

***The Chosen* S5, E5: “Because of Me”**

Biblical Highlights

- *Last Supper (opening): The disciples wrestle with the news that one of them will betray Jesus.*¹ *When they squabble over position, Jesus explains servant leadership.*²
- As the disciples and Jesus return from Bethany, Peter notes that the cursed fig tree has withered. Jesus explains, discusses tribulation,³ and again mentions his coming crucifixion.

Other Highlights

- Jewish leaders: As the Sanhedrin debate what to do, Caiaphas declares that they must arrest Jesus quietly. Later, Shmuel tells Caiaphas he will bring in an “asset” who can help.
- Romans: Claudia tells Pilate she wants them out of Jerusalem because something bad will happen. Atticus warns Pilate to be ready when the Pharisees arrest Jesus.
- Disciples: They heatedly debate what Jesus means. Judas presents a stark choice: if Jesus is crucified, he’s not the Messiah; if he uses his power to evade death, he is. Some agree.

Big Finish: As the “Watcher” transports Mary Magdalene to a secret location, Shmuel presents the “asset” – Judas – to Caiaphas. At the secret location, Nicodemus approaches Mary.



Questions

- Describe your reaction to the debate among the disciples.
- Why did some agree with Judas’s conclusion that, if Jesus is crucified, then he is not the Messiah and they have “wasted” three years following him?
- Why didn’t the disciples take comfort from the fact that Jesus would rise from the dead?

Jesus’s Power at His Arrest (John 18:3-6)

Judas, having procured **a band of soldiers** and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “**I am** he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, “**I am** he,” **they drew back and fell to the ground.**

Q: What happened next?

Q: How did the disciples respond?

¹ Matthew 26:21-22, Mark 14:18-19, Luke 22:21-23, John 13:21-22

² Luke 22:24-30

³ Mark 11:20-25, Matthew 24:32-34, Matthew 24:9-14

Easter Morning: Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John (John 20:1-2, 8-16)

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “**They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.**” . . .

Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; **for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.** Then the disciples went back to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.”

Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but **she did not know that it was Jesus.** Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” **Supposing him to be the gardener,** she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher).

Q: Why didn’t they understand, even when witnessing the empty tomb?

Q: When did Mary realize that Jesus had risen?

Easter Afternoon: The Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:15-24)

While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. **But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.** And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. **But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.** Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.”

Q: How did they describe Jesus (to Jesus)?

Q: Were they close followers? How do you know?

Q: When did they realize that their fellow traveler was Jesus? How did they respond?

Thomas (John 20:24-25)

Now Thomas . . . was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “**Unless I see** in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, **I will never believe.**”

Q: Why didn’t Thomas believe/trust the other disciples?