



The Chosen

Season 1, Episode 2

Shabbat

This episode emphasizes the impact of Jewish law on the various Hebrew sects, showing how differently Mary, Nicodemus, Simon, and Matthew observe the Sabbath (Shabbat). We begin with Shabbat preparations in Chinnereth in 948BC and move forward to AD26 in Capernaum. The Pharisees suspect a miracle has occurred, and Nicodemus learns that Mary was healed but not by him. Matthew confronts Roman magistrate, Quintus, regarding the debts of Simon and Andrew. Jesus joins Mary's guests at her Shabbat feast.

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. Nicodemus learns that Mary was healed by someone other than himself and suspects a miracle. Have you ever experienced something in your life that could not be well explained – perhaps a miracle? Are you one to question every detail or just enjoy and celebrate it?
2. Simon and Andrew were very close to losing their family's home and to being imprisoned for tax debt until Simon agreed to reveal other Jews who were fishing on Shabbat. Can you sympathize with the brothers' dilemma? What do you think you would have done in their place?
3. Were you surprised when Matthew confronted Quintus about his tax-debt forgiveness deal with Simon and went on to question Simon's trustworthiness? What do you think about the relationship between Matthew and his Roman guard, Gaius?
4. Nicodemus is the honored guest at a Pharisee Shabbat gathering. One guest is heard seeking to sit near the head of the table which is the seat of honor. How do you think Jesus would have fared at this gathering?
5. The Jews held the Sabbath as sacred. When it comes to practicing your own Sabbath-rest, to whom do you relate the most: Mary, Simon, Matthew, or Nicodemus?
6. No one likes Matthew, and he has even been disowned by his family for being a tax collector. How does it make you feel when you see how Matthew observes Shabbat in this episode?

Scriptures

- Deuteronomy 5: 12-14 - Shabbat
- Matthew 18: 15-17 - Resolving conflict, tax collectors
- Matthew 17: 24-27 - Jesus, Simon, and the tax collectors
- Luke 14: 8-11 - Seat of Honor

What Comes Next

Season 1, Episode 3

"Jesus Loves the Little Children"

Jesus befriends the group of children who discover his camp on the outskirts of Capernaum. He spends a week teaching them before traveling on. Watching Jesus interacting with the children tells us much.