

Bible Study on “The Chosen” (S1:E2) “Shabbat”

- Watch “The Chosen” episode 2 of Season 1 (36 minutes)

Story Progression:

- Nicodemus is downcast that his attempted exorcism of Lileth’s demons failed so completely.
- Simon must spy on the fish merchants who don’t pay taxes to the Romans; brother Andrew is angry.
- Matthew does not believe that Simon is a reliable informant; reports his doubts to Quintus.
- Nicodemus discovers that Mary has been cured; amazed, he asks Mary who did this for her.
- Various households prepare for their Sabbath “Shabbat” meals; Nicodemus is an honored guest.
- Matthew the tax collector must eat his meal alone, with only his guard dog for company.
- Mary chooses to host a Shabbat meal for her friends; mistakenly sets an extra place “for Elijah.”
- Jesus makes a surprise visit to Mary’s home.

**“I was one way
and now I am completely different,
and the thing that happened in between
was him.”** --Mary Magdalene to Nicodemus

Discussion Questions:

Mary has been restored to normalcy, and wants to participate once again in ancient Jewish traditions, such as celebrating a Shabbat meal with invited friends. The significance of the Sabbath or Shabbat is established in Scripture, and is the main focus of this episode. *Shabbat* (שַׁבָּת) means to cease or rest.

1. God rested from His work on the seventh day (Gen. 2:1-2). God blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy (Exo. 20:8-11). How should we understand God’s provision of one holy day each week?
2. Work can be hard; life can be difficult. What did God promise to His chosen people in Isaiah 43:2?
3. Mary wasn’t celebrating Shabbat as a duty, so as to gain God’s favor; why then did she celebrate?
4. God blesses those who are righteous and do not profane the Sabbath (Isa. 56:1-8). What actions would profane the Sabbath? (Jer. 7:23-26)
5. In this episode, we have watched the activities of Mary, Nicodemus, Simon, and Matthew. Compared to your personal Sabbath-rests, to which of these characters do you most relate? Why?
6. Jesus promises rest for the souls who come to Him (Matt 11:28-30). What do you think soul-rest is ?
7. Psalm 46:10 says “Be still, and know that I am God.” In what ways would that benefit us?
8. What needs to change in your schedule or mind-set to “rest” the way that God intends you to rest?
9. What might it mean to claim that Christians celebrate Easter every Sunday?