



### Episode 7: Invitations

This week's episode continues from the events of last week's well-known Gospel scene where Jesus heals the paralytic (Matthew 9:1-8). In this episode we start to hear and see the effects of Jesus building ministry, preaching and public signs. We also come to a focal point which has been building since the start of the series: the meeting between Nicodemus and Jesus. There is also another call to "follow me" for another one of the apostles.

At the start of the episode, as is routine, we take a look some 1300 years before Christ's first coming and into the day of Moses and Joshua.

## Questions for Prayer and Discussion

*Some of these questions are very personal. There's no need to say anything aloud unless you're comfortable sharing it. But it is worth sharing with God in prayer...*

Knowing the apostles and disciples a little better from the previous episodes, what do you think are their new worries now that the public ministry of Jesus is starting to gather more attention and momentum?

Although we know what happens to Jesus at the end of this story, why do you think the high-ranking Romans were so worried about a new preacher figure from Nazareth?

Imagine you were living in one of the surrounding areas where Jesus is ministering and have heard rumors about miracles and this amazing preacher. Would you flock to the scene? Or would you be hesitant?

### One for personal prayer at home

This week, using the images presented from the show and the passages from John 3:1-21, have some personal prayer

time with Jesus, the Word of God. Place yourself in that scene. Imagine yourself before our Lord. What does He look like? How do you feel in His presence? What does He want to say personally to you? Remember there are no correct answers but this form of meditation is supposed to encourage a personal encounter with the living Christ through the scriptures.

Again like before, what would you like to say? Or how do you wish to respond?

### Scripture Passages

#### Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and every one who is bitten,

when he sees it, shall live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent, and set it on a pole; and if a serpent bit any man, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

### Luke 5:27-28

After this he went out, and saw a tax collector, named Levi, sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he left everything, and rose and followed him.

### John 3:1-16

Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do, unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” . . .