

Spirit Season 2- Episode 5

Introduction

Jesus and his disciples are depicted to be somewhere near Jericho. The events in this episode are not directly in the Bible as shown, but thematically center around events that we can read about during Jesus' earthly ministry. In episode 5, we see a conversation Jesus has with John the Baptist, a man in distress being rescued by Jesus from an evil spirit, The pharisees continuing to build their case up against Jesus, and Simon (the Zealot) speaking with Jesus about his role as a follower.

Depicted Scripture

- Luke 3:1-20 "You Brood of Snakes" – John the Baptist Prepares the Way (John 3:22-36)
- Luke 4:31-37, Mark 1:21-28 – Casting out an Evil Spirit
- Luke 6: 7,11 – Healing on the Sabbath, Pharisees plan to accuse Jesus
- Matthew 13:34-35 – Jesus Speaking in Parables

Referenced Scripture

- Psalm 139:7-10 "I Can Never Escape Your Spirit"
- Matthew 5:7 "God Blesses those who are Merciful"

Intent

To continue on with this season's theme of the beatitudes, this episode narrows in on the theme "blessed are the merciful". In this episode, we see the contrast between how the pharisees practice religion, versus how Jesus approaches relationship. The pharisees set their attention and energy on punishing rule breakers, while Jesus teaches and shows mercy in repentance. In the hands of the religious leaders, God's laws are often used as wedges to elevate some and to shame others. Do we ever put on a black robe in our own lives and judge others or hold grievances? The irony is, it is our desperate need for Jesus' mercy that draws us to Him, wholly unearned (Matthew 9:13,). As a result of His favour, we become more like him as we follow Him. Therefore, by His mercy, we should be becoming more merciful. As the saying goes "The ground at the foot of the cross is level".

Break Breaker

Read: Hebrews 2:14-18 and let it shape the episode discussion questions.

Episode Review

- Jesus says he often speaks in parables. What can we learn from Matthew 18:35 "Parable of the Unforgiving Debtor", Luke 6:45 "A Tree and Its Fruit", and Galatians 6:7-8 about humility and mercy?
- Why is Schmuel so set on discrediting Jesus? Do you see a similar attitude in people today? Do we ever hold this spirit toward others? Where are we hypocrites and where can we learn to show more mercy? (Matthew 12:7, Hosea 6:6)
- Through Caleb, the enemy says that the followers of Christ smell vile. Read Colossians 3:12-17, how are holy people, chosen by God, meant to behave? What causes us to behave this way? (Psalm 139:7-10, James 2:12-13)

Ministry Application

- "No one buys their way into our group because of our special skills Simon." The theme of unearned mercy again is apparent (1 Peter 1:3-5). Does anyone in your life need to receive mercy from you? Do you have any excuse for failing to show mercy?
- Who do you have in your life that helps or mentors you in your faith walk? When was the last time you had a meaningful discussion with them?

Self Reflection

- Jesus tells Simon (The Zealot) "I have everything I need, but I wanted you" Reflect on the gift of this in your own life.
- John the Baptist admits that he is impatient with Jesus' timing. How relatable is this in your own life? Do our expectations of Jesus play a part in that?
- Ramah is learning to read scripture and Matthew is memorizing it, what role does scripture play in your life? Can you make any new commitments to improve your knowledge of it?