

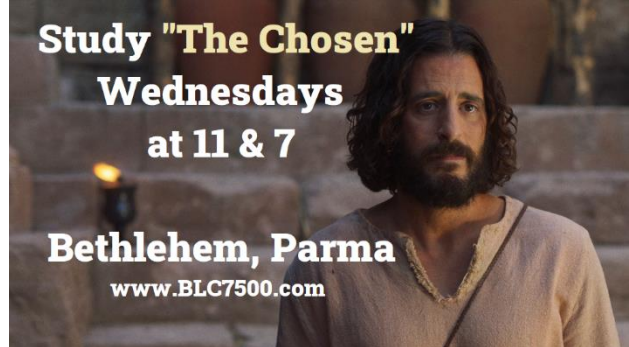
The Chosen

Season 1, Episode 1: I Have Called You by Name

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Characters, Bible References, and Video Summaries:¹

1. **Mary Magdalene:** Possessed by seven demons; traveled with and financially supported Jesus' ministry; present at His crucifixion and burial; first to witness the empty tomb and meet the resurrected Jesus.
 - a. **Bible:** ^{NAU} [Luke 8:1-3](#) ... [Jesus] *began* going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him, and *also* some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.
 - b. **Video:** In Capernaum, Mary Magdalene (Elizabeth Tabish), going by the name "Lilith", wrestles with real demons.
2. **Nicodemus:** A leading Pharisee in first-century Judaism and a member of the Sanhedrin, the ruling council of the Jews.
 - a. **Bible:** Nicodemus is named five times in the Bible:
 - i. Three times during his famous nighttime discussion with Jesus ([John 3:1-21](#)).
 - ii. When he stood up for Jesus ([John 7:43-52](#)).
 - iii. When he and Joseph of Arimathea were involved in anointing and entombing the body of Jesus ([John 19:38-42](#)).
 - b. **Video:** While Nicodemus (Erick Avari) is touring the region, Praetor Quintus (Brandon Potter) approaches him demanding help collecting unpaid taxes.
3. **Matthew:** His Hebrew name was Levi; collected taxes for the Roman Empire, which made him a traitor to his fellow Jews; his tax collection booth was in Capernaum where Jesus ministry began.
 - a. **Bible:** ^{NAU} [Matthew 9:9](#) As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he got up and followed Him.
 - b. **Video:** Matthew (Paras Patel) deals with the turmoil of being considered a traitor by his fellow Jews.



¹ Sources: The Holy Bible; Book: What Does It Mean to Be Chosen? Jenkins & Huffman; this website: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Chosen_\(TV_series\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Chosen_(TV_series))

4. **Simon (Peter):** He lived in Capernaum; was a fisherman with his brother Andrew; he was married; he was overconfident; he became a leader among with apostles.
 - a. **Bible:** ^{NAU} [Matthew 17:24-27](#) When they came to Capernaum, those who collected the two-drachma *tax* came to Peter and said, "Does your teacher not pay the two-drachma *tax*?" He said, "Yes." And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs or poll-tax, from their sons or from strangers?" When Peter said, "From strangers," Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are exempt. "However, so that we do not offend them, go to the sea and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for you and Me."
 - b. **Video:** Simon (Shahar Isaac) and his brother Andrew (Noah James) struggle with their tax debts to Rome.
5. **Three parts of the video that are not in the Bible, but are interesting additions to the story:**
 - a. At a centurion's behest, Nicodemus goes to the Red Quarter to perform an exorcism on "Lilith" but fails, leaving him shaken.
 - b. On tax day, Andrew is unable to pay, but Simon tells Matthew that he has an arrangement with Quintus. The arrangement is to inform Quintus about his fellow Jews fishing on Shabbat. Andrew disapproves, considering it a betrayal.
 - c. Following a suicide attempt, "Lilith" loses hope for her condition, until she encounters Jesus (Jonathan Roumie), who calls Mary Magdalene by name, healing and restoring her.

Watch the Video: Season 1, Episode 1: **I Have Called You by Name** (55 Minutes)

Noteworthy Quotes:

- "...no other truth in this world, has the power to vaporize fear like knowing and being known by God" (32).
- See [Isaiah 6:1-7](#): "The prophet Isaiah experienced fear too... Isaiah's repentant heart was acknowledged, forgiveness was extended... Isaiah wasn't called by God because he was worthy" (33-34).
- "Prideful people tend to see themselves as being already worthy of God's love and approval... Insecure people struggle to believe God's love is big enough to wipe out their personal history of wrongdoing... In either case, the focus is on us instead of God" (35).
- "We are valuable to God because He made us and loves us.... We can be confident in our calling since it's based on His goodness, His forgiveness, and His grace..." (37).
- "...to be chosen and rescued in spite of our absolute unworthiness—require us to trust Him, which includes letting Him make whatever changes to our lives He deems best" (39).

Next Class, Episode 2: Shabbat

- This Wednesday, May 4
- 11 am and 7 pm
- Gather at 10:30 and 6:30 for fellowship
- If you desire, bring a snack to share