

Episode 53: *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs*

December 4, 2018



Tim Blake Nelson in *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs*

On this week's episode of Technicolor Jesus, Matt and Adam talk death, the wild West, Advent, and *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs*. In our first segment, Justification by Faith, Matt and Adam discuss what Joel and Ethan Coen's new film *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs* has to do with life, ministry, theology, and the world. Released on Netflix, *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs* tells six separate stories of the wild West connected thematically by questions of life, death, and human agency. In the second segment, Preaching to the Choir, Matt and Adam ask how *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs* might aid the understanding the lectionary texts for Advent 2, Year C. Specifically, Zechariah's song provides a rich background for talking about promise, finitude, and potential. Finally, in the last segment, Postludes, Adam rants about the NSA's favorite elf and Matt reflects on the movie that got away. So get out your cowboy hats and spurs, it's time for another episode of Technicolor Jesus.

NOTES:

[*Before the Birth of One of Her Children* by Anne Bradstreet](#)