

THE CHOSEN

The Chosen is a 2020 television drama based on the life of Jesus Christ, created, directed and co-written by American filmmaker Dallas Jenkins.

It is the first multi-season series about the life of Christ, and season one was the highest crowd-funded TV series or film project of all time.



Episode Two: Shabbat.



In this episode we are centred on a Jewish tradition of a weekly religious ceremony: Shabbat, or Sabbath. We are touched by its simplicity and its sincerity, and its beauty. We learn more about the characters who will follow the great rabbi from Nazareth, and we learn a little more of Him, as well. Matthew validates Simon's arrangement with Praetor Quintus, Nicodemus investigates the miracle reported in the Red Quarter, and Mary receives surprise guests at her Shabbat dinner.

- a) What does Sabbath **mean** to me...? What does 'a day of rest' mean for me? Is there anything I want to add/remove/change?
- b) I am seeing the context in which Jesus received his formation...what strikes me about Jesus' Jewish upbringing and culture?
- c) Matthew is portrayed as a person who wants to tell the truth regardless of a sense of loyalty to any person or group. His constancy is to his work as a tax collector, a man using his gift with numbers and putting this gift to the service of those who offer him a sense of purpose and meaning without regard to his personal safety. We begin to understand a little of his journey to this point... How do I feel about Matthew's circumstances? How does my work define my own identity?
- d) We meet Peter and his wife, Andrew, James and John and their friends and work mates gathering in a bar and laughing together – and challenging the values of – one another... How have I imagined their lives and their relationships, if at all, before their encounter with Jesus? What surprises me?
- e) Mary says to Nicodemus, 'I will know Him for the rest of my life.' Can I also say this...?
- f) Mary of Magdala hosts her 'first Shabbat in a long time'. A simple meal is prepared, some guests are invited and some just turn up. The contrast with the alternative Shabbat where Nicodemus is the guest of honour is made clear. Matthew eats alone with only a stray dog as company. I imagine Jesus coming to join in a family celebration with me... Might I do anything differently if I consider this to be a possibility?

LINK FOR EPISODE 2

<https://youtu.be/zEc2zgJtp-4>