

## Session 7- Episode Introduction: Invitations

By faith we are asked to trust God, even if at times things do not appear to make sense, as Jesus invites, assigns, and builds characters of the new disciples, they will each have to trust in Him. Matthew continues to reconcile with the miracles he has witnessed and visits his past in search of finding truth and meaning going forward. Nicodemus earnestly waits for the opportunity to secretly meet with Jesus and answer many of the questions he has regarding the ministry and miracles.

### Applicable Scripture

- Numbers 21:4-9
- Psalm 2:12
- John 3:1-21
- Matthew 9:9-13
- Luke 18:18-23/ 19:1-10

### Episode Themes

- God Makes a Way
- Jesus our Foundation
- Holy Spirit Lives in Us
- Obedience to Him

### Episode Review

- 1) We see the apostles Andrew, Simon, Mary, and John play specific roles in this episode and review each one. How does God use individual character to accomplish His goals in ministry?
- 2) In the episode, Nicodemus struggled with leaving a life of status to follow Jesus. have you felt this type of tug of war when you sense Christ's invitation to follow Him?
- 3) In their discussion, Jesus contrasts physical birth with spiritual birth. Understandably Nicodemus has difficulty comprehending Him. How are we "born of the Spirit"? What is your understanding of this concept?
- 4) Jesus says to Simon "Get used to different", and this message is repeatedly echoed in the show, how does Godly obedience differ from the values and function of today's society? Do any other concepts come to mind when thinking about how "different" the Christian faith is?

### Faith Reflection

- 5) When did you understand that you receive eternal life by believing that Jesus' death on the cross was full payment for all of your sin? Did you struggle with believing it was that simple?
- 6) Jesus taught Nicodemus that people who believe in His sacrifice receive eternal life. In the episode, Jesus kept inviting people to follow Him. While many Christians enjoy knowing they have eternal life, the question remains, are they following Jesus - here and now? How could you follow Jesus more closely?
- 7) When considering obedience and faith that God demands in the story of the bronze serpent, what daily habits can you develop and/or strengthen, to help you to become as quick to obedience as Matthew was?

### Ministry Application

Who do you know that needs to hear the incredible news about belief in Jesus, could they just require an invitation? Ask for God's wisdom and timing in having a conversation with them.

### Prayer

- Thanksgiving for the gift of eternal salvation
- Meditate and worship in the presence of the Holy Spirit
- Willingness and courage to take up invitations He lays out