

# The CHOSEN

Season 2 - Lesson 5 Part 2

## SPIRIT

### **BACKGROUND HISTORY**

**Simon the Zealot** is one of the least known of the 12 Apostles. He is only mentioned within a list of the Apostles in 3 of the gospels and in Acts.

Matthew 10:2-4, Mark 3:16-19, Luke 6:14 and Acts 1:13

**Zealots** were a political movement of the 1st Century which sought to incite the people of Judea Province to rebel against the Roman Empire and expel it from the Holy Land by force.

### **1st Century Religious Leaders in Judaism**

**Levites**, descendants from the tribe of Levi served as the priesthood. The priest who led temple worship were from a specific branch of Aaron's decedents. Aaron, Moses's brother was Israel's first high priest. **Caiaphas** was the high priest when Jesus was crucified. (Matthew 26:3, 26:57; Mark 14:53, 60; Luke 3:2; John 11:49, 18:13-28; and Acts 4:6)

The leadership of the local synagogues fell to **Sadducees and Pharisees**.

The Romans allowed the Jews a degree of self-governance by the way of the **Sanhedrin**, a council comprised of 71 leaders and priests with the high priest as the ultimate leader.

### **DISCUSSION AFTER WATCHING THE VIDEO:**

Jesus was rejected by the religious leaders when he began to challenge their power, traditions and beliefs.

- Are there any areas in your life that you find difficult to relinquish control over to Jesus?
- Do you see any beliefs or traditions today that are in contrast to Jesus' teachings?

### **LENT CHALLENGE**

PERSONAL REFLECTION: Do you have any beliefs or traditions that are in contrast?

Go to the Lord in prayer and ask him to:

**Psalm 139: 23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.**