

**Joyful in Hope – 31 – April 22, 2020**  
**(thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)**

*“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”*  
*Romans 12:9*

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Here's some great news! You can watch, The Chosen, for free! That's right, through April 30, all eight episodes of season one are available free of charge. Just go to **Vidangel.com**, and scroll down to The Chosen (it's probably the first show listed). Click on it, and then click on Season 1. You can then select whichever episode you want to watch. If you haven't seen any of the episodes yet, I recommend that you start at the very beginning, with the Pilot Episode entitled, The Shepherd.

One of my favorite scenes occurs in Episode 7, when Jesus is talking to Nicodemus, (see John 3). During the conversation, the haunting background music comes from a cello. I found out that the person playing the cello during that scene, is a teenage girl name Allison, who had become enamored with the first four episodes of The Chosen, particularly with the character of Matthew. She felt a connection with Matthew, because like her, Matthew's character is portrayed as someone who is on the autism spectrum. She wrote to Dallas Jenkins, the creator of the series, and indicated that she would love to contribute somehow. Dallas, and his wife, Amanda, who is co-writer, said they created the character of Matthew, partly because they have a child who is on the spectrum, and they said it was “not too much of a stretch” to imagine that Matthew could have been as well. They quickly incorporated Allison and her musical talent into the story.

It is a wonder to watch as Jesus calls his disciples, who come from not just a variety of backgrounds, but also with a wide range of personalities and talents, and issues. And he simply says, “Follow me.”

And that's what they do. They leave their boats and their nets, they leave their tax tables, they leave the comfort and security of home, and they follow. Jesus takes their willingness, and he also takes their quirks and their insecurities, and like a potter, he molds the clay of their hearts into men, and women who will eventually proclaim the story of his love to the world.

We all have our issues, our inconsistencies, our sin, that would make us “less than desirable” candidates for such an important mission. Fortunately for us, Jesus looks past all that, and accepts us, “warts and all”. And then he shows us countless opportunities to proclaim his love to the world.

*2 Corinthians 5:20*  
*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors,*  
*as though God were making his appeal through us.*

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One Final Note: Hope you can join us this evening on ZOOM.

Topic: **Heritage Prayers**

Time: Apr 22, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting