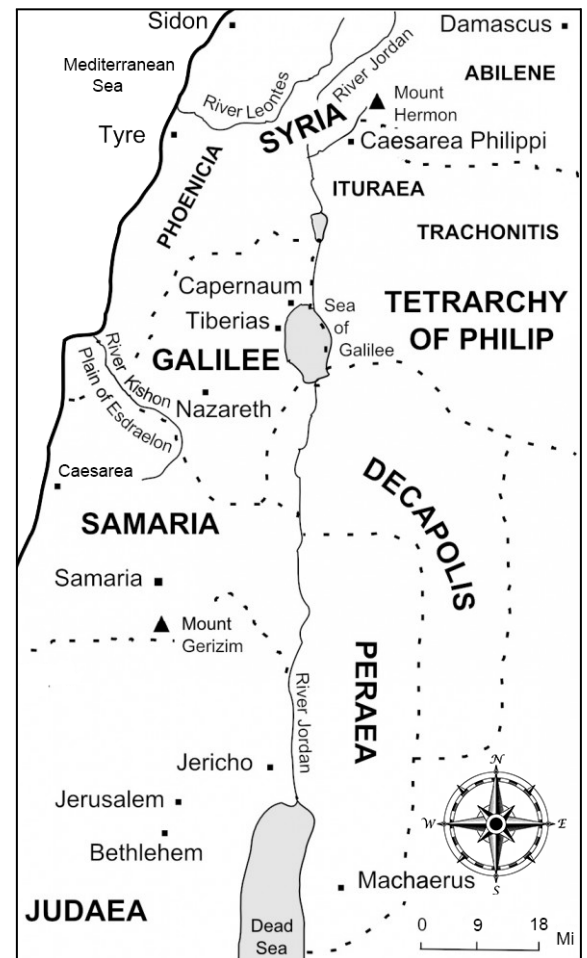


The Chosen, Season 1: Episode 7

Context

- Sinai Peninsula, 13th Century B.C.
 - Between modern day Egypt and Israel, about the time God lead the Israelites out of Egypt
- “...the [Israelites] grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!’ Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, ‘We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. The Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.’ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.” (Numbers 21:4-9)
- “...Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.” (see Luke 5:16, and lots of other examples throughout the Gospels)
- “Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.’ Jesus replied, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.’ ‘How can someone be born when they are old?’ Nicodemus asked. ‘Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, “You must be born again.” The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.’ ‘How can this be?’ Nicodemus asked. ‘You are Israel’s teacher,’ said Jesus, ‘and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall



not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son..." (see John 3:1-21)

- "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way... Blessed are all who take refuge in him." (see Psalm 2:12 ESV)
- "As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him." (see Matthew 9:9, Mark 2:14, Luke 5:27)

Discussion

- This episode started with a flashback to Moses and Joshua from the Old Testament, which tied into the dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus. Did you find this flashback helpful? What symbolism of the bronze serpent stood out to you?
- Did you connect with the discussion between Nicodemus and Jesus? Nicodemus, a religious leader of high standing, would have to give up a lot to follow Jesus. Do you think he will?
- John 3:16 has become quite famous, at the expense of us forgetting its context. Did anything in the context around John 3:16 stand out to you?
- This episode showed Matthew processing the miracles he observed and trying to figure out what to do about it. Was it surprising that he immediately followed Jesus? If you were in his situation, would you have left behind everything and followed Jesus?