

## The Chosen Episode 1 – “I Have Called You By Name”

### SCRIPTURE

#### Isaiah 43: 1-4

But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, Jacob, and formed you, Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine. When you pass through waters, I will be with you; through rivers, you shall not be swept away. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned, nor will flames consume you. For I, the LORD, am your God, the Holy One of Israel, your savior. I give Egypt as ransom for you, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my eyes and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you and nations in exchange for your life.

#### Luke 8:1-3

Afterward he journeyed from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. Accompanying him were the Twelve and some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources.

#### John 20:1-18

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him.”

So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.

When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned home.

#### *The Appearance to Mary of Magdala.*

But Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been. And they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him.”

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” She thought it was the gardener and said to him, “Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni,” which means Teacher.

Jesus said to her, “Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and what he told her.

### **Ephesians 5:8-9**

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.

### **GROUP DISCUSSION**

- What character stood out to you the most? Which were most interesting? Most moving? Is there one you identify with?
- Does this show change the way you view Bible characters? Have you ever considered their sinfulness and their flaws before while reading Scripture?
- What is a question you have about Scripture, Jesus, or any other things after watching this episode?
- These first few episodes describe the disciples “Pre-Jesus”. What does an encounter with Jesus do to people?
- What did you think about the timing of the appearance of Jesus? How does His intentionality help you recognize Him in your own life?
- 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)?
- What have you learned about Jesus from this episode?

### **PERSONAL QUESTIONS**

- Nicodemus initially went along with Praetor Quintus’s selfish wants because he did not want to ruin the reputation of the Pharisees. Do you sometimes have motivations for your actions that aren’t on doing the good, but rather on the upkeep or improving of your image?
- Jesus stopped Mary from consuming alcohol by saying, “That’s not for you.” How many things in our life do we have that turn us away from where we’re supposed to be? What distractions in our lives do we treat as solutions that aren’t healthy?