

[00:00:00] <Music>

Annie: Hi friends, welcome to another episode of That Sounds Fun. I'm your host Annie F. Downs. I'm really happy to be with you here today, we got a great show in store for you. But before we get started, I just wanted to tell you about one of our incredible partners, Cru. It probably goes without saying, but I'm going to say it anyway, reading the Bible is really important to me. I've been doing the Bible in a Year during 2021, and I just love it.

But imagine for a second that you couldn't get a Bible, like you couldn't afford one or you couldn't just hop on Amazon and have one sent to your house. Take it one step further, and imagine you aren't even allowed to have one. Honestly, sometimes we forget there are so many people all around the world who simply can't get a Bible, and that's why I am thrilled to partner with Cru. Cru is one of the largest evangelical organizations in the world with over 25,000 missionaries in almost every country.

Cru is given Bibles to people in their own heart language and sharing the hope of Jesus all around the globe. But here's where they need our help, for only \$21 a month, you can provide three people with Bibles each and every month. And when you sign up to provide three Bibles with a monthly gift of \$21, as a thank you, Cru will provide meals to five hungry families through their humanitarian aid ministry, and you get a free copy of my book That Sounds Fun.

Simply text FUN to 71326 to help today. Imagine just how much this gift could change someone's life. So text FUN to 71326, that's F-U-N to 71326 to help now or visit give.cru.org/fun.

And one more exciting thing, before we dive into today's conversation. I told everybody on Thursday that we are taking the podcast back out on the road. That's right you guys, the That Sounds Fun Podcast tour is going coast-to-coast this fall. With stops in Florida, New Jersey, Louisiana, California, just to name a few.

We're going up the East Coast, we're going down the West Coast, you guys, it's going to be awesome, it's going to be so fun. It'll be the same fun, a live podcast recording, laughter, and yes, of course, Mike Goodwin the comedian is back with us, I wouldn't tour without him.

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But we're in new cities, with new guests in every city. And if you're listening to this episode on the day it releases on Monday, then it's your lucky day because pre-sale tickets are available today. Just to you guys listening when you use the code FRIEND at anniefdowns.com/events. Just enter the code FRIEND to purchase your tickets today at anniefdowns.com/events. I cannot wait to see you at one or more of these shows, you guys it's going to be so fun to come hang with us.

Today on the show I get to talk with my friend Dallas Jenkins, y'all have been begging for me to have Dallas on the show. He is the creator of *The Chosen*, the largest crowdfunded media project of all time. A multi-season series about the life of Christ. I know it's so well done and y'all are loving it.

Dallas started his career as a producer at age 25. And in the 20 years since then, he's directed and produced over a dozen feature and short films for companies like Universal, and Lionsgate, Pure Flix, Hallmark Channel, and Amazon, y'all, I'm so excited to share this chat with you, I'm such a fan of Dallas. So here's my conversation with our friend, creator of *The Chosen*, Dallas Jenkins.

[00:03:27] <Music>

Annie: All right, let's jump in, Dallas, I feel real honored that you're here on the podcast, thank you for making time for this.

Dallas: Oh, this is a tremendous honor. And I have friends and family members for whom being on your podcast is the number one thing that *The Chosen* has accomplished in the last two and a half years. They're excited about other things, but Annie Downs, this is all about it.

Annie: Wow, that's good

Dallas: You and I met on stage. You and I met on stage at the K-Love Awards, because you presented us with the award.

Annie: Yes.

Dallas: And I was like, "Great to get this award. But this is an opportunity to quickly get 30-seconds of Annie Downs' time to say, "Well, I've got you, I'm supposed to come on your podcast." And you were very gracious, so I'm glad to be here.

Annie: I love it, and it was... I mean, that is the best thing about those award shows, is like you make new friends, you see your friends. You cross people on stage, and they are like, "Let's hang out?" "Okay, let's hang out." I loved it. Was that your first time at the K-Love's?

Dallas: Absolutely. Yeah, I mean, I'm not a musician, so I've never been to those things. And when we got the invite, it was honestly like, "Oh, let's see if we can make time for it." I didn't know, I mean, most award shows that aren't the big famous ones are usually, I've done a few that are not great. And this one I was blown away, it was truly something, so it was fun to be part of.

Annie: I've told people repeatedly that, one of my favorite things to watch was during commercial breaks, everyone was running to take pictures with you and Jesus. Like the people, all the nominated people, y'all were the ones that everyone wanted to be with.

Dallas: I mean, that was fun. But honestly, that weekend, and being there for the K-Love Awards was the first indication that I've gotten of where the show was starting to go.

Annie: Mh-hmm.

Dallas: Because I've been in a bit of a bubble, I've been so focused on making the show and getting season two done. And being at the K-Love Awards, and meeting fans for the first time, because again, when you do a show, like, an especially TV show, you're never with an audience.

Annie: Right.

Dallas: Like everyone watches it individually, and so we were seeing cool things on our social media and whatnot. But we weren't getting the kind of in-person feedback that a movie might get, or that a stand-up comic might get, or a musician might get. Combine that with COVID, where there were no in-person type events. The K-Love Awards was probably one of the first events of that size in the country.

Annie: Right.

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Dallas: And for us to get a chance to be there, and then to get the reception that we got was very eye opening, but humbling at the same time. So it was really cool thing to be a part of.

Annie: It is amazing, there are so many people I know who aren't Christians that watch *The Chosen*.

Dallas: Yeah.

Annie: Why is that? Why are people watching it that don't believe everything we believe?

Dallas: Well, I think it's the same reason why most of our cast and crew aren't necessarily believers, or at least weren't when they started doing the show.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: I think that it's one of those weird things, that it's a Jesus show, and we hear this all the time, it doesn't feel preachy, it doesn't feel like a Christian show. Which is so funny, because the word Christian comes from Christ, and it's a show about Christ, and Jesus actually preaches in the show.

Annie: Right.

Dallas: And there's Bible stuff in the show, I mean, it's the most on the nose Christian project ever, because it's about Jesus.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: But I feel like when we're writing it, and I hope this comes across the right way. When we're writing the show, and making the show, we're not ever thinking of it like, "Okay, we need to make a show that's going to change people's lives for Jesus."

Annie: Mh-hmm.

Dallas: We're, it's so hard to make a good TV show, that all we're focused on when we're making it, is how do we make the best possible show? How do we make a show that I would want to watch, if I was at home with my wife binge-watching TV shows, which we love to do? And that's

where the show was actually birthed was, at the time, I was doing a short film for my church about the birth of Christ.

I was also binge-watching all my favorite shows, and all the great shows from the last 10 years. We're actually in a golden age of quality television. Now, that doesn't necessarily mean it's appropriate all the time. But my wife and I were binge-watching shows all the time. And I'm like, "How come there's never been a multi-season show about Jesus?" Like, think of all the stories we can explore and develop. And all the backstories, and all the character development that we can do that I've never seen before in a Jesus project.

And I think because the show isn't influenced by previous Jesus projects, and I'm not insulting any of them, a lot of them are fantastic. But it's influenced by some of the great TV shows that I've watched myself and getting really excited about. That's been our primary focus when we're making it.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: Now, as a believer, and as I have a larger mission in my life, and of course, I'm glad that my career and my project is pointing people to Jesus. But when I'm making it, I'm trying to just do something that's really difficult, which is make a good TV show. So I think, I know, this is a really long answer to your question, but I think what appealed to the actors who came on board, and to my non-believing friends, and people that we've heard from is, it feels like a normal show.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: And the Jesus stuff is just an inherent organic part of that. But it doesn't feel like we're trying to kind of do an end-around to teach you some lesson. We're just showing what Jesus said and showing what Jesus did. And giving you a lot of human elements to it as well, from the disciples to everybody else. And it's just, I don't know, I was influenced by like *Friday Night Lights*, which is like one of my favorite TV shows of all time. More than it was influenced by a church video I saw when I was growing up, if that makes sense.

Annie: Yeah, totally. Why did it not matter to you that the whole crew and cast be believers? Why was it cool that you didn't have everybody believing the same thing?

Dallas: Well, because, there's a couple of reasons. I mean, the same reason it wouldn't necessarily matter to me if the architect for my house was a believer or not. I just really would want to make sure I had the best house.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: Structurally sound house. If I was getting surgery, I wouldn't necessarily before I went in for surgery say, "Now, do you believe Jesus is the Son of God and the savior of mankind."

Annie: Yeah. Right.

Dallas: I would be like, "Did you take eight-years of classes, and do you have your PhD?" And so when we're casting for a television show, the first and foremost thing that we want to know is are you a good actor, and can you portray this part really well? That's not to say that Christians can't be great actors, and there are several believers who are actors in the show, for sure. And I think there are some moments that it would be hard for me to imagine someone pulling off if they weren't a believer.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: But I don't know, I don't know, I don't really think about that. I mean, Jonathan Roumie is a very strong born-again Catholic. And that may or may not be part of what makes him so great in the role, I don't know.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: But that's not my number one priority for the purposes of the show. Now, relationally speaking, of course, I care about my friends, and I want them to know and love the same Jesus that I do. But also, that's another opportunity for the show, I mean, all these actors and crew members are going to do projects throughout their career.

And if one of those projects can be a show about Jesus, and if they can learn more about Jesus and the Bible by doing the show, that's a great opportunity. And I don't require anything of them, I'm not casting them saying, "Right now, by season three, I'm going to turn them into a Bible-believing Christian."

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Annie: Right.

Dallas: That's not part of the contract or anything like that. But it is a cool opportunity for them to work on a project like this. They love it as an opportunity to work with someone like myself, who I hope, because of my faith is going to have their best interests at heart. And treat them maybe differently than they might be treated by people who don't have their best interests at heart.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: But I see it as an opportunity, not as a something that we have to overcome, you know, the fact that they're not believers I think, it's a great opportunity.

Annie: What's the main difference between season one and season two?

Dallas: Oh, that's a great question. I've never been asked that before, and that's why your podcast is the way it is.

Annie: My dad loves it when people say, "That's a great question." It like makes my dad so happy.

Dallas: Oh, I don't know, as it should. I think season two has more scope for sure. I mean, the set, we filmed half the season on this set in Utah, that is like, unbelievable-

Annie: Oh, yeah, I've see it on your Instagram, I mean, it's just like incredible. The land, just so much land.

Dallas: Yeah, well, have you ever been to Israel?

Annie: Yes.

Dallas: Okay. So one of the things that I'm guessing you felt when you're in Israel as a believer, especially, is there was probably some great moments. Because people tend to have great moments there, and I did, too. But there's also sometimes some disappointment, because you're like, "I want it to look and feel like what it looked and felt like when Jesus was here."

Annie: Totally.

Dallas: But there's, it's like a big tourist destination now.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: And most of the great spots that you could go to have churches built on top of them.

Annie: Yeah, that's right.

Dallas: And so it's hard to find some moments like what you can find when you go to, for example, like the Garden of Gethsemane, which still does have that feel to it. And there are certain spots where you can go. Well, when we went to this set in Utah, this kind of recreation of Jerusalem. I almost felt it was more like first century would have looked like, than I did when I was in Israel, at least in some spots, so it was really powerful to do that, so that's one piece of it.

But our approach to every season is going to be the same. We're still just trying to be honest, and intimate, and human, and raw, and real. We're not trying to necessarily make a big epic show. We're not trying to have all these Hollywood bells and whistles that traditionally you would see, partially because we don't have \$10 million an episode, but also just because that's the story we're trying to tell. Like even our quote-unquote biggest moments are ultimately about the intimacy that Jesus pursued with each person that He encountered. So from that perspective, it's not different.

But in season one, it was about kind of the initial calling of our main characters like Simon, and Matthew, and Mary Magdalene, and whatnot. Season two is, "Right, now that we're following Jesus, this is going to be really fun and exciting, and we're following the Messiah isn't that great?" And season two is like, "Not really, it's not at all what you expect it to be."

Annie: Right.

Dallas: And so a lot of the season two episodes are, "What does it look like now that we've made the decision to follow? And what happens when our expectations are crumbled?"

Annie: Mh-hmm.

Dallas: That's really, Levi Lusko, was actually a guest on one of our live streams. And he had this great quote about how, I think, it was Chesterton maybe or Bonhoefer, I don't remember, some great Christian leader who said, "Church is where your dreams go to die, and that's a good thing." And I think that's what some of this was, our heroes, our disciples, had all these great like plans for what following the Messiah would look like. Were like, "We're going to overthrow the Romans."

Annie: Right.

Dallas: "And all our dreams are going to come true, and things are going to be better now." And He's like, "No, I don't actually promise any of that, I just want your heart." And so that's what season two is about.

Annie: How are you different, now, when you're at the end of season two than you were when you started this thing?

Dallas: Oh, gosh, yeah. I'm what my wife calls, I'm on what my wife calls the manna program.

Annie: Uh huh.

Dallas: In the Old Testament, the Israelites every day would come out for their daily manna, and God would provide this daily bread for them. That's where actually the phrase in the famous prayer comes from, "Give us this day our daily bread."

Well, in the Old Testament, God had the Israelites every morning go out, and He would have man on the ground for them. And He said, "Don't store up any of it, because if you do, I'm going to make it rot." He didn't want them to kind of store up all this extra that they could just rely on when they needed to. He wanted them, every day, hands outstretched for their daily manna, and that's something that's really hard for me to do.

I'm someone who has read all the business books and believes in kind of what's your five-year plan, and where you're going to be in five years? But it'd be good to have season three and season four locked up, so I can start to get comfortable, and just relaxed, and just focus.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: And I no longer am on that program. Now I'm on just the "All right, God each day, like what have you got for me? I want to be where you have me." And then we're on what my wife also calls, my wife is really, really smart and intuitive to what God has for her. So she comes up with all these lessons that I have to constantly learn. And the other one is a Red Sea moment.

Annie: Mh-hmm.

Dallas: Which is when the Israelites were at the edge of the Red Sea, and the Egyptians were coming up, and intending to capture and kill them. And the only way out was through the Red Sea.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: And God parted the waters. Well, that moment where you're stuck going, "There's only one way out, and it's through this ocean that I can't cross." Being comfortable in that moment, because God continues to part the waters for you is what the story of *The Chosen* is.

Annie: Wow.

Dallas: Every single like week, there's something where we just go, "Aha, this is another Chosen Red Sea moment, I guess we just have to be comfortable in this spot." And for over 40 years of my life, I was not comfortable with this spot. For over 40 years of my life, I felt responsible for the results of things, I felt responsible to try to part waters. I felt responsible to store up bread, to be comfortable.

And I'm just getting in that place of like, "All right, none of my usual business tricks or lessons that I've learned are going to apply in this case." And I'm learning to really surrender, and trust, and be broken and not care about results, and not care about success. And my definition of success has changed, and so, I mean, we could spend a whole other podcast on all the lessons Dallas has learned from *The Chosen*. But it's all about, they're all come back to the same thing; less of me more of Him, brokenness, surrender, humility, all of that stuff.

Annie: Right.

[00:17:26] <Music>

Annie: Hey friends, just interrupting this conversation real quick to share about another one of our incredible partners, Prose. Prose is the world's most personalized hair care. They combine natural ingredients in innovative ways, giving you clean haircare and impeccable results.

Those ingredients are the reason Prose formulas offer new answers to individual hair needs not the same old mass solutions. I use a personalized formula of both shampoo and conditioner from Prose, y'all talk about my hair a lot on Instagram, and I appreciate it. But it's because Prose has been absolutely amazing for my hair, making it so shiny and smooth. It smells delicious, you don't even know that through Instagram, but it does. And it feels great on top of making it so full and so strong, it's like a spa treatment for your hair.

The way Prose comes up with a formula that's right for you, is through a brief online quiz you take its super simple to fill out. Answering questions about the climate where I live, my eating habits, how damaged my hair was et cetera. But by analyzing over 85 personal factors, Prose determines a unique blend of ingredients to treat your exact concerns.

I love that they're always looking to provide quality and further personalization with their Review and Refine feature. It lets you tweak formulas for any reason like if you have a change of address, you get your hair colored, or if your diet changes. As a Carbon Neutral Certified B Corp, Prose is an industry leader in clean and responsible beauty. And all their ingredients are sustainably-sourced, ethically-gathered, and cruelty-free.

They're also the first custom beauty brand to go carbon neutral, how cool is that? And they stand by their products. So if you're not 100% positive Prose is the best haircare you've had, they will take their products back, no questions asked. Prose is the healthy hair regimen with your name all over it.

So take your free in-depth hair quiz and get 15% off your first order today. Go to prose.com/thatsoundsfun. That's prose.com/thatsoundsfun for your free in-depth hair quiz, and 15% off which is awesome. So prose.com/thatsoundsfun. Prose has given over 1 million consultations

with their in-depth hair quiz, and you should be next, go try it out. Now back to our conversation with Dallas Jenkins.

[00:19:38] <Music>

Annie: I mean that is so profound, to me in the seat I'm sitting in and stuff going on in my life of how much God keeps saying to me, "I'll give you enough today. I'll give you what you need for today." So for all of our friends listening, Dallas, by like 3:00 p.m., when you feel like you've run out of what God has for you today, what do you do?

I mean, because it's one thing for me to get up in the morning, and to have my time in the Bible, and I read it, yes, I feel today, I can do today. And then I get to, now, I get to three o'clock and I'm like, "I'm out, I'm run out." What do you do? Does that happen to you, too? What do you do?

Dallas: Well, I think, in my case, and this doesn't apply to everybody, of course. But I'm a husband and I'm a father, and just two and a half weeks ago, we moved to Texas. And so as I talk to you now, I'm sitting in a kind of a hastily-assembled mini studio, in a house that's on Salvation Army camp grounds. Which is where we're currently building sets for season three and beyond.

Annie: Oh, my gosh.

Dallas: My house, the rental house that we're in, my kids are all there, and it's all packed and it's small, and so I have to kind of get away to just to do this conversation with you. And my two youngest are going to be going to a brand new school here in a couple of weeks. And my oldest are going into-

Annie: Where'd y'all move from?

Dallas: From Illinois.

Annie: Okay. Okay.

Dallas: And, yeah, I mean, by the time 3:00 p.m. comes around, I may be filled up, but I've also then got to deal with Texas heat. Which that in and of itself is its own-

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Annie: Draining?

Dallas: ...its own Red Sea moment.

Annie: Absolutely.

Dallas: So I believe that if you really do have your hands outstretched, and you say, "Look, all right, there's certain things that I do, I'm responsible for." I mean, it's not like God says, "I'm going to do everything." I mean, He's still demands quite a bit of us, and we still do our part. And you, Annie, I mean, you have a podcast and a business, and you have employees, and so there's plenty for you to do to keep that going.

But there's that piece, where the God part really does come in where you go, "All right, I don't know where this is going to go in a couple of weeks. I don't know where this is going to go in a year. None of my plans necessarily, or my goals are necessarily being realized in the way that I thought they're going to be in." That's the trust part.

Annie: Mh-hmm.

Dallas: But I still think there's plenty for us to do if we're looking for opportunities to serve or to give, or to lead, or to serve. I keep saying serve, because that's the number one thing that keeps coming up.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: I can't say when three o'clock comes around, I'm stuck without much to do. I think there's always plenty to find if I'm looking for it and if I'm open to it, especially when you're a husband, father, wife, mom, whatever.

Annie: Totally. Yeah, I feel like I've run out of God juice before I run out of things to do on my-to-do list sometimes.

Dallas: Yeah, I for sure forget often, who's in charge of all this, and where I'm supposed to be deriving my strength from. And the reason I know I forgot that often is because God and my wife remind me continuously.

And I think if you go too long without remembering that, God will either take something away from you or put something in your path,

and get you at the edge of the Red Sea. Because that's where He wants you.

Annie: Yeah. I mean, your whole family now has given everything for *The Chosen*. I mean, from what you're telling me, everybody moved, all the kids came and your wife, and y'all left your friends. And what's it like now in Dallas... I don't know where you are in Texas, I don't want to tell your address. But what's it like now in Texas, what was it like to make that decision to give up your life for this?

Dallas: It really is one of those kind of bittersweet things, because my kids do appreciate, and I share with them frequently for this very purpose-

Annie: Mh-hmm.

Dallas: ...the impact that the show is having. When we hear from someone who says, "My family has changed because of the show." Or "The bitterness that I had towards my faith, or towards the church, or towards God. Or the depth of separation I had from Jesus for years, or the abuse that I faced that hardened me or that broke me. And from watching your show and seeing the characters in this show be redeemed, and to know that I can experience the same thing." Every day that happens.

And I share that with my family everyday because I want them to participate in that, the rewards of the sacrifices that we're making. So on that end, on that side, they do appreciate it.

Annie: Sure.

Dallas: And it does mean something to them. But then they will sometimes say things like, "*The Chosen* sucks sometimes."

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: Like there are times when it's like, "Yeah, I miss my friends right now." Or "I'm going to this new school and I don't know anybody yet, and it's because of *The Chosen*."

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: But here's the good thing about it. The reason that is, part of it but not the whole thing, is because they saw three and a half years ago, when

the movie that I made bombed at the box office, and I didn't know if I was going to make another movie again.

Annie: Right.

Dallas: And they saw when I left my job, because we knew we were supposed to, but we didn't know what the future held. And there was six months where we didn't have income or benefits, but we were part of a Christian health share plan. And at that moment, when I left my job and benefits, literally in the next five months, we had more health crises, and health expenditures than we've had in 20 years combined previously.

Annie: Oh, my gosh!

Dallas: And I gathered my family at that time, and I said, "We genuinely believe that God put us in this place. And so we're going to watch and see what God does to redeem this." Again, we didn't call it at the time the Red Sea moment. But we were like, "We believe this in everything in us. We don't know what the future holds, but we really do believe that God's going to do something, because we believe He put us here."

Annie: Mh-hmm.

Dallas: And so instead of trying to hide that from my kids, which sometimes I think is a good thing to do. Sometimes your kids shouldn't be part of your financial crises, and shouldn't bear the same stresses, and weights that you and your spouse, or if you're single you do. But in this case, we just really felt like, "No, they should know what we're going through, because we believe genuinely that God is doing this for a purpose."

So when they saw what God really did, and through that, this isn't a commercial for Samaritan Ministries, but it was the Christian health share plan that we were part of. That was a symbol for what God was doing, and not only with our health, but with my career.

And so when *The Chosen* started to develop, slowly, and they saw the pain that we went through. And they saw me working 18-hours a day, and they saw the sacrifices we were making. But when they started to see that turnaround, and they started to see the results of that, it really was for my kids, "Okay, we've been here before. And yes, this is

difficult, but the promises that God makes when we truly do surrender to Him we've seen them over, and over, and over.

We've seen the Red Sea part over and over again. We believe that when it comes to showing up to school here in the fall, when we don't know anybody, that will be better than we expect, because other things have been as well." I don't know if that makes sense or not? But that's-

Annie: Yes, I mean, it's just a beautiful-

Dallas: ...that does make it easier.

Annie: ...job you are modeling so beautifully, discipling your children in faith and in believing that God is who He says He is. I think that sounds amazing how y'all have invited them in, when you didn't know where the story was going.

Dallas: Yeah, and not everyone's story is the same. And not everyone's career failure leads to something like *The Chosen*-

Annie: *The Chosen*, yeah.

Dallas: You know, but I was sharing this principle, and I was speaking to people, and I was doing interviews after my movie failed, and I was like, before *The Chosen* even was launched. Because that lesson that God taught me in that failure, I had someone reach out to me in the middle of my pain, and say, "Remember, it's not your job to feed the 5000, it's only your job to provide the loaves and fish."

Annie: Wow.

Dallas: And that person who was on the other side of the world, when they texted me at four o'clock in the morning. Someone I'd never met, and God had really laid it on their heart to tell me that. That principle, and I said, "Okay, all right, I will only now, from now on I will only concentrate on making the best five loaves and two fish that I can make," as cheesy as that sounds.

Annie: No, that's beautiful.

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Dallas: "I'm going to only focus on that, and I'm going to give those to God. And if He deems I'm worthy of acceptance, then the transaction is over."

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: And whether He feeds the 5000 with it or not is not up to me. And that principle applies to your career, it applies to your family, it applies to whether you're moving. If you really can get to that place where you are genuinely focused on the day-to-day, and serving the Lord in whatever way He asks you to serve. And making sure that you're not focused on the results, the results may be different for some people than they are for others.

And in my case, obviously, *The Chosen* has proven to be, and has had significant success quote-unquote for whatever that means. But the principle applied a year before *The Chosen* even existed. I was just like, "All right from me, from now on my family and I we are going to be on the loaves and fishes plan, the manna of program," or whatever you want to call it, all these phrases that sound like, they sound like bumper stickers.

But when you truly do apply them they become superpowers. Because you go, "I really don't care whether or not this is successful in the world's eyes, I'm just going to grind through it and make sure that I'm looking up when I'm doing it."

Annie: Yeah, man, we need that reminder, because so many of us, my friends listening to me, we don't have *The Chosen* part of the story yet. So there's so many of us that are in the failure part, or in the starting part, or in the exciting part. And it's scary to invite people in because you don't want people to see things not go well. But it's also the only time you see the Red Sea part is if you're standing at the edge of it.

Dallas: Yeah, and inviting people to that place, and I mean, that's one of the things that's so great about your podcast, honestly, is and a lot of the things that you say, is you do invite people into your process. And what I'd think we suffer from a lot, especially Christians, because we're trying so hard to communicate joy, and we're trying so hard to communicate peace, and understanding, and great things that we don't want to air the dirty laundry, because that might turn people away.

And I think the opposite is actually true. I think that's, not to bring this to the show, but I think that's one of the things that resonates with people about the show, is we do show you the before. We do, if you watched season one especially, and now that you watch season two, even that they're following Jesus, we show. This ain't always fun, this ain't always going to be easy, and in fact it's, oftentimes, it's extremely painful.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: And the key is to differentiate between joy and happiness. Because happiness is something that comes and goes, and sometimes can be based on, in my case where the Cubs win or lose. But joy is one of those things that, for me, one of the most joyous moments of my life, was in the six months after my movie failed, and I didn't know if I was ever going to make another movie again.

Annie: Wow.

Dallas: And it's out of that, that I did a short film for my Church's Christmas Eve service, which felt like a big step down from a big Hollywood movie that I had done. I'm shooting a Christmas, birth of Christ short film on my friend's farm, 20 minutes from my house in Illinois, for my Church's Christmas Eve service. And that short film is what ultimately led to the crowdfunding of season one, and birthed the entire Chosen project. And I think that's...

But my joy and my perspective has not changed one iota, if anything, it's been proven. Since that moment, when I was on my friend's farm going, "Man, this little thing I'm doing for my church doesn't feel as big as the Hollywood movie I was doing, but then I'm more joyous and have more peace than I ever did."

Annie: Man, that's incredible. That is such a gift, because as we watch *The Chosen* knowing these things going on in the background in your life, actually make all the Jesus parts feel more beautiful. Because you're like, "Man, all the people who are behind this, are having to live this before they can even make this episode."

Dallas: Oh, that's such a great point, because and here's what's funny about it, Annie, is my story is actually quite similar to a lot of the actors.

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Annie: Really?

Dallas: Like, this is, I'm not telling tales out of school, I mean, a lot of these actors have said this in public.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: But like Liz Tabish, who plays Mary Magdalene, has said multiple times that she had just like two weeks before she got the script for *The Chosen*, told her agent, "Don't submit me anymore, I'm giving up in the business." She was at an extreme low point, she was struggling with depression. And then her agent, when her agent saw the script for *The Chosen* was like, "So, I got to get this to her." And Liz was like, "I don't want to read it." And then you know, fell apart reading it on her bed, reading that first script.

Paras Patel, who plays Matthew, has said the same thing. He was like "I was in a struggle in my career, I didn't know where I was going next." I mean, *The Chosen* is this collection of so many people, more than anyone, myself, me more than anyone, of people who are like, "We don't know if we have another project to do in this business. We don't know where our future is. We're literally, just kind of like broken, surrendered hands out." And so many people have the same story, and have come together on the show. And I do think that there's something to that.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: I think there's something to, like when you watch the show, I think there's an authenticity that comes from that place.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: That I think isn't being faked, and I think that's part of it, I do.

Annie: One of our friends from our AFD Week in Review email, submitted a question for you. I love this question, and you kind of walked me right into it. Jen asked, "If there's a disciple you are growing to identify the most with as you are making the show?"

Dallas: Yeah. So this is one question that I've been asked many times.

Annie: Oh, I'm sure.

Dallas: Not to dismiss the question at all, it's a great question. And I mean, this genuinely, first of all, it's hard to say because they're all my children, I feel like that in many ways. My co-writers and I, it'd be like choosing which of your kids you love the most.

Annie: You're like Annie, "I'm the most like Jesus, it's not a disciple it's Jesus.

Dallas: When you watch Jesus in *The Chosen*, you're looking at Dallas Jenkins.

Annie: This is what my wife experiences, this is what my kids experience, I'm just like, Jesus.

Dallas: Yes. No, but even when you have kids, you sometimes when you look at a certain kid, you go "Oh, yeah, that's me, I can see my DNA in that kid, more than almost any other kid." But here's the second point that I think is true, is *The Chosen* does actually reflect a lot of the DNA of myself and my co-writers, and those of us who are creating the show. In the sense of, I would say that each of the characters is rooted in some sort of experience that we've had.

Annie: Mh-hmm.

Dallas: I mean, when you look at, for example, like Simon and his wife Eden, now Eden isn't a character who you see in the Bible accounts. But we know that Simon was married because it mentioned his mother in law.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: And so a lot of those scenes in season one, where you're seeing them at home, some of their marital conflict and some of the victories that they had are rooted a lot in what my wife and I have experienced.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: And Mary Magdalene, I, of course, have never been demon possessed. But her vices that she was experiencing as a result of that, especially her alcoholism and her struggles that relapse that come back in season two. And that was, for some people, controversial, when we show Mary Magdalene kind of relapsing in some of her struggles.

Well, we did an interview after episode six, where my co-writer, Ryan

Swanson, who publicly has acknowledged this, again, I'm not telling tales out of school, I mean, he's 10-years sober, he was, for two years, a devastated alcoholic. I mean, where every morning he would wake up just dry heave, just to create room for more alcohol, and so some of that spoke into the story of Mary Magdalene in the show.

Annie: Mh-hmm.

Dallas: My own struggles that I've had, that I haven't denied, from several years ago. My own struggles with pornography, have been, I wouldn't say directly influenced into the show, of course. But like, anytime we show some of the disciples who are following Jesus, who are, you would think, life-long believers, like myself, should be at the top of their game, should have things running pretty smoothly. We show them struggling, we show them that not everything works out. They have vices, they have addictions, they have all of that maybe isn't directly tied to the specifics in the struggle that I've had, or that my co-writer has had, but those influences come into all of it.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: So all of the, answer to that, again, I'm so sorry, I keep giving you these really long answers to questions, but-

Annie: You're doing so great. That's exactly what I want to do, Dallas, I'm having a great time.

Dallas: Oh, well, I'm glad to hear it. But I'd say all of the characters have bits and pieces of all of us, and of each other. So hopefully we're founding each of these people in what we know of them from Scripture, that's kind of our first place that we start with. But of course, because there's so little in Scripture for so many of the people that we're portraying, the only choice we have is to be as human, and as real, and as authentic, as we can be. And the only experiences we can draw from our own. So I think that's what's going to have to be part of the show, moving forward as well.

[00:38:02] <Music>

Annie: Hey friends, just interrupting this conversation one more time, to tell you about another one of our amazing partners, Ritual. We deserve to know what we're putting in our bodies and why especially when it

comes to something we consume every day. That's one of the many reasons I love my Ritual multivitamins.

Even though we're very careful with the word "Should" around here, this is one time I'm okay using it. A multivitamin should contain key nutrients in forms your body can actually use, to help fill gaps in our diets, but they shouldn't have unnecessary extras, right? Rituals, delayed-release capsule design delivers high-quality nutrients, including Vitamin D3, in just two daily pills. I've been taking Ritual vitamins daily for a year now, and I love knowing what nutrients I'm getting, and where they come from. Ritual multivitamins are scientifically developed to help support different life stages, and they're now available for women, men, and teens.

They deliver straight to your door every month and shipping is always free. You can start, snooze, or cancel your subscription anytime, and if you don't love Ritual within your first month, they'll refund your first order. Get key nutrients without any of the stuff you don't need. Ritual is offering my friends 10% off during your first three months. Just visit ritual.com/thatsoundsfun to start your Ritual today. And now back to my conversation with Dallas Jenkins.

[00:39:23] <Music>

Annie: Simon is also my favorite, by the way, because he's always been my favorite disciple. And the guy who plays him, plays him exactly the way I believe being friends with Peter would be, and so I just love him.

Dallas: Yeah, Simon represents I think everyone needs to identify with some part of Simon, because Simon represents like he's the guy who will lead the charge. He will fight the battle, he will be the most loyal, the most passionate, he will love the best, but he also, while he's doing it, will knock over vases in the end of the job.

Annie: Yeah, that's right.

Dallas: You know like, "Damn it! Simon, Simon, chill out." And he's like, "I'm just trying to save the world here." And you're like-

Annie: I love him.

Dallas: Yeah, exactly.

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Annie: It's why I love Him.

Dallas: I love Simon too. And my wife is the one who I think, she would say, if you asked her, "Who do you identify with most?" She'd be like, "I think Simon." Because she loves passionately, but with passionate loving also comes occasional things get knocked over

Annie: With the way that people love *The Chosen* so far, do you see like way down in the future, do you think about doing Old Testament? Do you think about doing the Book of Acts? Are you going to keep going with Simon, and introduce Paul, and I mean, which way does this go? Does this go backwards or forwards?

Dallas: Yes.

Annie: Yeah, good answer, that's what I want to hear, Dallas.

Dallas: Well, if you've seen season one, I mean, we actually, and bits of season two have this two where we actually we'll open an episode sometimes with an Old Testament scene.

Annie: Mh-hmm.

Dallas: So you'll see, we've introduced Moses, we've introduced Jacob, we've introduced David. Because we believe that that's actually, one of the cool things about the Bible and this stories is how Jesus kind of continues this through-line of the story.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: And is the answer to some of the issues that Moses, and David, and Jacob, and others were facing. So that will continue to be a part of *The Chosen*, we will do these flashbacks, occasionally. We are doing seven seasons of the Jesus and His followers' story, so that's what *The Chosen* is. And we've said this publicly, you know, season six will cover the crucifixion, spoiler alert, Jesus does get crucified, and season seven will show the fun stuff that comes after that.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: That will be the end of the show, then I will take a nap for about a year.

Annie: Thank you, please do.

Dallas: Yes. And then if I believe that there's reason to do the Book of Acts, and to do more, and that the fans really want it, and God really seems to be calling my family and I to go into that again. I would absolutely love to do it, if the rest of my life, I don't do, career wise, more than tell Jesus stories that would be great.

Annie: So knowing that it has seven seasons, I've never written a book, or I've never done a creative venture, that I knew was a multi-part thing that was going to end. So is it different then when you do what, like, when you did your one movies, your one offs, is it different, knowing this is that long, but it does have an end? I'm not even sure I'm asking that question well. But I kind of want to know the spiritual practice, and the emotional practice of this is a long thing that will at some point end?

Dallas: Yeah, Annie's dad, your daughter just asked another good question. So, just doing that, and it's a question I haven't been asked before, so that's great. So for sure, the multi-part this is going to be seven-seasons part is massively different than what I've done before. Because you really do have so much time to develop storylines, and arcs, and backstories, and context, and left turns and right turns that you don't have time for in a movie.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: You know, when you look at all the Jesus movies and miniseries that have ever been made, and I've seen pretty much all of them. Some are great, some aren't, some are meaningful, some are less so. But all of them do suffer from, I believe this miracle-to-miracle, Bible-verse-to-Bible-verse approach. That where you can't get as much impact because especially, when you're seeing it through Jesus's eyes.

Annie: Right.

Dallas: So He goes and He heals the blind man. And then He goes and He heals the woman who has been bleeding for a long time. And then He goes and heals the cripple. And you don't know anything about their before, you don't know anything about their context. You don't identify with them on any level, you're just seeing these different stories. Because the Bible wasn't intended, I mean, the Gospels weren't

intended to be written as a TV show. It's essentially a greatest hit to show that Jesus was the Son of God.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: So having the time to really develop Simon, and Mary Magdalene, and Nicodemus, and even some of our supporting characters, and the Pharisees, and all of the people who oppose Jesus. Having that time is a huge, huge gift, and a huge opportunity to develop things in a way that we can't do in a movie. Now, that goes to then your part about knowing that it's going to end?

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: That's where the structure and the discipline comes into it.

Annie: Right.

Dallas: Because I do think, and I'm sure you would agree with this, there are shows that you have watched in the past that you really loved, that clearly didn't have an endpoint in mind.

Annie: Yes.

Dallas: And they started to wander, and then it wasn't until they got a deadline, like "All right, we're only doing two more seasons." Where the discipline came back, and they are like, "Okay, now we actually have to close off the story points."

You know, one of my favorite shows ever was *Lost*, and I think I've read books by some of the writers who said, "Yeah, there was a time when we didn't know the end, and the studio wanted us to go forever. And we were struggling to figure out how to solve some of these problems with an unlimited." And then they were the ones who said, "We need an ending, we need to know when this is going to end."

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: And the same thing with *Breaking Bad*, which is one of the great shows of all time. Same thing, Vince Gilligan, the writer/creator was like, "We need an endpoint." So it is a gift, but it's a gift in the sense that it provides you the discipline to not go too far off. And so my co-writers and I have mapped out on a large scale, where the show was going.

We know what season six is going to look like, we know what season seven is going to look like. And because of that, we know what we need to do in the seasons leading up to it, to make sure that those moments are earned. That we are making sure you love these people deeply, and so far it seems to be working. Because right now people who watch the show say, "Every time I think about what's coming, now that I know these people. Now that I've seen Jesus dance with his friends at a wedding, and tell a joke, and spend time like thinking of what's to come. Oh my gosh, I can't even deal with it. I know it's like it's going to be so devastating." And I'm like, "Awesome." Because-

Annie: You're a monster, Dallas.

Dallas: Yes. But so season six, I'm not even going to hide it is going to be-

Annie: The whole season is going to be the crucifixion is going to be brutal.

Dallas: ...absolutely brutal.

Annie: Holy cow.

Dallas: Absolutely brutal. Again, to be clear, it's not going to be eight episodes of violence porn or anything like.

Annie: Sure.

Dallas: But I'm just saying it's going to be emotionally exhausting, and painful. Because I think it should be. and I think we owe that to the story and to Jesus. But that's also what's going to make season seven so beautiful, and glorious, and joyful, and everything that goes into why we're doing the show in the first place.

Annie: Yeah. This is a weird question. But I would just like to ask, what do you think Jesus thinks?

Dallas: Oh, man. All right, you, again, great question. Your dad should be very proud.

Annie: Yes, thank you.

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Dallas: That's a really, really scary and beautiful question, and here's why; before this show launched, I hope I don't get too emotional telling this story. But before this show launched, I was in Magdala, which is Mary Magdalene's birthplace. And I was standing in a synagogue that they-

Annie: I've been there.

Dallas: ...uncovered only 20..., it's like 20 years old. I mean, they only knew about it 20 years, the synagogue itself is 1000s of years old. And that was when I had my first Israel, God-feeling, like, I'm standing in the place where Jesus stood moment, and I felt the true weight of it, it was a truly beautiful experience.

And my co-writers who went to Israel a year later. Independent of me, didn't know that I'd had this experience, had a very similar experience than I did. Which was like a truly, like, I haven't had these experiences too often in my life, but one of those where it's like, "God is here, and is saying something, and I know it as clear as if there was a megaphone from heaven."

And I was standing there in Magdala, in the synagogue, and I was thinking about Mary Magdalene, and I was thinking about her story. And I was thinking about the fact that she's been portrayed and written about, in many ways over the course of history that aren't accurate. You know she's been portrayed as a prostitute, which there's no indication that that's true, just to use that as an example.

And we know that in the gospels, when she's introduced, it said that she had seven demons cast out of her. And we were going to be portraying what her life looked like before she encountered Jesus. And we're going to be doing that for multiple disciples, and that was really scary. Because those people existed, and they were human beings, and their stories, in many ways, were going to be told in a way that they've never been told before, that was my intention. And I felt God laying strongly on my heart, "In five years," I take that back, because He didn't give any number.

Annie: Sure.

Dallas: He was like, "In a few years, when people think of the followers of Jesus, your show is going to be what comes to their mind."

Annie: Yes, it sure do.

Dallas: Because there's never been, like even as someone who's watched multiple Jesus projects in my life, I didn't have a picture in my mind of who these followers were. And whenever I read the Gospels it was always kind of these faceless people. And I got this impression that like the show is, in several years, is going to be what people think of when they picture my followers. "And I'm not going to let you screw it up."

Annie: Mh-hmm.

Dallas: And it was at the same time, the most scary, but also the most comforting and beautiful moment that I've faced. One of the most beautiful and scary moments at the same time, because I genuinely believed that, look, my show isn't the Bible. I'm not claiming that I'm inspired by God like the Bible, and so I'm not claiming my show on any level is God's word, it is not, it's a TV show. The Bible is God's word.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: But I do believe that God has something to say, and I'm doing my best to shepherd that and point people back to the Bible. And point people to who Jesus is as authentically as I possibly can, warts and all, and struggles and all, and in the hands of someone in mind, like myself, who is a flawed imperfect person. So I don't know what Jesus thinks of everything that I'm doing. But I do believe that because I am, every day, constantly broken by the fact that I want Him to be happy with it.

Annie: I know.

Dallas: That He's happy with that.

Annie: Yes.

Dallas: You know what I mean?

Annie: Yes, Dallas.

Dallas: I think He's happy with that. And I can't promise that He'll be happy with season three, I can't promise you that, I don't know. Because, but I know that He'll be happy if I'm giving Him my heart in it at every

stage, and then what happens with it? I can't predict, so I don't know, but I do believe He's happy with what-

Annie: I think so too.

Dallas: ...with the way we're doing it.

Annie: Yes.

Dallas: And I think, and I know He's happy with the millions of people who tell us explicitly, "I love Jesus now more than I ever have."

Annie: Yes.

Dallas: "And I'm reading the Bible now more than I ever have, and I'm back in church when I wasn't before." And I know He's happy with that.

Annie: Yeah, loaves and fishes.

Dallas: Yeah.

Annie: Loaves and fishes.

Dallas: He's happy with the loaves and fishes that I'm giving Him, yes, I believe that

Annie: I believe it too, Dallas. I wanted you to answer because I wanted you to answer, and I also wanted you to answer because I want to answer for you, and say you are doing gospel work that matters. There's no way, there's no way He's not loving it-

Dallas: I hope so.

Annie: ...I am sure of that. I just think, I mean, I'm teary saying that to you, I just think it is a gift at the right time. 10 years ago it wouldn't have been what it is, 10 years from now it wouldn't have been what it is, we needed *The Chosen* right now. So when our friends listening watch *The Chosen* or when they follow you on Instagram, when they see you, how can we pray for you and your family? What do you need some people to lift y'all up in, as you're doing this work for us?

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Dallas: Thank you. Well, from a family perspective this is I'm not complaining, I'm not whining, it's a gift of a lifetime to be given the opportunity to steward this project. But it's really, really hard, it's really hard, and it's hard on my family. And now, it gets harder by the year both physically and emotionally. Because the more people who are telling you, "This season changed my life," or "I was impacted by it." Or "My relationship with God is stronger because of the show." Then "When is season three coming out," is their next question.

Annie: Right

Dallas: And you're like, that's just emotionally weighty. Because when people come into our fold, I'm not a pastor, but when people come in kind of *The Chosen* fold, and they come into our fan club. Or they come into my text threads, or they read our devotional books that my wife and her writing partner have written, and our Bible studies and all that. And they're saying, like, "I'm new to this." Or, "Where do I go next?" Or, "Now that I love the show, what's next? How do I know Jesus better?"

We really feel the weight of that and want to do that right and want to shepherd that properly, so there's that piece of it. I do ask for prayer that, I and my wife, and my kids, but let's just start with my wife and me, never, ever lose what I'm describing to you in most of our conversation, which is this place of surrender and brokenness.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: I never want to care about the success of the show, or the impact of the show, or what's next, or how many seasons we're going to do? I never ever want to care about that, more than I do about making sure that God has my heart.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: And I think the moment that I start to, anything can happen, God could take this all away in a heartbeat, and He doesn't need me for it. So I just want to maintain that posture, and that's what we ask for prayer for. And I think then just from a strictly, from the show's perspective, we do tell people like pray that the cast and crew have an opportunity to keep doing this.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: You know, pray whether it's from the COVID of it all, from the weather of it all. I mean, we have so many moments when we're filming, where there's no guarantee that we're going to make the end of the day work. We've had so many moments where I have been like, "Oh my gosh, are we even going to be able to afford to do this scene?" I mean, season three, honestly, I mean, as I talk to you right now, season three isn't funded yet.

Annie: Wow.

Dallas: So, we rely solely on, because the show is free, the show is completely free. And we don't require even an email address for you to watch the show. And sometimes and our marketing team, our financial team, all that is like, "Can you at least ask people for their email address so that we can communicate with them?"

Annie: Help us! Help us!

Dallas: And I was like you know what... Yes, yes, exactly. And we're like, you know what, we're going to keep it free and we're never going to require anything of you. But on that note, if we are going to do future episodes and seasons. If we are going to market this to the rest of the world. If we are going to get it in every country, and if we are going to translate it into hundreds of languages. Right now season one is in I think, 50 or 60, if this is going to keep going, it does require people to step up. Whether it's through prayer, whether it's financially or whatever, and if God wills it, we would love to keep going.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: And so I think just prayer for the kind of the logistical nature of doing the show, we always need prayer for that.

Annie: Yeah. And we can watch it by downloading The Chosen app, correct? That's the best way to do it?

Dallas: Yeah, that's the best way. There are other ways to watch season one, season one we made available in as many outlets as possible. So there's multiple streaming platforms, where you're able to see season one. Just because we thought, "Look, let's just get season one out there, and hopefully, if people love the show, and they want to keep watching it,

they'll come to our app." The app is totally free.

So you go to wherever you get your phone apps, Apple, Android, whatever, you download it to your phone. If you think, "I don't want to watch a Jesus show on my phone," don't worry, neither do I. But our Angel Studio's distribution partners invented technology that allows you to cast it directly to your streaming device.

Annie: Yes.

Dallas: So you can watch it on Roku, Apple TV, Firestick, Chromecast, all of those, free and easy from your phone. You don't have to sign up for anything, you don't have to do anything, it's totally free and easy. I promise you it's much, and if you're scared of technology, I promise you it's much easier than you think.

Annie: It's so easy.

Dallas: And in the worst-case scenario, you can always get the DVDs if you want, which are also in the app and on our store, and all that but-

Annie: Oh, brilliant.

Dallas: Yeah, Chosen app free and easy, yeah, that's the way to do it.

Annie: That's awesome. Dallas, is there anything we didn't talk about that you want to make sure we cover? I mean, you're welcome back anytime, so we don't have to get it all. But is there anything you want to make sure we get on our first episode?

Dallas: I am well, hey, look, if you're promising that I get to come back, I will take you up on that.

Annie: Yes.

Dallas: But I am on your home turf, we'll talk about whatever you want to talk about. So if you're good, I'm good.

Annie: So the last question we always ask, Dallas, is because the show is called That Sounds Fun, tell me what sounds fun to you.

Dallas: Going to movies again-

Annie: Oh, me too.

Dallas: ...kind of sounds fun to me. And that's one of the cool things about moving to Texas. I know everyone has different perspectives on the COVID of it and all, and I'm not, I believe in everyone should do what they need to do. But for me, for our family, we love going to movies and being able to go back to movies, I love more than anything else, dinner and movie.

Annie: Yeah.

Dallas: That's like my favorite thing in the world, is being able to sit around and have the food brought to you.

Annie: Yeah, perfect. Do you like the theaters where they bring the food right to you?

Dallas: Well, yeah, when you can do it at the same time that's even better. But I'm saying even whether they do it or not, doing dinner and then going to a movie with my wife, and/or with my family is my favorite thing in the world.

Annie: I am, my group of friends and I are movie people, like we love going to movies. So having that coming back, and come back has been a real gift. Dallas, speaking of, you have been such a gift today, thank you for coming and talking to us about *The Chosen*. There are so many people, they want to talk to you really it's such an honor, thank you for doing this.

Dallas: Well, that means a lot to me to be on with you, thank you.

[00:58:35] <Music>

Annie: Oh, you guys, isn't he awesome? Man, what a great story, and if you haven't seen that he got to meet the Pope, you got to go back and look at his Instagram. Make sure you're following him, tell him thanks for being on the show. And be sure that you're tuning in to *The Chosen* which is available to watch for free and easy on *The Chosen* app, which connects to your streaming device, it's very helpful.

If you need anything else from me, you know I'm embarrassingly easy

to find Annie F. Downs on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), all the places you may need me that's where you can find me. And I think that's it from me today, friends go out or stay home and do something that sounds really fun to you, I will do the same. Have a great couple of days. And we'll see you back here on Wednesday with Bethany Barnard. See you guys then.

[00:59:20] <Music>