

(Part 1 intro):

Michelle: Welcome to A Word Fitly Spoken, a podcast about Jesus, His Word, and our joy in following Him. I'm Michelle Lesley.

Amy: And I'm Amy Spreeman. And today's episode is going to be a little bit different. But, as Dallas Jenkins likes to say, "Get used to different."

The topic of today's Glad You Asked episode is *The Chosen*. In 2021, we ran a three episode series reviewing seasons 1 and 2 of *The Chosen*, and we thought it was time for a little update. We've answered lots of questions about *The Chosen* on our show in the last few years, and so has our guest - on Q&A episodes of his show. So we thought he would be the perfect person to help us out today.

Michelle: That's right, Amy. Our guest hosts not one, but two daily podcasts. He also has an amazing YouTube channel and blog, and he's authored some great books. But, first and foremost, he's a husband, father, and pastor. Welcome to AWFS, Pastor Gabe Hughes! Tell us a little bit about all those different hats you wear.

Gabe: *Introduces himself*

Amy: Listeners, we want to highly recommend all of Gabe's resources to you, especially the one he's best known for, his "When We Understand the Text" videos. Here's one that's a great introduction to our topic today called "What's Wrong with The Chosen?"

Play video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGjwYWdWgr4>

Michelle: That's a very helpful overview for any of our listeners who may not be familiar with *The Chosen*. So far, three seasons of *The Chosen* have been released, so we'll be answering questions related to those episodes today, but we're not going to be able to comment on season four because Dallas Jenkins hit something of a snag about releasing it. Gabe, can you tell us more about that?

Gabe: *explains about the legal issues with season 4*

Amy: And there are just so many more issues to contend with when it comes to *The Chosen*. We've received a lot of questions from our listeners, so let's get started on those.

Questions:

General Issues:

- ☐ Should Christians watch The Chosen? Why or why not? (SAVE FOR THE END)
- ☐ Why do so many people defend this show and become downright attacking if you say

anything against it?

- ☐ How can I logically and clearly rebuke the show with concise points and not just personal feelings?
- ☐ Since the makers of The Chosen are clear that they are producing historical fiction (a good way to categorize ALL speculation about Bible happenings that aren't actually in the Bible, including when your pastor says "Jesus may have done this because..." and proceeds to talk about a scholar's opinion on something)... and since others have made Bible films (although not as well, for the most part)... why is this such a hot button? The producers have always encouraged people to read the Bible for the real deal.
- ☐ What is a good response to people who say "I know people who have accepted Christ by watching" or "people tell me they read the Bible as a result". Or they say "when we watch as a family we say 'that isn't in the Bible'"?

[2CV](#)

- ☐ Is video a legitimate way of portraying the life of Christ or Biblical narratives?
- ☐ Are other depictions of Christ also wrong, like Sight and Sound's musical production of JESUS? What about passion plays or Easter cantatas at church?
- ☐ Is The Chosen a 2CV in y'all's opinion and how to teach the truth in love with family members who don't view The Chosen or shows/movies/etc like it as a 2CV?

[Church/Ministries](#)

- ☐ Can a leader in the church watch The Chosen and still be qualified to lead?
- ☐ Some of the group leaders in my local Good News Club started using clips from The Chosen to illustrate the Bible stories taught there! I asked one of the guys why they were using these. "Because they are good!" he exclaimed. How wise is it to get these kids interested in this show? If they persist in using these video clips, and after I ask them for more details on their reasoning, should I continue in serving at Good News Club, or should I withdraw? Am I making too big a deal out of this?

[Interpersonal Relationships](#)

- ☐ As women, how should we handle a pastor or friend who doesn't see The Chosen as any different from any other Hollywood fictionalized account of Jesus?
- ☐ Any advice on how to respond when someone in a group starts talking about it, and more than one person chimes in praising the show? I've had this happen in person and also in a

different text group. I'm aware of the many problems with the show but don't know the best way to respond.

- ☐ I have a long-time friend who is so much a fan that she was an extra on the show just so she could meet them all. What is the best way to start the conversation about all the unbiblical content and false doctrines. She is very much NAR having attended John Wimber's church in the 80s and 90s so I realize there is a lot more to address here. But maybe discussing this show is a way to get started.
- ☐ How would you answer a friend who says, "yeah, I know it's not consistent with the Bible, so I can watch it and it doesn't affect me. It's just entertainment."?
- ☐ I'm a new member of a doctrinally sound church, and have recently begun a friendship with an older woman in the church. I thought the friendship was off to a great start until this woman mentioned a Justin Peters video about *The Chosen* and how she didn't like it. She said he tore it apart and it really offended and angered her because *The Chosen* has really encouraged her, and helped her and her husband to truly understand how Jesus and the disciples lived, what it would've been like to see the miracles, and bring Scripture to life. This greatly surprised me since our church has hosted Justin as a speaker in the past.

I was so caught off guard, and distracted by my toddler and 4 year old, that I didn't give much of a response. She quickly moved on to another subject, and I had to go. How could I have responded better with love and truth to these false and skewed statements about *The Chosen*? I feel so many are led into a false belief and dangerous comparison of *The Chosen* and Scripture.

[Business/Production](#)

- ☐ I would like to know what Dallas Jenkins and the leadership at The Chosen gain from this immense following. Basically if you can do a segment of "follow the money" to bring light to what this show is really about.

[Mormon Issues](#)

- ☐ Is *The Chosen* produced by Mormons?
- ☐ Angels Studios is a Mormon owned company, but is anything else known about it; such as their influential reach, if any of the money donated to fund the films is tithed to the Mormon church, etc?

[Content/Characters](#)

- ☐ I haven't watched much of it but I did notice that they make Mary Magdalene look like a disciple? Thoughts?

We covered this in detail in episode 2 of our series. Relevant talking points:

Mary Magdalene features prominently throughout The Chosen. As far as screen time and number of lines and things like that go, she is as major a character in the series as Peter and Matthew.

A single woman unaccompanied by a close male relative, she travels on many overnight trips with a bunch of men.

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Jesus, and the other female "disciples" constantly hovering around with the Twelve is not the way either of the Marys or the disciples are presented in the gospels. If either Mary had been as close to Jesus during His ministry years as they are portrayed in The Chosen, we would likely hear about that in the text of Scripture.

Jesus had female followers, but they weren't equals with the twelve as The Chosen portrays them. When it came to Jesus' followers, there were three levels of intimacy. There was the "inner circle" of intimacy with Jesus: Peter, James, and John. Then came the next closest circle, the remainder of the Twelve. Finally, there was a larger crowd of men and some women who followed Jesus regularly. This last group is the group both Marys and the other women who followed Jesus would have fallen into, not in the circle with the twelve disciples.

In the portrayal of Jesus healing the paralytic: When Simon Peter attempts to stop the entourage from pushing their way through the crowd to Jesus, Mary Magdalene reproves him for trying to turn them away.

[Ancillary Materials](#)

☐ Does "The Chosen" really have a devotional to use as a Bible study?

Yes, both a devotional and a "Bible" study. We covered this -particularly the "Bible" study- in detail in episode 1 of our series. Relevant talking points:

Accompanying devotional to the movie titled The Chosen: 40 Days with Jesus. It uses Scripture and the Bible characters in the show to point the reader to Christ. The first three entries lean heavily on Mary Magdalene, probably because she is one of the first characters introduced in The Chosen.

Also an actual "Bible" study that's meant to accompany the show. The devotional and Bible study are authored by Amanda Jenkins (Dallas Jenkins' wife). This "Bible" study instructs you to watch the episode of The Chosen that corresponds to the lesson before going through the lesson material. It also has a very unbiblical "gospel" presentation.

Michelle: Well, I think our time is just about up. Gabe, do you have anything else you'd like to add about *The Chosen*?

Gabe: ... answers ...

Amy: You're so right, Gabe. Thank you so much for being with us today on AWFS. [Michelle: Yes, thank you so much, etc.] We'll put all your links in the show notes, but can you tell our listeners where they can find you?

Gabe: ... answers ...

Michelle: Thank you, Gabe. And that's going to wrap things up for this edition of Glad You Asked on *The Chosen* with our special guest, Pastor Gabe Hughes.

And as we close, we want to say a special thank you to Catherine, who went to our website, AWFS.Life, clicked on the "support" tab and made a kind donation to us via PayPal. Thank you so much, Catherine!

Thanks also to Beki and Melanie, our new patrons over at Patreon! We are so grateful to you and all our patrons for your monthly support.

And we'd be so grateful if you'd donate to AWFS via PayPal like Catherine, or become a monthly donor over at Patreon like Beki and Melanie. All the info is at the "support" tab at AWFS.Life. And be sure to check out all our other resources while you're there.

Amy: And until next time, chuck *The Chosen*, read your Bible, and walk worthy.

Part 1 Outro:

Michelle: And that's going to wrap up part 1 of our conversation with Pastor Gabe Hughes. But we have a lot more to talk about, so be sure to join us next time for part 2 as we answer more of your questions about *The Chosen*.

Amy: And, listeners, if you love AWFS, we would encourage you to leave us a five star rating and encouraging review on your favorite podcast platform, too. It drives up our analytics and helps us get sound doctrine into more earbuds all over the world.

Michelle: That's right, and be sure to check out all of our resources at AWFS.Life.

And until next time, chuck *The Chosen*, read your Bible, and walk worthy.

Part 2 Intro:

Amy: Welcome to A Word Fitly Spoken, a podcast about Jesus, His Word, and our joy in following Him. I'm Amy Spreeman.

Michelle: And I'm Michelle Lesley. And welcome to part 2 of our Glad You Asked conversation with Pastor Gabe Hughes, answering all your questions about *The Chosen*. This 2 part episode is a follow up to our 2021 series of episodes reviewing seasons 1 and 2 of *The Chosen*. If you haven't listened to the 2021 series, or part 1 of this Glad You Asked episode, don't worry, we've got them linked up in the show notes for you, and we'd encourage you to go back and listen to them all in chronological order.

Amy: And now, back to our discussion with Pastor Gabe.