

The Perfect Opportunity Season 2- Episode 4

Introduction

Jesus and his disciples travel to Jerusalem during the Feast of Tabernacles/Booths. Here they encounter old acquaintances from the Pharisees who continue to seek out if Jesus is a false prophet of God. However, Jesus has a mission at the Pool of Bethesda. The show will also explore the life of a Jewish Zealot, Simeon, and historically what that could have looked like in the 1st century.

Depicted Scripture

- John 5: 1-16 The Healing at The Pool

Referenced Scripture

- Zechariah 8:14-20 The Lord Promises to Bless Jerusalem
- Exodus 20:8-11 Keeping the Sabbath Holy
- Zephaniah 3:19 Restoration of Israel's Remnant
- Matthew 5:6 Blessed are Those Who Hunger

Intent

Some people seek to fill their emptiness with something worldly. Some people seek righteous intentions with something worldly. In these circumstances, we are looking for the solution in the wrong places. Contemporarily, often "The worldly" is mistakenly limited to consumerism or addiction, something that has obvious detriment; however, it be easily attributed to a vocation, relationship, technology, experience, or even an ideology, anything that redirects our attention from Jesus and a relationship with our Creator. And as our world is ultimately dissatisfying, this prompts us to acknowledge that nothing apart from God will satisfy us.

Break Breaker

As you witnessed the disciples' preparation for the Festival of Booths, what thoughts did you have about the significance of religious tradition/heritage? About the importance of experiencing God in the community? Any comments on the Feast of Tabernacles?

Episode Review

- Read John 5:1-16 How did the back story give you insight into the misery of Jesse whom John 5:5 tells us had been disabled for 38 years? How might his presence at the Pool of Bethesda indicate his desire to be healed?
- Read the prophecy of Zechariah 18 and Zephaniah 3, how does this relate to when Jesus says "I think it will be not the Jerusalem as we know it now"

Ministry Application

- The paralyzed man and his brother both responded to pain and suffering in different ways – yet ways that would not end their pain. What were those ways? Relate this to when Jesus says "Everyone has had wilderness experiences" What does this episode teach us about reaching people who are "in the wilderness" and do not know God?
- Simon, the Zealots and the Pharisees all wanted to please God. Who are you praying for to embrace grace and turn from legalism?

Self Reflection

- Jesus told Jesse the pool had nothing to offer him. What do we turn to that cannot satisfy/provide/help you? In what ways do you turn to a "pool" instead of Jesus?