

The CHOSEN

Episode 2 Guide

Length of episode: 37 minutes

Key Bible Verse

Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. - Matthew 11:28-30

Meet the Characters



Mary Magdalene – *Luke 8:2-3, John 19:25-27, John 20:1-18*

One of several women mentioned in Luke 8:2-3 who had been “cured of evil spirits and diseases” and were following Jesus. She had been delivered from seven demons. She is there with Jesus at the cross and is the first one Jesus appears to when He is risen.

Nicodemus – *John 3:1-21, 7:45-52, 19:38-42*

A Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin, the supreme religious and political council in Jerusalem during New Testament times. His encounter with Jesus in John 3 is the occasion for the well-known verse John 3:16. He boldly helps to bury Jesus after the crucifixion.



Matthew – *Luke 5:27-32*

Also known as Levi, he was a despised tax collector when Jesus called him from his tax booth to follow Him as one of the 12. He “left everything and followed him” and invited many friends and co-workers to a dinner with Jesus. He also wrote the gospel of Matthew.

Peter – *John 1:40-42, Luke 5:1-11, Matthew 16:13-28, Mark 14:66-72*

A fisherman known as Simon until Jesus renames him. He is brought to Jesus by his brother, Andrew, and follows Jesus after a miraculous catch of fish. He is well known for walking on water, slicing off a soldier’s ear, denying Jesus before the cross, and writing 1 & 2 Peter.



Andrew – *John 1:40-42, 6:8-9*

One of the first to follow Jesus and known for bringing his brother to Jesus right away. Together with Peter along with fellow fishermen James and John, he leaves everything to follow Jesus after the miraculous catch. He also plays a key role in the feeding of the 5,000.

Wait – is that in the Bible?

Were the disciples as young as Matthew looks?

The best insight we have into their age is from Matthew 17:24-27, where only Jesus and Peter among the disciples pay the temple tax required of those age 20 and older. This leads many to think the others were younger than 20.

Did the Jews save a seat for Elijah during the Passover?

Yes, traditionally Jews do this during Passover (not every Sabbath) to honor the expectation that Elijah would come again to prepare the way for Messiah (Malachi 4:5). Jesus indicates in Matthew 11:14, however, that John the Baptist fulfilled this expectation, at least in part.

Did Peter really betray the other fishermen?

There is no record of this in Scripture, but it is not an unfair development of Peter's character given what we observe of his behavior in the gospels.

Did Matthew approach Rome with concern about Peter?

There is no record of this, although Matthew could have been acquainted with Peter and Andrew in Galilee.

Is the wife of Nicodemus in Scripture?

She is not mentioned in the gospels at all, but her character in *The Chosen* does help to demonstrate the contrast there could have been between Nicodemus and others in his circle.

Discussion Questions

1. What is one question you have about the Bible, Jesus, or other characters as a result of watching this episode?
2. What do you think of how several Sabbath dinners were highlighted at the end? What is the significance of Jesus attending Mary's dinner instead of the dinner with Nicodemus?
3. Read Matthew 11:28-30 and think about how Nicodemus asks, "who is suppressing our worship now?" How can religious obligation threaten true worship?
4. Read Mark 2:23-28. What do you observe about Jesus' teaching on the Sabbath?
5. Mary says "I was one way, and now I am completely different. And the thing that happened in between was Him." Do you have a similar story about Jesus? Share it!
6. What do we learn from Jesus about how to see and serve those who are hurting and broken in our world?
7. What else did you learn about Jesus from this episode? Are there any ways in which your impression or understanding of Jesus was sharpened, challenged, or changed?

For Further Study

Read more about the Jewish practice of Shabbat (Sabbath) in this article:

<https://jewsforjesus.org/jewish-resources/jewish-holidays/shabbat/>

Watch Dennis Karp's "Messiah in the Passover" presentation from our Good Friday event in April: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bq1zJwYCbzw> (starts at the 4:00:00 mark)

