



The Chosen

Season 1, Episode 1

I Have Called You by Name

This episode creates the back story for all that will follow. It introduces a number of the key characters whom you will recognize by name from your knowledge of the New Testament: Mary Magdalene (aka Lillith), Nicodemus (the Pharisee Rabbi), Matthew (aka Levi), Simon (aka Peter), Andrew, and of course Jesus. Most episodes begin with a look back in time to offer some perspective. Episode 1 begins in Magdala around 2BC with Mary Magdalene as small child and quickly fast-forwards to Capernaum around AD26 – again with Mary Magdalene.

Watch the opening credits closely.

You'll find a lot of symbolism throughout the series starting right in the beginning with the opening.

Notice the fish are all gray, but then some of them turn blue... How many?

Notice that the blue fish also change direction... Why do you think that is?

Discussion Questions

1. Mary Magdalene serves as the ideal respondent to God's call through Jesus. She was hopeless, desperate, fearful and then Jesus 'called her by name' and redeemed her, saying "You are mine." What do you think Nicodemus or Matthew or Simon think of Mary's redemption?
2. It's interesting to see how the religious and political environment looked in Jesus' day when people struggled with Roman rule and Jewish Law.
With what kind of people did Jesus spend the most time? The least time? What does that tell us?
3. What do you think about how Matthew, the Tax Collector, is portrayed? How about Simon?
4. Which of the four flawed-but-still-called characters – Mary, Simon, Matthew, Nicodemus – do you identify with the most? Can you explain why? Does that surprise you?
5. We know that Jesus is fully of God and fully human. What do you think of the way Jesus is portrayed in this episode?
6. Redeemed – called by name?
Putting yourself in this story, how would you react to hearing Jesus say, "Follow Me"? Would you drop everything and follow? How about today? Would you do the same?

Scriptures

- Isaiah 43:1 Called by name
- Luke 8:1-15 Jesus, Apostles, and others
- Ephesians 2:8-10 – By Grace you have been saved

What Comes Next

Season 1, Episode 2

"Shabbat"

Shabbat means Sabbath. We'll see how several of our main characters celebrate Shabbat in very different ways amid their own personal struggles. We see how both Simon and Nicodemus are pressured between Roman law and Jewish law. Simon comes dangerously close to losing his freedom and betraying his people. Mary and her guests welcome an unexpected visitor to their Shabbat feast.