

The Chosen – Season 1 - Episode 2 *Shabbat*



You can watch this episode via The Chosen app on your smartphone or tablet, or via your web browser on thechosen.tv [here](#).

Scripture References:

- >The 12 disciples - [Mark 3:16-18](#)
- >Mary Magdalene – [Mark 16:9](#)
- >A wife of noble character – [Proverbs 31:10-31](#)
- >I stand at the door and knock – [Revelation 3:20](#)
- >Nazareth! – [John 1:46](#)
- >The seventh day – [Genesis 2:1-3](#)

Synopsis:

In a sentence: we learn more about the character and circumstances of the people Jesus will impact, and in some cases call to be His disciples.

The episode begins in 948 B.C. where we witness rural families observing the traditional Shabbat celebration that has been practiced essentially unchanged through the centuries since the time of the Abrahamic covenant¹. The episode then leaps ahead to 30 A.D. Capernaum, the Galilean city where we left off in episode one.

Much to the shock and fear of his Roman body guard Gaius, Matthew insists on validating Simon's claims directly with the Roman Praetor Quintus. Word reaches Nicodemus that Mary has been miraculously cured of her afflictions. Simon schemes to get out from under the crushing tax debt he owes to the Romans. We see the contrast in Shabbat celebrations between Mary, Nicodemus, Simon, and the despised Matthew whose only Shabbat meal companion is his dog. The mysterious person who healed Mary in episode one appears at Mary's Shabbat celebration, asks if he may come in, and

introduces himself as Jesus of Nazareth. Whereupon Barnaby, one of the attendees at Mary’s Shabbat meal, jokes that “maybe something good does come from Nazareth” to the embarrassment of the other guests, but Jesus just smiles. At the dinner Jesus encourages Mary to lead the Shabbat invocation. The episode ends ominously with Simon meeting up with the Romans on the evening of Shabbat as his treachery begins.

Episode review on Patheos.com:

The full review of this episode is available on patheos.com [here](#). The review provides detail on the historical context and basis for this episode in Old and New Testament scripture, and where the episode departs from scripture through artistic license.

Memorable lines of dialogue:

Mary Magdalene: *“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!”*

Watch for This:



Starting at 30:22

In those times it would be very unusual, if not unheard of, for a woman to lead the Shabbat invocation in mixed company. However Jesus encourages Mary to do so, then gently nods and smiles in approval as Mary concludes the blessing.

Note also the humor of the character Barnaby, who crashes Shabbat dinners, the tension at Simon and Eden’s dinner, and the contrast in formality and opulence between Mary’s dinner and that held by Nicodemus.

Questions for an informal discussion:

1. What did you think about this episode? Did anything particularly stand out for you?
2. What questions do you have about this episode?
3. We tend to think of the Pharisees as being “the bad guys” of scripture. As we learn more about Nicodemus from this episode, and episode one, has your impression of Pharisees changed? In

what way?

4. Do you have a practice that helps you feel closer to God? e.g. reading scripture, listening to music, going for a walk, meditating, group worship, journaling, etc.

For personal reflection and/or discussion with friends:

5. When was a time in your life that you thought you could control your circumstances only to see them spin out of your control?
6. Preamble: Keeping the Sabbath is most obviously marked by not working. But God's primary intention behind the commandment is for us to spend the day like Mary did – to enter into His presence.

What needs to change in your schedule or in your mind-set to rest the way God intended?

What [spiritual disciplines](#) might be helpful for you in doing so?

7. Reflect on which Shabbat (Sabbath) meal Jesus chose to attend. What thoughts occur to you?
8. Preamble: Re-watch the scene where Jesus knocks on Mary's door as she hosts her guests for the Shabbat dinner (the scene begins at 32:25 in the episode). After watching, reflect on Revelation 3:20 ("Behold I stand at the door and knock ...") and the famous William Homan Hunt painting shown [here](#).

What thoughts come to mind as you reflect?

9. **Over the course of the coming week:** ask Jesus what he wants to show you or teach you in this episode. If you are comfortable doing so, please consider sharing what comes to mind with the group next week.

Going deeper:

- This episode's Round Table discussion by a group of Biblical Experts can be seen [here](#).
- In this YouTube [video](#) Brandon Robbins shares some surprising details and insights on the episode.
- Watch Lakeside Church Pastor Marc Gagnon's [teaching](#) on the importance of the Sabbath.

Music to reflect on:

[Broken Vessels \(Amazing Grace\)](#) (Artist: Hillsong)

About This Companion:

This Episode Companion is offered as bread and fish for our Lord's use in spreading the good news of the Gospels. Its author, Peter McCaskell, lives in Guelph, Ontario, Canada and attends [Lakeside Church](#). You are welcome to contact Peter via email to peter.mccaskell@rogers.com

End notes:

1. The covenant referred to in this opening scene is known in the Hebrew Bible as “the covenant of the pieces or the covenant between the parts”. This is where God revealed himself to Abraham and made a covenant with him, in which God promised Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the nighttime sky and would eventually inherit the Land of Israel.