

The CHOSEN

Shabbat Shalom Episode 2

Key Bible Verses

If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens, come to me and I will give you rest. Take the yoke I give you. Put it on your shoulders and learn from me. I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest. This yoke is easy to bear, and this burden is light. ~Matthew 11:28-30

Is that true? (clarifying artistic imagination)

Were the disciples as young as Matthew looks?

The ages of the disciples are not known; however, in Matthew 17:24-27, it states that only Jesus and Peter were paying the temple tax required of those age 20 and older. Although not proven, one could infer that the other disciples were under 20 years old.

Is the Shabbat still celebrated today?

Shabbat, or Sabbath, is celebrated in Judaism as a day of rest. It begins on Friday at sunset and ends on Saturday evening. It is a time to honor God by contemplating the spiritual aspects of life and to spend time with family. Christians also celebrate the Sabbath, typically on Sundays with a time of worship and rest.

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 the 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. Scripture portrays Peter as a rash and hasty (Luke 22:33) and irritable and capable of anger (John 18:10), so it's possible he made decisions that betrayed others for self gain. Again, this is just an assumption.

Did Matthew approach Rome with concern about Peter?

There is no mention of this in Scripture. Matthew did collect taxes in Galilee where Peter and Andrew lived, but it is not known if they knew each other prior to following Jesus.

Was Nicodemus married?

Scripture does not say one way or another if Nicodemus was married. Nicodemus's wife, represented in The Chosen, is helpful in developing Nicodemus's role as a high-ranking Pharisee and to show his internal conflict of being a respected Jewish rabbi and seeing Jesus as the Messiah.

Did Peter and Andrew catch a bunch of fish upon Jesus's instruction?

Yes, according to the Gospel of Luke it was the point where Simon (Peter), James and John, choose to follow Jesus. Luke 5:1-11.

Growth Questions

1. What is one question you have about the Bible, Jesus, or other characters as a result of watching this episode?
2. What is Shabbat? How was it portrayed? Do you believe a day of rest is important? How does it make you think about your day of rest? Rest is a restorative gift. How are you utilizing it for God's glory?
3. Why do you think Nicodemus was so shocked to see Mary healed? Do you find it difficult or easy to believe Jesus brings healing, redemption, and transformation?
4. This episode showed people taking time to rest and enjoy a meal as a way of remembering and celebrating God's incredible creative work. How in your life do you celebrate the work of God? Who do you invite, or who can you invite, to celebrate the work of God in the world?
5. 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?
6. Mary says "I was one way, and now I am completely different. And the thing that happened in between was Him (Jesus)." Do you have a similar story about Jesus? Who, this week, can you share your story with?
7. We see Mary changed because of her encounter with Jesus. When, where, and/or what practices are a part of your life that allow you to encounter Jesus? How does encountering Jesus effect you?

Quintus

Although Quintus is not mentioned in the Bible, his name, meaning "fifth" was a common name for a Roman male fifth child. He represents the typical roman soldier who would have been part of the Roman Occupation around Galilee. Parts of Galilee were also ruled and influenced by Greek culture, or Hellenism. These people groups are often called "gentiles" in the bible. The term Gentile doesn't really describe who someone is, but rather who they are not – a Jew

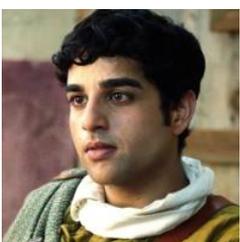


Mary Magdalene – Luke 8:2-3, John 19:25-27, John 20:1-18

Mary was a Jewish woman from the fishing town Magdala, on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. One of several women mentioned in Luke 8:2-3 who had been "healed of evil spirits and sicknesses." She is mentioned in all four Gospels as one who followed Jesus and supported him and the other disciples out of her personal means.

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

A Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin, the supreme religious and political council in Jerusalem during the 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, likely because he believed Jesus was the Son of God.



Matthew – Matthew 9:9-13, 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 disciples. Matthew "left everything and went with Jesus." He invited many friends and co-workers to a dinner with Jesus so they could meet the Son of God. He wrote the Gospel of Matthew.

Andrew & Peter

Introduced in episode 1, were brothers and fishermen. Andrew introduced Peter to Jesus, and they both choose to leave their nets and become "fishers of people" by following Jesus.

