

The Chosen, Season Two

Wednesdays at 6:30

Episode 4: The Perfect Opportunity

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road, Parma, OH 44134, 440-845-2230

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Note: Some parts of The Chosen are in the Bible, but other parts are not. This sheet contains a **summary of each part of episode 4 from wikipedia** as well as my own comments. *Blessings on reading, watching, and understanding!*

1. Jesse (Dennis Apergis), a paralytic, spends 38 years searching for a cure and stays at the [Pool of Bethesda](#) while his brother, [Simon](#) (Alaa Safi), joins the [Zealots](#).
 - a. The Bible doesn't tell us how the man became paralyzed; this episode tries to give us an idea of what may have happened. The episode shows Simon the Zealot, one of the twelve, being the brother of the paralyzed man, but that is unknown from the Bible.
 - b. What were Zealots? "The Zealots were a political movement in 1st-century Second Temple Judaism which sought to incite the people of Judea Province to rebel against the Roman Empire and expel it from the Holy Land by force of arms, most notably during the First Jewish–Roman War (66–70)" (Wikipedia).
2. The Zealots plot to assassinate a Roman magistrate in Jerusalem with Simon Z. leading the plan, but Atticus Aemilius (Elijah Alexander), a Roman [cohorte urbanae](#), discovers their plan. // Not in the Bible.
3. Jesus and the disciples head to Jerusalem to prepare for the [Feast of Tabernacles](#). // See below.
4. Assisted in Jerusalem by fellow Pharisee Yanni (Wasim No'mani), Shmuel preaches against false prophecy. // Not in the Bible.
5. The disciples discuss the scriptures as they celebrate the feast. // These are the instructions for the festival: ^{NAS} **Leviticus 23:34-43** "On the fifteenth of this seventh month is the Feast of Booths for seven days to the LORD. ³⁵ On the first day is a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work of any kind. ³⁶ For seven days you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation and present an offering by fire to the LORD; it is an assembly. You shall do no laborious work. ³⁷ These are the appointed times of the LORD which you shall proclaim as holy convocations, to present offerings by fire to the LORD-- burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and libations, *each day's matter on its own day--* ³⁸ besides *those of* the sabbaths of the LORD, and besides your gifts, and besides all your votive and freewill offerings, which you give to the LORD.

³⁹ On exactly the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the crops of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of the LORD for seven days, with a rest on the first day and a rest on the eighth day. ⁴⁰ Now on the first day you shall take for yourselves the foliage of beautiful trees, palm branches and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. ⁴¹ You shall thus celebrate it *as* a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. *It shall be* a perpetual statute throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month. ⁴² You shall live in booths for seven days; all the native-born in Israel shall live in booths, ⁴³ so that your generations may know that I had the sons of Israel live in booths when I brought them out from the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God."

6. After being informed about Shmuel, Jesus goes to the Bethesda Pool to meet someone, bringing Simon, John, and Matthew. At Bethesda, Jesus approaches Jesse, asking him if he wants to be healed. Jesus [heals Jesse](#) and John writes down the miracle. Witnessing the healing, Yanni and other Pharisees admonish Jesse for carrying a mat on Shabbat.

- a. The Bible account: ^{NAS} **John 5:2-13** Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep *gate* a pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porticoes. ³ In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, *waiting for the moving of the waters*; ⁴ for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted. ⁵ And **a certain man was there, who had been thirty-eight years in his sickness.** ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time *in that condition*, He said to him, "Do you wish to get well?" ⁷ The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me." ⁸ Jesus said to him, "Arise, take up your pallet, and walk." ⁹ And immediately the man became well, and took up his pallet and *began* to walk.

Now it was the Sabbath on that day. ¹⁰ Therefore the Jews were saying to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to carry your pallet." ¹¹ But he answered them, "He who made me well was the one who said to me, 'Take up your pallet and walk.'" ¹² They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up *your pallet*, and walk'?" ¹³ But he who was healed did not know who it was; for Jesus had slipped away while there was a crowd in *that place*.

7. When the assassination plan is being executed, Simon Z. is distracted as he sees Jesse walking. The two brothers reconcile, and Atticus Aemilius is bewildered. // Not in the Bible.
8. Jesus withdraws himself and Simon Z. searches for him.

Remaining Classes on The Chosen, Season Two:

- Wednesday, May 10 – Episode 5
- **NO CLASS on Wednesday, May 17**
Join us for the Ascension of Our Lord on Thursday, May 18: food at 6:00, service at 7:00
- Wednesday, May 24 – Episode 6
- Wednesday, May 31 – Episode 7
- **Thursday, June 1** (back-to-back) – Episode 8

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