

THE CHOSEN part 7 “THE INVITATION”

#waterswatcheschosen

John 1:1-5 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was with God in the beginning.³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Jesus was around since before the creation of the world!

-When he was born.....it was his spirit taking on human form!

John 1:9-14 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

THERE IS A LONGING IN THE HEART OF MAN TO FIND A SAVIOR!

-The devil takes advantage of this and builds us up to be our own savior!

-Takes on many faces, shapes and sizes throughout history

In Jesus' time, they didn't need a Messiah because they had a savior

-They had the LAW! 613 rules Extrapolated from the Torah

-They built an entire religion around their rules, actions, and deeds

-It was about what THEY did to earn salvation & keep it!

THEN JESUS COMES ALONG: I HAVE A NEW WAY...A BETTER WAY!

ONE SIMPLE QUESTION FOR 2000 YEARS

Matthew 16:13-17 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, **“Who do people say the Son of Man is?”** ¹⁴ They replied, **“Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”** ¹⁵ **“But what about you?”** he asked. **“Who do you say I am?”** ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, **“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”** ¹⁷ Jesus replied, **“Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.**

OUR SPIRITS COME ALIVE WHEN WE ENCOUNTER THE SPIRIT OF GOD!

-Our spirit comes alive when we put our faith in Jesus.

THE SAME DECISION IS WHAT WE FACE TODAY!

-ACCEPT OR REJECT JESUS!

-Do I believe he is my savior? My Messiah?

***THE ABSOLUTE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION OF OUR LIVES!**
Through the series we have been seeing Nicodemus (A powerful religious leader)

John 3: 1-17 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” ³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” ⁴ “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” ⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

JESUS WAS PRESENTING A NEW WAY OF THINKING

The less you judge people....the more free you are! (less you will be judged)

The more generous you are....the richer you are.

The weaker you are....the stronger you are in the Kingdom of God.

The greatest leader is the greatest servant. (Jesus washed their feet)

To be first..... you must serve and be last.

True victory comes through surrender. Giving up control!

The more you lose yourselfthe more you will find yourself.

To truly live you must die to yourself. (More of God and less of me)

Love your enemies and bless those that curse you.

Pride leads to destruction.....God hears the prayers from humble hearts.

You have to receive his Kingdom with Faith like a child.

Not building for now.....for future in heaven. Treasures in Heaven.

When someone slaps you.....turn to the other cheek.

MOST PIVOTAL.....Not the law that leads to salvation.....it is faith in Jesus!

John 3:13-15 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

WE ARE A BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT

- Spirit is MADE NEW (BORN AGAIN)
- Mind is being Renewed (A LIFELONG PROCESS)
- Body is slowly dying (BECAUSE OF ORIGINAL SIN)

THERE ARE MANY COUNTERFEITS TO RENEW OUR SPIRIT!

BUT THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY! (Why it is so important)

John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

SO WHO IS THIS GOSPEL FOR? **EVERYONE.....EVERYWHERE!**

JESUS ASSOCIATED WITH SINNERS, PROSTITUTES, LEPERS & TAX COLLECTORS.....the worst of the worst in the religious world!

-Mary Magdalene had seven demons

-the other Mary was a prostitute

The Lepers: “Unclean” people, such as lepers forbidden from worshiping in the Temple....treated as outcasts.

JUDGEMENT was associated with most types of illness in the ancient world, because disease was attributed directly to God as a punishment.

In Judaism it was thought that,

-Jaundice was due to hating someone without reason

-Respiratory illnesses such as asthma were caused by slandering someone or neglecting to pay your tithes;

-Edema (RETAINING WATER) was due to sin in general

-God's judgment if someone had a fatal illness before the age of fifty

THEIR SYSTEM WAS ABOUT THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS!

-IT CREATED A CULTURE OF JUDGMENT!!

Jesus got called out for spending time with SINNERS:

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

And Again with Matthew:

-A tax collector! A TRAITOR TO HIS PEOPLE!

Matthew 9:10-13 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew was a thief....and embarrassment to his family! A sell out!

Jesus called Him by name!

JUST LIKE HE HAD CALLED THE OTHER DISCIPLES!

-We don't know much about most of them, which says a lot in itself!

Rabi's thought long and hard about picking only the best of the best to follow them

-Matthew the tax collector (Sinner)

-Peter was A former terrorist SIMON THE ZEALOT

-JAMES & JOHN (nicknamed the sons of Thunder) -anger issues

-Judas ended up being remembered as a thief and traitor

-Thomas remembered as a doubter

SEEMED LIKE A PRETTY ROUGH CREW!

The other disciples did nothing worth noting in the Gospels or in the rest of the New Testament

THEY STRUGGLED WITH ACCEPTING MATTHEW BECAUSE HE WAS A TAX COLLECTOR

BUT MATTHEW WAS REDEEMED! HE SAID "YES" TO JESUS!

HE WAS MADE NEW!

REDEEMED: (From Webster's Dictionary)

- 1 to buy back : REPURCHASE
- 2 to free from what distresses or harms: as
 - a : to free from captivity by payment of ransom
 - b : to extricate from or help to overcome something detrimental
 - c : to release from blame or debt : CLEAR
 - d : to free from the consequences of sin
- 3 to change for the better : REFORM
- 4 to repair: RESTORE
- 5 to free from a lien by payment of an amount secured thereby
- 6 to atone for : EXPIATE <*redeem* an error>
 - a : to offset the bad effect of
 - b : to make worthwhile : RETRIEVE

WE ARE REDEEMED!! WE ARE MADE NEW!

RESPONSE:

- 1) SAY YES TO JESUS TODAY!
- 2) REMEMBER THE GRACE YOU RECEIVED!
- 3) MADE NEW IN SPIRIT, BUT NEED TO TRANSFORM YOUR MIND!
- 4) BE BAPTIZED!

TEXT: FOLLOWS JESUS TO 21000