



## The Chosen Season 3 Episode 1 Discussion Questions: *The Sermon on the Mount*

Over the course of The Chosen Season 2, we see Jesus and his disciples preparing for the Sermon on the Mount, but Episode 8 of Season 2 cuts off right before Jesus begins to teach.

### What stands out for you at the close of Season 2?

There is plenty in the Sermon on the Mount to discuss. Let's focus on just two passages: Jesus' teaching on retaliation/enemies (Matthew 5:38-48) and His teaching on worry (Matthew 6:24-34).

#### Retaliation and Enemies

- In Season 3, we do not get the entire sermon, but we are able to listen to important moments. The sermon is used to highlight key lessons that the disciples need to learn in order to follow Jesus and spread his message.
- Jesus knows that His enemies will begin making life much more difficult for the disciples and their families.
- One of Jesus' most famous teachings from the Sermon on the Mount is about how to respond to our enemies when they hurt us and insult us.

#### Matthew 5: 21-24

(3:00 – 4:20)

<sup>21</sup> "You have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' <sup>22</sup> But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother<sup>[a]</sup> shall be liable to judgment; <sup>23</sup> So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

### What does Jesus mean in Verses 21 - 24?

**Read Matthew 6: 25-34****(4:20-5:40)**

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” (Matthew 6:24-34, ESV)

**Let’s discuss the following questions:**

1. **What are some things that you are tempted to be anxious or worry about?**
2. **Why do we worry?**
3. **What are some reasons that Jesus gives us to not worry?**
4. **If we find ourselves struggling with worry and anxiety, do we need to feel guilty?**

**Read Matthew 5:38-48:****(7:11 – 9:00)**

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Matthew 5:38-48, ESV)

Let's discuss the following questions:

5. How does Jesus invite us to respond to our enemies and other people who hurt us?
6. Why is this so profound to Simon Z (zealot) and
7. In our current culture, we're encouraged to view people with different political views as our enemies. Why is it difficult to apply this teaching to politics? How are we tempted to respond to our political opponents?
8. Why does Jesus want us to love our enemies? What does it mean to pray for your enemies?

When our enemies make life difficult for us, it can be tempting to retaliate. There's another temptation that we face when life gets difficult. We try to seize control, and when we lose control, we're tempted to worry. During Season 3 of The Chosen, life will feel out of control for many of Jesus' disciples and they'll be tempted to worry. Instead of worrying, Jesus calls his disciples to a different way.

**Read the Lord's prayer.**

Our Father who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

<sup>10</sup> Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread;<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,

As we also have forgiven our debtors;

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

9. What does the Lord's prayer instruct us to do?

**Read Matthew 6:34, ESV**

34 "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day.

**John the Baptist in Prison**

**(40:30 – 45:44)**

10. What are some helpful ways we can respond to moments of anxiety?

Reconciling examples:

Mary and Andrew (53:00 – 54:57) Mathew and Alphaeus (55:00 -55:58)

