

Perhaps it's due to the company I keep, but I can't help but wonder how people still haven't heard about *The Chosen* series by Dallas Jenkins. I just saw the last two episodes of the fourth season, playing in theaters right now. Don't worry, no spoilers here. Personally, I can't wait until they are streaming for all to see, just so I can watch the entire season again. It has been such a roller coaster of emotion, I need to see it again, and savor each moment.

For those who know me best, when something is meaningful to me, I jump in with both feet and don't look back. I remember telling my lady friends that I always develop a crush on my pastor. I know that sounds crazy but hear me out. My 'crush' for these precious men of faith is probably more like a little girl who admires her daddy. I didn't have that while growing up, so this explanation makes total sense. There is nothing more beautiful than a man sold out for Jesus.

In a previous blog from last year, I confessed my crush on Jonathan Roumie, who plays Jesus in the show. I thought Robert Powell who played Jesus in *Jesus of Nazareth* was 'it,' then Jim Caviezel played Jesus in Mel Gibson's *Passion of the Christ* and he blew me away. I still love both films dearly, but Mr. Roumie's portrayal of our Lord feels so authentic. I know the script has him using words like 'wow,' and he often says, "I was just kidding." I doubt if Jesus said those things, at least in the way we would hear them. But the way he speaks using these familiar phrases, and his facial expressions, filled with compassion, make me want to be closer to him. It is believable.

From a Christian standpoint, I cannot help but feel this series has also been blessed by God. We who love what the show is all about, realizing the potential it has for sharing Jesus with the world, are part of a greater purpose as we continue to support the effort financially. I believe in the potential of this show that much. Our world is on the brink of something major, and all I can say is that we all need Jesus now, more than ever. If it takes a television show to get the lost to open their Bibles, then I say amen.

Even as a believer and one who feels like I know the scriptures fairly well, I am learning so much from what is shared in *The Chosen*. Especially when it comes to the fulfillment of prophecy. The show makes me want to go and read more and understand what Isaiah was saying. I have learned so much about the Jewish culture, so now I can better appreciate the different festivals and celebrations. And what can I say about the disciples? I love each one of them, and the actors who portray them. They are all endearing in their own ways.

I think the most valuable takeaway from watching and loving this show, is the realization that I, too, am one of Jesus' chosen. I am a disciple. The difference between me and those beautiful people who wrote the New Testament, is they walked with Jesus, the man. They ate with him, slept with him, laughed with him. Oh, my goodness, I don't know if I could hang on a cross the way Jesus was. To be beheaded for my faith or run through with a spear.

One thing I can say, is I have come to realize that loving Jesus may have a price, and I pray I will be able to pay if that day should come. It doesn't take a great imagination to see the signs of the times unfolding before our eyes. Scripture is being fulfilled today, right here and now. I believe our Lord is going to return very soon to take us home. I long for that day.

Until then, we who call him Lord, we are chosen for this time. We need to get busy, telling others about why Jesus died on the cross. We need to share with our loved ones that time is growing short. If it takes gathering them in your home to watch a television series about Jesus and his disciples, then do it.

I will finish this week's blog with a special message for my fellow 'Chosen' family. There may be a little more pain in the waiting, but hope is kept alive because we know he is coming for us 'soon...'

Blessings,

Lisa Jo

