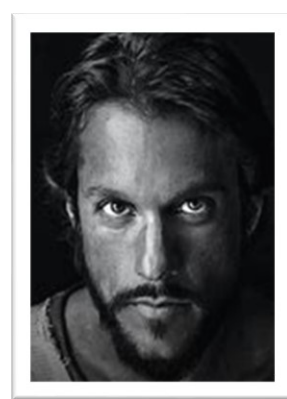


The Chosen. Introduction

The Main Beginning Characters



MARY MAGDALENE

Luke 8:2 ...” Mary called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out...”

Side Note: Lilith “Female Demons” or “Wind Spirits”

Culture that viewed women as less than men.

1. She was among the female disciples who traveled with Jesus and financially supported His ministry (Luke 8:1-3)
2. She was present at His crucifixion and burial (Matt. 27:56-61).
3. She was the first to witness the empty tomb (John 20:1) and meet the resurrected Jesus (John 20:11-18; Matt 28:1; Mark 16:1-6). And she got to tell the boys.

NICODEMUS

John 3:1 “ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.” Pharisees believed in the afterlife. Connected to the local synagogues and highly respected by the common people. Sadducees were the professional religious aristocracy connected to the temple, committed to the written law alone. They were resigned to submitted to Roman rule. They did not believe in the afterlife. Zealots were political activists organized to rebel the Romans and against Jewish leaders who cooperated with Rome. Quintus comments on Sadducees(Acts 23:1-10). Nicodemus was among the few men of influence to admit what His miracles and otherworldly teaching meant: Jesus came from God (John 3:2)

MATTHEW

Matthew 9:9 “As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth.” He is also known as Levi (Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27) Tax collection booth was in Capernaum, the place for the launch of Jesus ministry. Matthew was a faithful follower the rest of his life (Matthew 10:3)

SIMON (aka Simon Peter)

Matthew 4:18 “While walking by the Sea of Galilee, [Jesus] saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fisherman.”

Peter lived in Capernaum (Mark 1:21-29). Brother Andrew (Matt. 4:18; Mark 1:16) He was married (Matt. 8:14; Mark 1:30; Luke 4:38). Simon Peter is described as an overly confident man who seemed to think he could earn his worth and who sometimes spoke with little forethought (Matt 16:21-23; 26:31-35, 69-75). Jesus was patient with him (Luke 22:31-32). Simon Peter became the key leader among the 12 apostles (Acts 1-12), bedrock preacher of the early church (Matt. 16:18). Peter wrote two books of the Bible (1 and 2 Peter), healer of the sick and lame (Acts 5:15) and fearless unto death (John 21:15-19).

Big Picture Questions

- A) What struck you as you watch and reflected on The Chosen episodes, what stood out for you?
- B) What did you noticed about the cultural value systems and the times in which Jesus lived--- whether Jewish or Roman?
- C) What were some contemporary expectations the Jews had of the promised Savior/Messiah?
- D) What is your one BIG question from this episode? What captured your imagination most, and what would you ask God about the events portrayed?

Season 1 Episode One: You Are Called

Enter into the story of the ordinary people who surrounded Jesus. Sinners who spent time with the one Man who understood them and would eventually die for them. These are the stories of rebuke and hope, of sin and forgiveness, Yes, their story is ours. You'll meet the people who loved Him, served Him, and followed Him, seeing the Savior through their eyes as you consider who He is and why He came. And the questions meant to help you move forward in your faith are challenging enough to do just that.

As you've heard it said: Every follower of Jesus has a not-so-great "before": A rash, brash fisherman. A pious, fancy-pants religious leader. A thieving, indifferent-to-suffering tax collector. A demon-possessed woman so insignificant that her "before" isn't even recorded and we're left to surmise what it might have been. And yet God calls people in the "before"--when they aren't even aware they're simply broken versions of themselves. God calls people before He begins His transformative work of redemption because He see past the "before" to what He purposed and planned. He sees past the "before" to those He loves enough to call His own. (Hubert, 2020, p. 2)

Scriptural References

*Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.
For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior..."* Isaiah 43:1-3

Mark 16:9; Luke 8:1-3; John 3:1

Characters

Nicodemus, Matthew, Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, and Andrew

Summary

We are introduced to Mary Magdalene and a few of the disciples, getting to know them before they meet Jesus. The Pharisee Nicodemus attempts to exorcise a demon-possessed woman in Capernaum's Red Quarter named "Lilith" but is unsuccessful, causing him to question his faith. The brothers Simon and Andrew, who are fisherman, struggle with their tax and gambling debts. Following a failed suicide attempt, "Lilith" returns to her father, who is unable to help. As she is leaving, she encounters Jesus Christ, who identifies himself as the Creator of humanity and calls her by her true name.

Quotable Quotes

"What do we do when we are scared? We say the words...Adonai's words from the prophet Isaiah: "Thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you. O Israel. Fear not for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name, you are Mine. " [as a child-Mary Magdalene and her father]

What if it's more beautiful and stranger than we could ever imagine?" [Nicodemus]

Questions For Group Discussion- Episode One

- 1) What did you think of how Matthew the tax collector and Simon Peter were portrayed?
- 2) What did you think about how enticing wealth was for Matthew and yet how hated he was for his willingness to work for Rome and extorted his fellow Jews?
- 3) What were your impressions of Nicodemus and his helplessness before the demon-possessed Lilith/Mary Magdalene?
- 4) We are being shown each character's "before Jesus" life. What does an encounter with Jesus do to people? What do you think an encounter with Jesus looks like today? How can an encounter with Jesus change you?
- 5) What parts of your "before" has God redeemed and which are you most grateful for?
- 6) How does "I have called you by name, you are mine" impact you today?
- 7) Redeemed, called by name. How can we remind ourselves of this truth and live it out practically?
- 8) What do you fear, and how does Isaiah 43:1, this declaration made by God to His chosen ones-affect your fear?

Episode 2- You Rest (Shabbat)

Jesus is looking for people who are willing to run to Him, to fall on their faces, to repent, surrender, and worship because of who He is, and to learn and grow in a faith that remains even when the miracles cease. Jesus knew what was in people's hearts—it's the reason He came. And so, true believers aren't just in it for the miracles; they have been fundamentally and irrevocably changed by Jesus Himself, making relationship with Him the ultimate prize.

We've all been delivered from things. Our mothers delivered us from their wombs. Good explanations delivered us from confusion. Time delivers us from our pasts. It's a continual process, deliverance. It comes in all shapes and forms and ranges from significant events to the familiar moments that slip by quietly. Mary Magdalene knew this as well. (Hubert, 2020, p. 3)

Learn more about Shabbat: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shabbat>

Scripture

Genesis 2:1-3

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Proverbs 31:10-31

Mark 3:16-18

John 1:46

Revelations 3:20

Matthew 17:24-27

Matthew 18:15-17

Characters

Nicodemus; Matthew; Mary Magdalene; Simon Peter and Andrew

Summary

The Shabbat/Sabbath shared from different perspectives. In this episode, we see Jesus perform a miracle that the holy leaders cannot. We also get a little more background on the difficulties of being Jewish and living under Roman rule. Matthew validates Simon's arrangements with Praetor Quintus, Nicodemus investigates the miracle reported in the Red Quarter. We learn more about the characters who will follow the great rabbi from Nazareth, and we learn a little more of Him, as well.

Questions for Group

- 1) We rest and honor family, our people, and God on the Sabbath. We refresh our soul. Rest is a restorative gift. How are you utilizing it? How could you be utilizing it more?
- 2) Which Shabbat was Jesus a part of? What would your Shabbat look like?
- 3) How do you feel about the development of Peter's character? And Andrew role?
- 4) Why was Nicodemus so shocked about the news of Mary Magdalene being seen in her right mind?
- 5) When a miracle happens, are you one to question every detail, or just enjoy and celebrate it?
- 6) How did you feel seeing Mary in her right mind, knowing it was her encounter with Jesus that delivered her?
- 7) Simon (Peter) said to his wife Eden, "I've got this. When was a time in your life that you thought you could control your circumstances only to see them spin out of your control?"
- 8) Simon Peter and Andrew were in a tough position, what do you think about how they handled it?
- 9) Mary hosts her first Shabbat meal (Sabbath) How did that impact you? Seeing her turn to God and be so welcoming of others?

Quotes

"I don't understand it myself. I was one way and now I'm completely different. And the thing that happened in between was Him. So yes, I will know Him for the rest of my life." [Mary Magdalene]

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Watch on Peacock Streaming. Free. Search for The Chosen

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