



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 second season of "The Chosen" and highlight some favorite episodes.

THE BFC THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT'S FAVORITE EPISODES FROM SEASON 2:

SEASON 2, EPISODE 1:

"One of the things that I love about this episode is the "curveball" that Jesus throws to His friends and followers in the story of a crippled man who is helped by the apostles James and John. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who leaves the 99 sheep to search and rescue the lost sheep. **What a beautiful reason for hope when we all fall into sin! Jesus comes to our rescue.** There are times throughout this season when we see the apostles trying to adjust to Jesus' example of humble service, acceptance, and forgiveness. Just when the apostles think that they have figured out Jesus, He will surprise them again with an unexpected twist. He is definitely keeping them guessing!"

— Mr. Ken Pullis

SEASON 2, EPISODE 3:

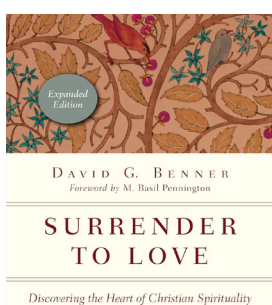
"Much like my favorite episode of season 1, this episode deals with issues that aren't explicitly found in scripture. It delves into the personal interactions of the early followers of Jesus, who are still trying to figure out who Jesus truly is and their role within the group. It is easy to think that everything would have been perfectly fine during the three year ministry of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels, but the reality is that there would have likely been issues that would have arisen between the early disciples, wounds that needed to be healed, and feelings of uncertainty about the future. This episode begins to deal with this. In particular, there is a scene where mother Mary reflects on how she had cared for Jesus when he was younger and how she now wonders what her role will be going forward. I won't spoil the ending, but it is a beautiful reminder of both the humanity of Jesus and the devotion Mary has for her son."

— Mr. Tim McCormick

RECOMMENDED READ:

SURRENDER TO LOVE: DISCOVERING THE HEART OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Recommendation by Tim McCormick



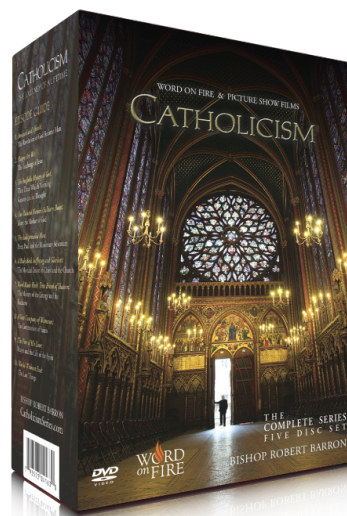
Benner begins his book by proposing that most people, even religious people, do not know the depths of God's love for them. He gives this wonderful quote from AW Tozer, who notes that for many of us, we "have substituted theological ideas for an arresting encounter; we are full of religious notions but our great weakness is that for our hearts there is no one there." Wow! I can definitely confirm that there have been times in my own life when I have only relied on theological ideas of God as opposed to truly experiencing the depths of his love for me. (As you can imagine, this can be a danger when you are a theology teacher!)

In this book, Benner reminds all of us that having knowledge of God that is only intellectual, is not enough. As human beings, we need to seek Jesus in a way that satisfies both our mind and our heart. Benner, in his very Ignatian way, challenges us to seek and experience the depths of Jesus' love for us, whom we can encounter in the everyday moments of our lives. This is not a very long book, but it is worth a slow and careful read through.

RECOMMENDED WATCH: Catholicism — Recommendation by Steve Petty

This video series is produced by Word on Fire, a catholic media organization that was founded by Bishop Robert Barron, a renowned teacher and theologian. This video series on Catholicism, narrated by Barron, is divided into 10 segments that explores the basic beliefs of the Faith with an emphasis on Catholic history, spirituality and culture.

In September's edition of Catholic Corner, I suggested watching Episode 1 of the *Catholicism* series entitled "Amazed and Afraid," which is about our Christian belief in Jesus as the Son of the Living God. In the October edition, I recommend Episode 2, "Happy Are We: The Teachings of Jesus." There is so much fruit to be picked and savored in this episode. The heart of the episode is the focus on living the Beatitudes, as well as other lessons for the modern disciple such as forgiveness and the care for the poor.



The entire episode is well worth watching, but personally, there is a quote from St. Thomas Aquinas that Barron emphasizes in this session that really spoke to me as a Christian disciple. While teaching about the Beatitudes he quotes Thomas as saying,

"If you want to be happy, despise what Jesus despised on the cross and love what Jesus loved on the cross."

What does Thomas mean by this? Simply, he means that we should despise the worldly understanding of happiness. Jesus was crucified because of our sinful indulgences in wealth, power, pleasure and honor. The other side of that coin is that Jesus went to his crucifixion because of his love for us. Hence, his followers are called to despise the trappings of sin so that we can love God and neighbor more fully. Jesus tells us that if we do that, we'll find true happiness.

— Mr. Steve Petty