust in the Face of Confusion

Discussion Questions

1. Thomas asks, *"Is my anger the betrayal?"* Jesus reassures him: *"You have been faithful in spite of your anger."* *When you experience anger, doubt, or deep grief over a situation God allowed, how does Jesus's grace toward Thomas change how you approach God?*
2. The disciples panic as Jesus tells of his coming crucifixion, and they are consumed with trying to control the outcome. *When you feel a crisis brewing in your life, your family, or the world, do you immediately switch into "fix-it" mode to regain control, or do you pause to listen to God? How can you practice surrendering outcomes to Him when you cannot see the path forward?*
3. Judas is increasingly disillusioned because Jesus refuses to fit mold of a conqueror, and reasons that a crucified leader cannot be a true savior. *Do you subconsciously expect God to fit your mold for success, comfort, or justice, or can you follow a God whose ultimate power stems from serving others with humility and sacrifice?*

Scriptures and Texts

- **Matthew 23:1-39:** Jesus' harsh public condemnation and "Woes" against the scribes and Pharisees in the Temple courts.
- **Mark 12:41-44 / Luke 21:1-4:** Contrasting true humility and sacrifice against the pride of the religious elite.
- **John 12:44-50:** Jesus' final public cry to the crowds in Jerusalem concerning belief in the One who sent Him.

What Comes Next

Reunions

Judas' Deal, Nicodemus's Secret Investigation, The Escalating Outside Rebellion

