

Lesson 8

YOU ARE CARRIED

Episode Summary

Jesus leads His disciples to Samaria where He encounters the woman at the well and officially begins His public ministry.

Key Verse

“Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ‘Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.’” (Isaiah 43:16–19)

Additional Verses

Isaiah 46:3–4; 1 Corinthians 1:26–31; Hebrews 12:1–3

Episode Theme

Jesus ushered in a whole new thing, which included leaving old ways behind, relinquishing control, and worshiping in spirit and truth. And that’s exactly what His new followers did.

Opening Discussion

Read the following:

“A New Thing”

Most of us are wary of new things. Familiarity is comfortable and predictable, whereas change brings the unknown—and the unknown is scary and strange and uncomfortable and unpredictable. But surrendering to Jesus as Lord doesn’t leave much room for things to stay the same since He’s committed to changing our hearts and lives and also the whole wide world.

In episode 8 of *The Chosen* called “I Am He,” the disciples are being introduced to the concept of change. Radical change, in fact. They went from living in houses to pitching tents. From earning their own way to depending on Jesus to show them the way—spiritually and literally—since they were following Him from town to town. From making plans for their lives to having no plan other than serving God for the *rest* of their lives.

So much change would've been debilitatingly scary. Except for the fact that it wasn't.

Discuss the following question as a group:

What new thing are you afraid Jesus might lead you to? (Missionary work, adoption, ending a toxic relationship, sharing your faith, leaving your job—so many terrifying options; feel free to name more than one.)

WATCH THE EPISODE TOGETHER.

Discussion Questions

Read through the "Off-Road" section and discuss the following:

"Off-Road"

"And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. And he said to them, 'Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them.' And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere." (Luke 9:1-6)

The New Testament followers of Jesus were on the ground floor of the best new thing, but it required them to look forward, to literally move forward, and by doing so, to put their faith into action. Faith that Jesus could be trusted when He gave very specific instructions. Faith that God would indeed provide for their needs as they served Him. Faith that He would continue to teach and grow them spiritually, enabling them to do more than they'd ever thought possible. Faith that the strength of the One who parted the Red Sea would more than compensate for their weaknesses on the journey. Faith that just as God carried the nation of Israel, He would carry them.

There was no other way to make it work. If they wanted to go with Jesus, they had to leave their old way of doing things behind. They had to relinquish control and trust Him to fill in the gaps. And spoiler alert: He did.

Mary Magdalene was a single woman with a traumatic personal history. But she followed Jesus from town to town, trading the familiarity of home for the unknown alongside her Savior – which meant she trusted Jesus not only for her physical well-being but also for her ongoing sanctification. And over time, she became less like her former self and more like the One she was following.

Nicodemus didn't get to experience the "walking around with Jesus" part – but that doesn't mean he never trusted Him as Lord. Oh, what a relief it would've been for our beloved

Pharisee, so concerned with adhering to the law and being "good," to fall into the strong arms of his Redeemer. To be carried by the only One capable of true goodness, of restoring desperate hearts, and of leading God's chosen to the Promised Land of heaven

Matthew must've experienced a moment of pause when Jesus gave very specific, very terrifying marching orders. The disciples were sent into the countryside to do what they'd seen Him do, without food or shelter. They were instructed to go with nothing but the shirts on their backs. Boiled down, the plan was "take nothing because you'll be provided for in your moment of need." For a guy like Matthew, who had once loved the security of money more than people, it was no doubt a testing of his faith. But Jesus's power carried him along.

Simon's self-sufficiency would've made being carried a foreign, maybe even unattractive, concept. Plenty of times throughout the New Testament, we see him attempt to follow the Messiah in his own strength – only to fumble and fail – but Jesus persisted because learning to depend on Him was wholly necessary if Simon was going to participate in kingdom building. And by Jesus's grace and in His strength, Simon Peter did just that:

And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. (Acts 5:14-16)

The early disciples new better than anyone that the power given to them was from Jesus. Apart from Him, they could do nothing, because Jesus made the way.

Discussion Questions

1. **The disciples were asked to travel throughout the region, telling people about Jesus with no provisions of their own. What do you imagine your response to Jesus would be if He asked the same of you?**
2. **What kinds of things do you think Nicodemus missed out on by *not* following when others did? Like him, in what ways are you trying to do life in your own strength and in your own way?**
3. **Read Isaiah 46:3–4. God explicitly told His chosen people that He would carry them all the days of their lives. Knowing about His past miracles and hearing His vow to remain with His chosen people, how should these verses inspire you moving forward?**
4. **Read Hebrews 12:1–3. Explain what it means for Jesus to be the “founder and perfecter” of your faith.**

5. **What tangible thing might God be calling you to say or do in order to put your faith into action?**

Close by reading the following:

“Jesus Is Our Waymaker”

Jesus doesn’t ask us to make our own way. He asks us to allow *Him* to lead and equip and provide. Yet it often still feels like so much is required of us—because, in truth, so much is. Like His early followers, we have to put our faith in Jesus and follow Him with our whole hearts, which can be hard since it means giving up our own plans and goals, along with all the predictability and familiarity they offer. But also like His early followers, **on our own we can do nothing**. Correction. What we can do is surrender and follow where Jesus leads. He’s the One actually doing all the things, including fundamentally changing us from the inside out.

Just as God made a way through the wilderness and rivers through the desert in Old Testament days, and just as Jesus made the lame to walk and the blind to see in the New, so too is He still making the way. Indeed, the God of miracles is not a thing of the past; He’s doing new things in and through us, building His kingdom and accomplishing His good and perfect will—from the beginning of time to the end. Nothing is too big for Him to handle, which means nothing is too big for those of us who are in His care. We belong to the living God, and we are carried by His Son.

Prayer Focus

Thank God for His promise to keep and carry His chosen people. **Ask** Jesus, the founder and perfecter of your faith, to **continue changing** you from the inside out, making you more like Him every day. **Ask** for opportunities to **do hard things** in His name and in His power – the same power that parted the Red Sea. **Praise** Him for allowing you to be a part of building His kingdom, just like those who’ve gone before you.