



RECOMMENDED WATCH: THE CHOSEN

A series about Jesus and the people He chooses to follow Him. The opening scene of most episodes sets the tone for the episode and often harkens back to the Old Testament to show how God has been preparing His People for the promised Messiah. Jesus is the fulfillment of that promise and reveals the fullness of that promise of salvation that was merely hinted at in many Old Testament prophecies and passages.

This month, we explore the fourth season of "The Chosen" and highlight some favorite episodes.

THE BFC THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT'S FAVORITE EPISODES FROM SEASON 4:

SEASON 4, EPISODE 4:

"This is one of the most episodes of the series so far, especially after the heart-wrenching ending to Episode 3. Without spoiling what happened in Episode 3 of Season 4, this episode starts off with Jesus and the disciples wrestling with the harsh reality of pain and suffering that is often made personal for all of us. At one point Jesus tells Peter "It is the way of all the earth... for now." This is to say that we are all subject to pain and suffering in this life while we HOPE for eternal happiness with God in Heaven. After the first part of the episode was focused on the grief that comes from our own suffering or the suffering of those around us, we are brought to the triumphant moment of faith in the character Gaius. Peter asks him, "Do you believe in him?" Gaius responds, "I have seen enough. I do believe." Gaius travels to where Jesus is and asks for Him to heal his son. And as Jesus prepares to depart with Gaius to his home, Gaius utters those words that we echo every time we are at Mass right before communion: "I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof but only say the word and he shall be healed." Jesus is taken aback and boldly proclaims to His followers, "Did you hear this man? No one in Israel has shown such faith!" Gaius leaves from his encounter with Jesus full of joy and the certainty that his son has been healed, so much so that he proceeds to buy presents and food to celebrate the joyous occasion. What a rollercoaster ride of emotions for Jesus and His followers in this episode — and it is not over.

James and John intrepidly ask Jesus for the privilege of sitting at His right and left hand in the Kingdom. After 3 years of service and ministry to the outcast and downtrodden, the apostles have still not learned that Jesus' ministry is all about service and not accolades. He is profoundly saddened by this request and goes off on His own to pray. In the final scene Jesus sees a family making olive oil. It requires them to crush the olives in order to extract the fragrant oil, a foreshadowing of His own Passion in which He will be crushed in order to extract the fragrant oil of salvation. In that moment of anticipated anguish Jesus turns to see Gaius there smiling. They embrace. Jesus is overjoyed.

GRIEF. JOY. SADNESS. DISAPPOINTMENT. ANGUISH. JUBILATION. What an amazing episode that will leave you exhausted and exhilarated by the end. It is no wonder that many fans of The Chosen have Episode 4 of Season 4 as their favorite episode of the series." — **Mr. Ken Pullis**

SEASON 4, EPISODE 1:

"Well, if you have been watching the show for the past three seasons you knew, at some point, that we would be getting to the death of John the Baptist. We figure out pretty quickly, as the young Salome is practicing her dance routine, that this might be the episode where John's ministry was going to come to an abrupt end. Yet, even with this sense of doom, there is beauty in this episode too! We see the episode bookmarked by flashbacks to John's past, first when he was in the womb of Elizabeth who is being visited by Mary and secondly to his naming ceremony. Once again, The Chosen does a brilliant job in tying all of these scenes together and bringing out the greater mission of John and why he was so important. Perhaps at the end of the episode, we begin to think about the inevitable crucifixion of Jesus, which lingers not too far in the future." — **Mr. Tim McCormick**

RECOMMENDED MOVIE:

THE NATIVITY STORY

Recommendation by Steve Petty



If you're looking for a good movie to watch this Advent, I can think of none better than The Nativity Story. Released in December of 2006, The Nativity Story is a movie that highlights the people and events at the time of Christ's birth some 2000 years ago. This portrayal of the Incarnation has definitely become a must see Christmas film in the Petty household. In the Scriptures, Jesus tells us, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me," (Mt 16:24). Christian disciples are not promised a life of ease and leisure. On the contrary, we're to expect crosses and adversity. This promise also extends to Jesus' own mother and foster father. The Nativity Story underscores the hardships faced by Mary and Joseph surrounding the birth of God's Son. Their examples of faith and trust, as portrayed in this film, can serve as an inspiration for any Christian needing a star to guide them through dark and difficult times.