

## Bible Study on “The Chosen” (S1:E1) “I Have Called You by Name”

- Watch “The Chosen” episode 1 of Season 1 (54 minutes)

### Story Progression:

- Mary Magdalene, as a young girl with her father, recites Isaiah 43:1.
- Mary, as a young woman, becomes demon possessed; is intermittently violent; calls herself “Lileth.”
- Pharisee Shmuel hosts visiting senior Pharisee Nicodemus at the synagogue in Capernaum.
- Roman authorities insist that Nicodemus address Lileth’s madness; but his attempted exorcism fails.
- Simon and Andrew are fishermen; in debt; heavy Roman taxation may cause them to lose their boat.
- Matthew is a young, very wealthy tax collector; he works for the Romans; he is hated everywhere.
- Simon deals with the Romans to report tax evasions by “merchant” fishermen; his debt is cancelled.
- Mary becomes suicidal; she plans to escape her demons by killing herself; Jesus intervenes.
- Mary tries to flee from Jesus; Jesus calls to Mary; recites Isaiah 43:1; and heals her.

*“Thus says the Lord who created you, O Jacob,  
And He who formed you, O Israel,  
Fear not, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name.  
You are mine.”*

### Discussion Questions:

Mary is tormented and feels abandoned by God; Simon works hard to support his family, but is in desperate financial peril; Nicodemus is a respected theologian, but has doubts about the certainty of his Scriptural knowledge; Matthew, despite his wealth, is a social outcast without friends (except his dog.)

1. Can you personally relate to any of these characters? Why?
2. Which of these four flawed characters ought to be the most deserving of being chosen by God?
3. How do you understand the concept of being “chosen by God”? How is your own faith related to the concept of having been chosen by God? (Hint: Read Ephesians 2:8-10.)
4. How does Psalm 139:13-18 give you comfort in the knowledge of God’s sovereign plan for you?
5. What advice might you give to someone who feels unworthy of God’s love? (Hint: Read Titus 3:4-7.)
6. What advice might you give to someone who feels overly confident in their personal goodness or worthiness in the eyes of God? (Hint: Read Romans 3:10-12.)
7. In retrospect, has your understanding of Isaiah 43:1 been expanded? How so?
8. How might you resolve unanswered questions you may have about what the Bible says?
9. How would you describe the difference between God’s “mercy” and God’s “grace”?