

The Chosen Episode One:

I Have Called You By Name

Quick Summary:

We are introduced to Mary Magdelene, Simon, Andrew, Matthew, and Nicodemus. It took me a little bit to get into this episode, but by the end of it my interest was piqued. Mary was never a Bible character I had really personally empathized with before, and imagining the disciples living a normal life before Jesus was jarring in a good way. I'm going into the rest of the series with an open mind and heart, excited to see the gospel as a story in a package I haven't experienced it in yet. (P.S. - the Gospels don't tell us a lot about Mary besides the fact that she had means and that Jesus drove demons from her).

Read for Bible Study:

Luke 8:1-15 (Mary, Seed Parable, Parable Meanings) Mark 16: 6-11 (Jesus appears to Mary first)

The Chosen Discussion Questions:

1. What do you fear, and why? How does Psalm 139:13-18 speak to your fear?
2. Reread Isaiah 6:3 and jot down the meanings of "holy", "Lord", and "glory". What do these words say about the One who calls us to Himself?
3. How do those words impact the way you view God? How does being in a relationship with the One whom those words describe impact the things you fear?
4. Israel continued to rebel against God even as He continued calling them into relationship with Him. What does that suggest about his character?
5. Which of the four flawed-but-still-called characters in Episode One do you identify with most? Do you feel worthy of being called by Jesus? Why or why not?

6. What would you say to someone who feels unworthy of Jesus's love and call to follow Him (like Mary Magdalene)? What would you say to someone who is confident in their own goodness or self-sufficiency (like Nicodemus)?

7. Read Romans 3:10-12. Regardless of how we view our own performance record, how does the Bible say we all compare to a holy God?

8. What do you need to be rescued from?

9. What might Isaiah 43:1 challenge you to think differently about your situation? And what might it be calling you to do differently?

10. What does Ephesians 2:8-10 say about God's rescue of people through Jesus?

PRAYER FOCUS

Thank God for knowing you and for wanting to be in a relationship with you. Confess your unworthiness to be called at all. If need be, confess any pride or ego-motivated attempts to become worthy of His love through your own effort. Praise God for calling you to Himself in spite of all the ways you get it wrong and for sending Jesus to Rescue you and to secure your calling.