



St. Matthew's Cathedral eNews

Christ + Compassion + Community

From the Dean

The Year of the Bible?

"More Networks Jumping on the Bible Bandwagon"—[New York Times, March 13, 2015](#)

As the New York Times television critic states in his article, "Television is largely a godless place. . . but not this month. The leader of this trend is "A.D.: The Bible Continues." This is the sequel to "The Bible" which was wildly popular in 2014 (and the basis for our 2014 Lenten program). "A.D." begins with the crucifixion and resurrection and continues into the book of Acts.

You can see "A.D." on Sunday evenings on NBC. Touted as "The 'Game of Thrones' meets the Bible," it is quite good—although I have my nits to pick with it, as any biblical scholar would—I find it faithful to the Gospel narratives. Check it out: Sunday evenings at 8pm, Central Time. You can also see the previous installments online at nbc.com/ad.

CNN has produced "Finding Jesus: Fact, Faith, Forgery." The Weather Channel (really?) has weighed in with "Top 10: Bible Weather." "Seige of Masada," "Killing Jesus," and the list goes on and on.

What are we to make of this spate of Bible-themed TV shows?

Television networks don't air programs out of altruism. They expect people to be interested in the programs they produce. I believe it points to a hunger that people have for God. For the real thing. Overall church attendance is down. Yet, interest in spirituality is up. A growing number of Christians do not attend church because they find it boring, or mediocre, or full of guilt.

Yet, more people are open to conversations about spirituality than you would expect. When was the last time you had a substantive conversation with a person about your faith? What would you say if the topic were to come up? *Hint: One resource is to attend Bishop Stanton's class on the Resurrection of Jesus on Sunday morning.*