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## Season 1 of *The Chosen*

### Episode 1: I Have Called You by Name

- Two brothers – Simon and Andrew – struggle with their tax debts to Rome.
- A woman in the Red Quarter – Mary Magdalene, who calls herself Lilith – wrestles with her demons.
- A Pharisee, Nicodemus, tries unsuccessfully to cast out the demons.
- Jesus calls Mary by name and heals her.

Bible: Mark 16:9 and Luke 8:2

### Episode 2: Shabbatt

- A Jewish tax collector, Matthew, tells Roman Praetor Quintus that Simon may be lying to him.
- Nicodemus investigates the miraculous healing of Mary.
- At her Shabbat dinner, Mary receives surprise guests: “Little” James, Thaddeus, and their rabbi Jesus.

Bible: none

### Episode 3: Jesus Loves the Little Children

Jesus befriends and teaches the group of children who discover his camp on the outskirts of Capernaum.

Bible: none

### Episode 4: The Rock on which It Is Built

- With his life and family under threat from Rome, Simon – joined by Andrew and, later, by “Big” James, John, and their father Zebedee – spends one last night fishing in a desperate attempt to square his debts.
- As morning breaks, Andrew spots a familiar face (Jesus) teaching on the shores of Galilee.
- After he finishes teaching, Jesus instructs Simon and Andrew to cast their nets one more time. Watched from the shore by Matthew, they make a miraculous catch of fish, more than enough to settle Simon’s debt.
- Simon, Andrew, James, and John agree to follow Jesus.

Bible: Matthew 3:1-2, 3:4-10, 4:18-22, 13:1-2, 13:47-52; Mark 1:4-6, 1:16-20, 4:1-2; Luke 3:1-3, 3:7-14, 3:18, 5:1-11; and John 1:6, 1:19-28, 1:35-42

### Episode 5: The Wedding Gift

- Nicodemus interrogates John the Baptizer.
- Jesus and his students go to a wedding celebration in Cana, where Thomas and Ramah are responsible for serving wine to the guests.
- When the wine runs low, Jesus’s mother Mary asks Jesus to intervene on behalf of the bridegroom’s family. Jesus turns 120-180 gallons of water into fine wine.

Bible: Matthew 3:3; Mark 1:2-3; Luke 2:41-52, 3:4-6; and John 1:7-8, 1:23-24, 2:1-12

## **Episode 6: Indescribable Compassion**

- On the road to Capernaum, Jesus heals a leper. An Egyptian woman, Tamar, witnesses it.
- Later, while Jesus is teaching a crowd in and around a home in Capernaum, Tamar and some friends lower her paralytic friend through the roof to Jesus.
- As several Pharisees, including Nicodemus, and Matthew watch, Jesus forgives the sins of the paralytic and then tells him to rise, pick up his bed, and go home. He does.
- As he leaves the scene, Jesus sees Matthew and smiles at him.

Bible: Matthew 3:11-12, 8:2-4, 9:1-8, 24:36, 24:44, 25:1-13; Mark 1:7-8, 1:40-2:12, 4:21; Luke 3:15-17, 5:12-26, 8:16, 11:33, 13:1-5, 18:1-14; and John 1:15, 1:26-27

## **Episode 7: Invitations**

- Nicodemus meets with Jesus at night.
- Matthew struggles to reconcile the miracles he has witnessed with reality.
- As Matthew works in his tax collection booth with Roman Gaius by his side, Jesus and his followers approach. Over the objections of Simon, Jesus calls Matthew to follow him. Matthew does; a stunned Gaius tells him that he will regret his decision.

Bible: Numbers 21:4-9, Matthew 9:9, Mark 2:14, Luke 5:27-28, and John 3:1-21

## **Episode 8: I Am He**

- At a dinner party at Matthew's house, Jesus has a verbal exchange with Yusif (Joseph) and another Pharisee, who accuse him of violating the Law by eating with sinners and tax collectors. Gaius arrives and again tells Matthew that leaving his job to follow Jesus was a mistake.
- Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law.
- As they head from Galilee to Judea, Jesus takes his students to Samaria.
- In the Samaritan village of Sychar, Jesus meets with a suffering woman at Jacob's Well and reveals that he is the Messiah.

Bible: Genesis 33:18-20; Matthew 8:14-15, 9:10-13; Mark 1:29-31, 2:15-17; Luke 4:38-39, 5:29-32; and John 4:4-38

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## **Season 2 of *The Chosen***

### **Episode 1: Thunder**

- Tension builds among the disciples as they wrestle with the increasing fame of Jesus in Samaria.
- Jesus rebukes Big James and John for their prejudice and, after a near-violent encounter, gives them a new nickname: the "sons of thunder."

Bible: Matthew 18:10-14; Mark 3:17; Luke 9:51-56, 10:30-35, 15:3-7; John 1:1-5, 4:39-42, 21:25; and Acts 12:2

### **Episode 2: I Saw You**

- A Jewish architect named Nathanael suffers a major career setback when one of his projects collapses. He sits under a fig tree and cries out to God, asking if God sees him.
- A disciple of John the Baptist, Philip, joins Jesus's followers while they camp in a field.
- Philip befriends Matthew and takes him under his wing, showing him how to work with his hands and giving him advice on how to deal with Simon.

- Mary Magdalene offers to teach Ramah how to read so that they can both study Torah.
- Jesus and the disciples walk north towards Syria, stopping for a night in Caesarea Philippi. Philip introduces Nathanael to Jesus, and Jesus says he saw Nathanael under the fig tree.

Bible: John 1:43-51, 4:43

### **Episode 3: Matthew 4:24**

- In a field in Syria, many people are in a line waiting to be healed by Jesus.
- The disciples take turns doing crowd control, and the off-duty disciples sit by the fire and talk about their hopes, their childhoods, and how to interpret different prophecies.
- Jesus's mother Mary joins the disciples, and she shares some memories of the night that Jesus was born. She says she misses being needed by him.
- Simon and Matthew get into an argument, and Simon says he'll never forgive Matthew for being a tax collector.
- Jesus, exhausted after a full day of healing people, walks past the disciples on his way to his tent. Mary gets up and helps him get ready for bed.

Bible: Matthew 4:23-25

### **Episode 4: The Perfect Opportunity**

The two main characters in this episode are Jesse and Simon:

- Jesse is the invalid by the Pool of Bethesda discussed in John 5:1-17.
- Simon is a Zealot who becomes a disciple of Jesus (Simon the Zealot).

The episode portrays Jesse and Simon as brothers, with the healing of Jesse spurring Simon to leave the Zealots and become a disciple. The healing occurs in Jerusalem, on the Sabbath, drawing the ire of the Pharisees.

Bible: John 5:1-13

### **Episode 5: Spirit**

Continuations of events from the previous episode:

- Pharisees Yanni and Shmuel confirm that Jesus healed Jesse (the paralytic at the pool), but their efforts to report him to the Sanhedrin are stymied by Nicodemus.
- Simon the Zealot ("Z") watches the disciples from a distance.
- Atticus (Roman "special forces") snoops around for intel on Jesus and Z.

New events:

- Jesus speaks with John the Baptist, who says he is planning to confront Herod Antipas.
- A demoniac enters the camp, disarms Z, and begins to choke him. Jesus returns and casts out the demon.
- Jesus invites Z to become a disciple.
- Mary Magdalene begins to revert to her old way of life by going to Jericho to gamble in a pub. Jesus tells Simon and Matthew to go and find her.

Bible: Matthew 8:28-34, Mark 5:1-20, Luke 8:26-39, and John 5:14-16

### **Episode 6: Unlawful**

- Prologue: While on the run from King Saul, David and his men eat bread that has been consecrated for God.

- Matthew and Simon find Mary Magdalene outside the bar in Jericho and take her back to the disciples' camp, where Jesus welcomes her and forgives her.
- The disciples get news that John the Baptist has been imprisoned again (this time for good).
- Pharisees Yanni and Shmuel search for someone to take up their case against Jesus.
- With the camp out of food, Jesus and the disciples go to a nearby synagogue. There, Jesus heals a man with a withered hand, which offends the synagogue leaders because the healing happened on the Sabbath.
- After leaving the synagogue, the disciples pluck some grain to eat, which offends the synagogue leaders even more. Jesus cites the story of David and the consecrated bread.

Bible: 1 Samuel 21:1-6; Matthew 4:12, 12:1-14, 14:3-4; Mark 2:23-3:6, 6:17-18; and Luke 3:19-20, 6:1-11

### **Episode 7: Reckoning**

- Pharisees Yanni and Shmuel work to build a case against Jesus.
- Atticus comes to Quintus in Capernaum with news about Jesus. Quintus sends Gaius to bring Jesus in for questioning.
- Several disciples panic at the thought that Jesus was arrested just like John the Baptist.
- Andrew discovers that Tamar and her ex-paralytic friend are standing on street corners, telling everyone about Jesus, and he tells them to stop.
- Quintus chats with Jesus and lets him go, because he doesn't think Jesus is a threat.
- Jesus returns to the camp and teaches his disciples how to say the Lord's Prayer

Bible: Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:1-4

### **Episode 8: Beyond Mountains**

- Shammai plans to use Yanni/Shmuel's "dirt" on Jesus against the school of Hillel soon.
- Three disciples search for a location for the Sermon on the Mount. As they negotiate with a local landowner, two businessmen overhear and propose a deal that works for everyone.
- Jesus and Matthew review the sermon and decide that it needs a more positive intro. Jesus's solution is the Beatitudes.
- The disciples prep for the event.
- A crowd shows up. One of the businessmen goes "backstage" and introduces himself as Judas. Jesus steps out from behind the curtain, ready to give his sermon.

Bible: Matthew 5, 6, and 7 (the Sermon on the Mount); Luke 6:17-23, 27-49, 11:2-13, 11:33-36, 12:6-7, 12:22-34; and John 4:45

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## **Season 3 of *The Chosen***

### **Episode 1: Homecoming**

- Jesus delivers the Sermon on the Mount.
- Judas meets Jesus and joins the movement. Later, Judas says goodbye to his sister.
- Joanna brings a financial offering and a message from John the Baptist. Andrew goes back with Joanna to see John in prison. Later, Andrew apologizes to Mary Magdalene.
- In Capernaum, Nathaniel and "Z" stay with Simon and Eden, Thomas stays with Zebedee's family, and Ramah and Tamar stay with Mary Magdalene.
- New administrator Jairus joins Pharisee Yussif, who was moved by the Sermon.
- Matthew goes to his parents' house. His father, who had disowned him, calls him "son."

Bible: same as Season 2, Episode 8

### **Episode 2: Two by Two**

- Matthew repents, reconciles with his parents.
- A tent city of “Jesus pilgrims” near Capernaum makes the Roman authorities uncomfortable, so they decide to tax the “squatters” there.
- Atticus (Roman special forces) tells “Z” to thwart the efforts of the Zealots in Capernaum.
- Jesus tells the 12 that they are not just disciples but also apostles. He sends them out, in pairs, to proclaim, to heal, and to cast out demons.
- After the mission, Thomas will go to Ramah’s father to ask for her hand in marriage.
- Little James asks Jesus to heal him; Jesus explains why he won’t.
- The evening before they head out, the disciples gather, talk, and pray.

Bible: Matthew 10:1-42; Mark 3:13-19, 6:7-11; and Luke 6:12-16, 9:1-5, 12:4-5, 12:8-12

### **Episode 3: Physician, Heal Yourself**

This is a unique episode in that none of “the chosen” – the disciples – appears. The entire episode is based on the biblical account of Jesus being rejected in his hometown of Nazareth.

Bible: Matthew 11:1, 13:53-58; Mark 6:1-6; Luke 4:16-30; and John 4:44

### **Episode 4: Clean, Part 1**

- Two-by-two, the disciples preach, heal, and cast out demons.
- After returning, they grapple with the power and responsibility they've received. They clash on how to raise money and how much they should understand before using their gifts.
- Mary Magdalene and Tamar work through their differences.
- Jairus and Yousef discuss Yousef’s views of Jesus, which differ from the views of other Pharisees.
- Jairus' daughter gets seriously ill. Eden meets Veronica, who has a bleeding condition.
- Simon and Eden struggle.
- A poisoned well causes a health crisis. At that well, Gaius and Simon converse.

Bible: Mark 6:12-13, 6:30 and Luke 9:6, 9:10

### **Episode 5: Clean, Part 2**

The focus of this episode is back-to-back miracles – healing a bleeding woman and raising Jairus’s daughter.

Other plot elements in the episode are:

- Eden has suffered a miscarriage but has not told Simon.
- Zebedee pursues his goal of making olive oil to support the ministry.
- Simon and Gaius repair the broken cistern; compare Jewish and Roman beliefs, lifestyles.
- Jesus shares a teaching on wine and wineskins: Matthew 9:14-17, Mark 2:22, Luke 5:37-38.

Bible: Matthew 9:14-26; Mark 2:18-22, 5:22-43; and Luke 5:33-39, 8:40-56

### **Episode 6: Intensity in Tent City**

- Two disciples of John the Baptist ask Jesus a question; Jesus responds.

- Decapolis: A Greek-speaking Jew (Leander) informs Andrew and Philip that, when they preached to the Jews, some non-Jews heard and now believe in Jesus, leading to an uproar in the Decapolis. Also, the teaching was incomplete and needs support (ref. John 12:20-26).
- Romans: Pilate's wife has a hazy dream about Jesus. Quintus tells Gaius to get rid of "Tent City," but Gaius continues to walk a fine line there. Pilate meets with Atticus, and they discuss how Jesus may complicate ruling Judea.
- Disciples: They debate their roles in protecting Jesus. When Z's former order of zealots confronts him, he submits and tells them that Jesus is the Messiah.
- Women: Mary and Tamar gain a better understanding of each other, then help Zebedee with the olive grove. Eden tells Simon she had a miscarriage, and Simon begins to grieve.

Bible: Matthew 11:2-19 and Luke 7:18-35

### **Episode 7: Ears to Hear**

- Simon: He remains angry and upset with Jesus for not preventing Eden's miscarriage.
- Gaius: He tells Simon that he is considering asking Jesus to heal his servant/son.
- Decapolis: Philip and Andrew report that the parable of the banquet has stirred up even more trouble with different people groups in the Decapolis. Jesus takes the disciples there to sort things out but tells John to wait for Simon, on whom "the success of this trip" depends. As they reach the Decapolis, Jesus heals a deaf-mute.
- Other plotlines: Thomas reports that Ramah stayed behind with her father. Pharisee Shmuel continues to try to build a case against Jesus. Atticus continues to investigate Jesus. Matthew tells Mary how he acquired prayer tassels while he was a tax collector; she compares that gift to her receiving a dove from our God of abundance

Bible: Matthew 11:15, 13:9, 13:36; Mark 4:9, 4:23, 7:16, 7:31-37; and Luke 14:16-24

### **Episode 8: Sustenance**

- As rival groups gather around Jesus and his disciples (in the Decapolis region), Jesus heals a lame man, causing the groups to begin listening in earnest. Thousands join them. The teaching extends late into the night and resumes the next day.
- Late on the second day, the disciples fret over how the huge crowd will be fed. Jesus responds by converting five loaves and two fish into enough food for everyone.
- After the teaching ends, Jesus sends the disciples to Capernaum while he stays and rests.
- Shmuel, Yanni, and an elder Pharisee head to the Decapolis to get "three witnesses" against Jesus. They arrive after the crowd has dispersed, upset that Jesus has eaten with Gentiles. Jesus invites a "troubled" Shmuel to pray and speak further with him.
- Eden (with Salome) asks Yussef for a Torah reading for grief. He chooses Psalm 77 and recommends Eden depart for a ritual bath in the mikveh.
- Simon remains bitter over Eden's miscarriage.
- While crossing the Sea of Galilee at night, the disciples encounter a fierce storm. They spot Jesus walking on the water toward them. Simon steps out of the boat and walks towards Jesus, but he loses faith and sinks. While Jesus extends his hand to pull Simon up from under the water, Eden rises up from her immersion beneath the waters of the mikvah.

Bible: 2 Samuel 11:5; Psalm 77:1-20; Matthew 8:11, 8:23-27, 11:15, 11:20-30, 13:3-9, 13:31-32, 13:44-46, 14:13-34, 15:29-39, 17:20, 21:28-31; Mark 4:2-9, 4:30-41, 6:31-52, 8:1-10; Luke 8:4-8, 8:22-25, 9:11-17, 13:18-19, 13:28-29, 17:5-6; and John 6:1-21