

The Chosen

Season 1: Episode 7, Part 2 (18 Minutes)

“Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.’” (John 3:5)

- 1) Read the following Scripture passage aloud: John 3:1-15
(Each student needs their own Bible to read and reflect on the Scripture passage.)
- 2) Allow the students to re-read the same passage again, this time silently.
Reading the passage two times allows us to be clear on all the details so that we become more familiar with what is happening.
- 3) What “stood out” for you in the passage? Allow the students a minute to think about this.
Ask 2 or 3 students to share their response aloud.
- 4) Watch Episode 7, Part 2
Brief Overview:
 - Nicodemus talks with Jesus about the healing of the paralytic. He asks Jesus what He came to show them. Jesus speaks of the Kingdom that He is starting, that people cannot see unless they are “born again” – baptized to new life as a child of God. We are born of “water and the Spirit” in this Sacrament.
 - The Holy Spirit is then at work in the baptized person, which cannot be seen, but the effects can be seen.
 - Jesus speaks about what took place when the people complained against God in the Old Testament. They were bitten by serpents, but Moses lifted up the bronze serpent and the people were healed. Jesus says that He – the Son of Man – will be lifted up (when He is crucified) to deliver believers from sin – spiritual death. Jesus speaks the words quoted in John 3:16: For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life.
 - Nicodemus responds that only God could have healed Mary Magdalene. Jesus says to Nicodemus to “Follow Me!” And you will see more miracles. It will be a lot to give up but his gain will be far better. Jesus said, “Blessed are all who take refuge in Me.”
 - Matthew is collecting taxes and Gaius is watching over the area. Jesus calls Matthew to follow Him and Matthew leaves everything.
 - Jesus tells Peter to get used to different. Jesus is calling every person, with all their sins and problems, to follow Him.

A 2 minutes- 40 seconds video clip is available on YouTube (link below) that shows Jesus calling Matthew the Tax Collector. This part is summarized in Bullets 5 and 6 above.

https://www.google.com/search?q=calling+of+Matthew+the+chosen+youtube&og=calling+of+Matthew+the+chosen+youtube&gs_lcrp=EgZiaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRigATIHCAIQIRigATIHCAHQIRigATIHCAQQIRigATIHCAUQIRigATIHCAQIRiPAjIHCACQIRiPATiBCDCyODVqMGo3qAIAAsAIA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:c93a13f7,vid:7IUL9yq0We8,st:0

- **This video clip is appropriate for all ages:** Note: Prior details of what led to this part will need to be provided.
- 5) What “stood out” for you in the Episode? If needed, some of the list from the brief overview above could be named for students to help think about what was most impactful for them.
 - 6) Go back and re-read the Scripture passage again.
After the process of reading the Scripture passage, writing down what “stood out” for you, and watching the Episode, what now stands out the most for you?
 - 7) Discussion questions:
 - By which Sacrament is a person born of water and the Spirit? Why do you think it is necessary to be born of the water and the Spirit to enter the Kingdom of God?
 - Jesus said, “the Son of man must be lifted up, so that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life” (John 3:15). Why does Jesus place so much importance in responding to Him through an act of faith, which means to believe in Him?
 - Jesus asked Nicodemus to follow Him. In Jesus’ response to what this would mean for Nicodemus, Jesus said, “You will give up a lot, namely giving up sin and attachment to the things of this world” (which means to have things but to be detached from them so they are not the most important thing in our life). Jesus continued, “But what you will gain is far greater and more lasting.” (Text from Episode 7) What does Jesus mean by this statement: “But what you will gain is far greater and more lasting.”
 - How would you describe Matthew’s reactions when Jesus asked him to “Follow Me.” (Matthew 9:9)
 - 8) Close the session in spontaneous prayer to Jesus, telling Him anything that you would like.