

# THE CHOSEN

## Season One | Episode Seven

In Episode Seven, two very different people, each with much to lose, are given an opportunity to leave wealth, safety, influence, and power behind. The first comes in an extraordinary meeting under the cover of darkness as Jesus reveals His mission, the mystery of salvation, and His divine identity while extending an invitation for Nicodemus to follow Him. The second invitation is given to Matthew, whose faith for what could be and his discontentment for what is are both rapidly growing. At the protest of Simon Peter and the astonishment of others, Matthew accepts the offer and leaves all he knows, predictable and familiar, behind.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1** Nicodemus finally has his (now legendary) meeting with Jesus at night, straight out of John's Gospel, chapter 3. Nicodemus says that his heart is "swollen with fear and wonder" as he processes the inbreaking Kingdom of God through his encounter. Have there ever been moments in your journey with Jesus that you've felt the same "fear and wonder?" What was the fear? What was the wonder?
- 2** Matthew the outcast (and vilified tax collector) wrestles between what he assumed to be reliable and what is becoming reality. With so much to lose and the fear of the unknown, what do you think caused Matthew's immediate response to Jesus' invitation, and are there lessons for us to be learned in his decision?
- 3** "Get used to different," Jesus says to Simon Peter as he protests Christ's call of Matthew into discipleship. What do you think causes us to so readily receive the gifts of mercy and grace for ourselves, and then so easily withhold those gifts from others?