

## *The Chosen*

### A Brief Introduction

*The Chosen* is a series of the life of Christ, and the journey His disciples take with Him. It is based firmly on the Gospels: as we go through the series you will recognise plenty of characters, situations, pieces of dialogue. But the Gospels are quite ‘bare bones’ in their presentation: they don’t tend to give us much of a character’s back story, personality, or else about the context and setting. It is perfectly legitimate for us to use our imagination to fill in these blanks: we’re not pretending that it definitely happened in such-and-such a way – we’re simply placing ourselves into the narrative and trying to understand it. This is recommended as a prayerful exercise by St Ignatius of Loyola.

*The Chosen* is essentially that. It is an imaginative telling of the Gospels. Not everything that it depicts happened exactly in this way. Everything we see should be faithful to the Gospels, but we have to use our imagination to ‘fill in the blanks’. Hopefully you’ll find everything in the show to be a useful and reasonable imagination. But if there’s anything you find unbelievable, that’s fine – and it’s worth bringing up in our discussions and in prayer.

The show is produced and financed independently, mainly by a group of American evangelical Christians. They have not worked with an existing film or television company so that they retain their independence to be faithful. They have theological advisers on set: a protestant minister, a Catholic priest, and a rabbi. Not everything in the show is depicted as I might have imagined it – but there has been nothing so far that made me think “that’s definitely wrong”.

I hope that as you watch the show you will be able to place yourselves in the position of the disciples: to see their strengths and their flaws, their vulnerability and their grace. Just as Jesus calls each of them by name, so He calls us – and we can see some reflection of our own stories and experiences in the great story, the Good News of His Life, Death, and Resurrection.

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