

Lesson 6

YOU ARE MADE NEW

Episode Summary

Jesus heals a leper and then later conducts His first large-scale preaching event in a packed house. During His sermon, in order to get through the large crowd to Jesus, a small group digs through the roof and lowers their paralyzed friend to where Jesus is standing. He forgives the man's sins and heals him, which causes the Pharisees in attendance to alert nearby Roman guards.

Key Verse

"I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior. I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses,' declares the Lord, 'and I am God. And henceforth I am he; there is none who can deliver from my hand; I work, and who can turn it back?" (Isaiah 43:11-13)

Additional Verses

Psalms 103:10-12; John 10:27-30; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Episode Theme

Just as Jesus healed the leper and the paralyzed man, so too does He heal and transform our sin-soaked hearts. In Jesus, we are new creations, and He is faithful to continue His work in our lives as we follow Him.

Opening Discussion

Read the following:

"Transformation"

Sometimes it's easier to come to Jesus than to stay with Jesus. We experience a crisis or need that drives us to Him, but old patterns of behavior reemerge. Bad influences, wrong thinking, past trauma, ongoing urges to sin—a host of things can creep back in, making it hard to believe a new way of living and being is really possible. But it is possible.

In episode 6 of *The Chosen*, "Indescribable Compassion," a man suffering from leprosy comes to Jesus in desperate need. In ancient times, leprosy was a vicious condition with no known cure. It deformed its victims by causing lumps as well as scale-like wounds to grow

on the body and could even lead to the complete degeneration of skin and twisting of bones. Fingers, toes, ears, and noses sometimes rotted away, making it difficult for people to breathe and likely for them to go blind. Doing the daily work required to survive became nearly impossible.

Those suspected of contracting the disease had to show themselves to the priest, who would evaluate their condition and diagnose them as “clean” or “unclean”— and “unclean” meant you were counted as good as dead and banished from the city to keep the disease from spreading. Lepers were forced to live in tents or caves in designated colonies, wore bells to alert people to their presence, and were required to yell “Unclean! Unclean!” should anyone accidentally come within the legal range. Having been ripped from their homes, families, friends, and all other comforts in life, their only hope for relief was death.

Correction. Death was their only hope apart from Jesus.

Discuss the following question as a group:

Like the leper in episode 6, some people have radical come-to-Jesus moments. Others experience change in their lives over time. Regardless of how fast or slow, Jesus always transforms the lives of His followers. What changes has He made in your life? What new things are you hoping still come?

WATCH THE EPISODE TOGETHER.

Discussion Questions

Read through the “Inside Out” section and discuss the following:

“Inside Out”

"As (Jesus) was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there... And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. And when he saw their faith, he said, 'Man, your sins are forgiven you.' And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, 'Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?' When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, 'Why do you question in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, "Your sins are forgiven you," or to say, "Rise and walk"? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins' - he said to the man who was paralyzed - 'I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.' And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God." (Luke 5:17-25)

People came to Jesus for the miracles, but the miracles weren't the point; healing the body demonstrated Jesus's power and willingness to heal the heart. Up until that moment,

teachers of the law believed in the power of the law – they assumed that obeying the Ten Commandments (along with all the other dos and don'ts they piled on) was the way to be forgiven and made new. But the problem with behaving our way to salvation is that we can't do it. We can't *not* sin. In our own strength, we can't keep the law – not perfectly, not completely, not all the time. Like the Israelites, we wander away from the God who loves us. Like the Israelites – including Mary, Nicodemus, Matthew, and Simon – we need an overhaul of the system, one that depends on Jesus's goodness instead of our own.

Mary Magdalene is the quintessential picture of being made new. She was demon possessed and governed by darkness and all the shame and isolation that came with it. She had zero ability to make herself presentable to God. But in an instant, she was healed – her body and heart transformed.

Nicodemus was a teacher of the law, respected and esteemed for his "righteous" behavior and confident in his own wisdom – at least until Jesus came onto the scene. Truth is, attaining and maintaining one's own righteousness would've been an exhausting endeavor, even for a Pharisee. As Nicodemus witnessed the people around him being transformed, he couldn't help but wonder who Jesus really was... though, as Jesus said, the miracles made it pretty clear.

Matthew wasn't the first disciple called. Perhaps he witnessed Jesus's power – the physical transformation of the paralytic and the inward transformations of people like Mary and Simon. Perhaps in spite of his apparent indifference toward others, he was just plain sick of himself. Perhaps Matthew longed to be made new.

Simon also experienced major changes in his heart and life after coming to Jesus – though they weren't all at once. Throughout the NT we continue to see spiritual growth in Simon Peter's life, as he learned a new way of living and being. But the major difference between Simon and religious leaders like Nicodemus was that Simon was no longer trying to be good in his own strength. Instead, he was following Jesus and depending on Him for direction, wisdom, and the ability to remain. He was allowing his relationship with Jesus to fundamentally change him from the inside out.

It's clear (and also reassuring) that our NT brothers and sisters were at different levels of growth regarding their faith in Jesus. Indeed, transformation occurs slowly in some and faster in others, depending on the circumstances or season of life. But Jesus is patient with each of us because He knows that when God *declares and saves and proclaims*, no one can turn it back (Isa. 43:11-13).

Discussion Questions

1. **For many people, a new start is hard to imagine. But what does Psalm 103:10-12 say about God's capacity to forgive and begin again?**

2. **Which of our four main characters do you relate to most regarding your own transformation? Mary, whose life changed in an instant? Nicodemus, who remained resistant and skeptical, perhaps even unwilling to undergo the changes that would come from following Jesus? Matthew, who was earnest and open, though perhaps a little slower to make the leap? Or Simon, who was all-in early on, but who continued to struggle as he grew in faith?**
3. **Read John 10:27–30. What claims does Jesus make about (a) Himself and (b) the way He cares for His followers (referred to as “sheep”)?**
4. **According to 2 Corinthians 5:17–21, what are some of the differences between pre-Jesus living and post-Jesus living, regardless of our ongoing battle with sin?**
5. **In this episode, Matthew makes an insightful comment: “Conquest is not simply conquering nations, but imposing a new way of life.” In what ways does this describe the people Jesus saves?**

Close by reading the following:

“Jesus Is Our Re-Creator”

Jesus did for us what the rules could not do in us. Meaning, the sinless Son of God kept the law of Moses perfectly and therefore had no sin of His own to die for. But in keeping the law, He died for *our* sins in *our* place—He suffered our rightful consequence. And so, the law exposes our desperate need for salvation that only comes through faith in Jesus, who is the fulfillment of the law, the prophets, and the covenants.

But then what? Through Jesus we have forgiveness of sins and reconciliation

with God (can we get an amen?), but that’s not all, because just as God said in Isaiah 43:13, “There is none who can deliver from my hand; **I work, and who can turn it back?**”

Unlike Israel and the whole wide world, God is faithful to finish what He starts— which means that once we belong to Him, nothing and no one can undo it. While bad influences, past trauma, and sin remain, **so does He**. God never leaves us, never forsakes us (Deut. 31:6). And He continues to work in our hearts and minds as we follow, transforming us from the inside out. Just as He was committed to Israel in spite of her weaknesses and failure, so too does He commit Himself to anyone who believes in the One He has sent.

Prayer Focus

If you’re still **evaluating** the evidence of Jesus’s indescribable love and have not yet **come to faith** in Him, **ask** God for help to see what’s true and to **make the right decision**. If you’ve already **come to faith** in Jesus, **thank** Him for the new life He has given you, and ask Him to help you **stay the course**.