

The Chosen – Shabbat

Previous episode recap

Last episode, we were introduced to the Pharisee Nicodemus, future disciples Matthew, Simon Peter, and Andrew, and Mary Magdalen (Lilith). Mary is so troubled that she considered committing suicide and later was delivered from the evil spirits by Jesus. Nicodemus starts to reconsider his understanding of God. Simon Peter is desperate to save his home that he becomes involved in spying on his friends for the Roman authorities.

Episode 2 intro

Genesis 2:1–3 Now the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Today we watch as the different characters prepare for the Shabbat/Sabbath Dinner. Near the end of the episode will also be introduced to 2 new key characters: Thaddeus and James, who are current disciples of Jesus – and refer to Him as rabbi.

A couple key words that will help you understand this episode are:

Shabbat/Sabbath Dinner The traditional, and most popular, Shabbat dinner would take place on Friday night. It was a time to honor family and God. Candles would be blessed and lit right at sunset. The meal would begin with a blessing, the Kiddush (which included our opening scripture Genesis 2:1-3), before guests enjoy the challah (a special braided bread) and wine, both of which would be blessed before the meal. The following meal would be a multi-course meal that would include a fish course as well as a meat stew or soup, a meat course, side dishes, and dessert. At the beginning of the meal, before the bread, the Kiddush would be recited.

Shabbat Shalom. A common greeting that Jews say during Sabbath is “Shabbat Shalom,” which means, “Sabbath Peace,” more or less. Kind of like wishing your friend a happy Sabbath. Except that the word “shalom” refers to more than peace. It’s a kind of Godly wholeness, completeness, contentment...a rightness of being. Like everything is well and nothing is missing or wrong.

Av Beit Din. The Av beit din (*pronounced Av Det Deen*) was the chief justice, the second-highest member of the Sanhedrin (the Sanhedrin was an assembly of Jewish elders, the religious leaders of the land), after the high priest. There were different ones appointed for different regions.

[Watch Season 1 – Episode 2](#)

Suggested Questions (choose 2-3 questions to discuss)

A. Mary (formally Lillith) says a very powerful line "I was one way, and now I am completely different. And the thing that happened in between, was Him". What does that phrase mean to you? Do you have an example that echoes this phrase?

B. Simon (Peter) said to his wife, Eden, "I've got this." When was a time in your life that you thought you could control your circumstances or solve your own problems only to see things spin out of your control?

C. Nicodemus's history lesson about Antiochus leads to a significant question, "Who is responsible for suppressing our worship now?" when he sees the priests dining in extravagance. How is our worship suppressed or distracted these days?

D. The Hebrew Sabbath celebrates God's work and inspires soulful, restorative rest. How do you celebrate God's work in your life? How do you take time for restorative rest?

E. The Old Testament is referred multiple times in this episode – A virtuous woman from Proverbs 31, Absalom and his long hair, the heroes of our faith (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebekah, Leah, Rachel), etc. How often is the Bible a regular part of our conversation?