

Starting February in the midst of “Covid jail”, I have had a lot more time to myself. And though I do not recommend taking this route to find some quality alone time, you still need to make do and take advantage of the situation. One of the things that I have been doing is watching episodes of The Chosen. Up to this point I, sadly, had only seen the opening Christmas episode and episode one of season one. I had seen a number of clips on YouTube and have shown some of those clips in confirmation. Tonight, February 1, the confirmation class will be watching episode 6 of season 1, “Indescribable Compassion”. I wish I could be there to debrief with them, but we have some amazing leaders that will do a great job with them tonight, but I digress.

If you have not watched The Chosen, hopefully you will not wait until you get Covid (if you ever do). I will say that this series does take some creative liberties, but how can it not? We do not know exactly what the dialog was between events or the personalities of all the characters involved. One must take some liberties, but the Gospel message has not been compromised as far as I can tell thus far. And that is what matters. For me, I love seeing the stories on screen and seeing what I imagine would be the reaction of people to things Jesus did and said. I love seeing the human side of Jesus, because, after all, he was human. Many have made Jesus out to be some stoic teacher with no personality. But if Jesus was kind, compassionate, merciful and loving (which he is and more), then I also believe he had a sense of humor and humanness about him. He ate and slept. He showed emotion and got tired. He had fun and was serious. All things we do, but the huge difference is that he was the perfect Son of God who saved you and I from our sins.

Even if you are a seasoned reader of scripture, this series will lead you deeper into scripture. If you are not a seasoned reader, hopefully this series will send you to God’s word. But above all things, this series, The Chosen, does NOT replace scripture. Whether you are a seasoned reader or not, we must be in the Word. You do not need to engage in a read-the-Bible-in-a-year plan. You simply need to engage the Bible. Even if it is 5 minutes to start your day, it is better than nothing.

Remember, YOU have been chosen by God for salvation and thus I pray you choose to embrace your chosen-ness and choose to read scripture, God’s holy Word. And so, chosen one, I think you know what you need to choose. Amen.