

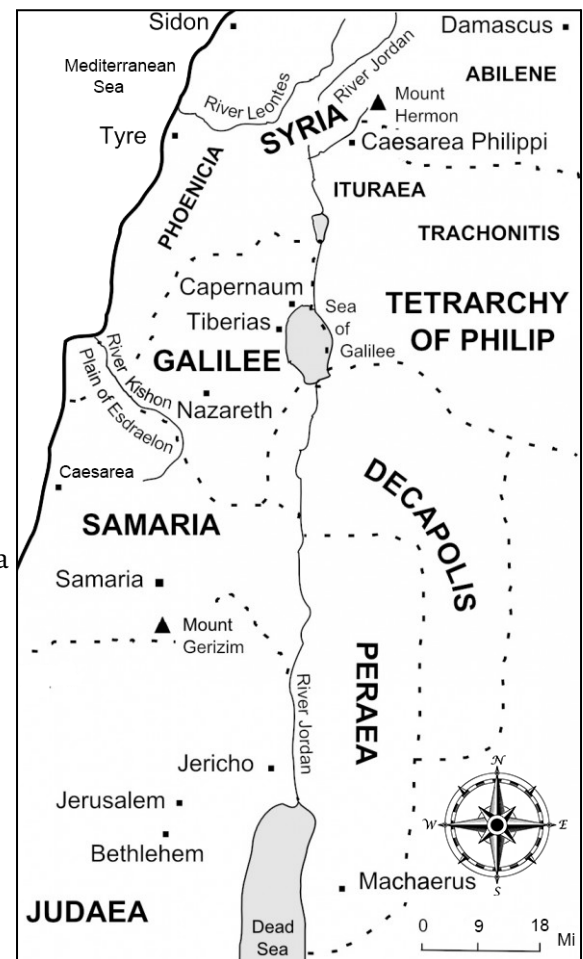
The Chosen, Season 1: Episode 1

Context

- We start in the town of Magdala, 2 B.C.
 - 2 B.C. is probably just after Jesus was born
 - Magdala (not on map) was a town on the west shore of the Sea of Galilee, about 3 miles north of Tiberias
- We jump forward in time to the city of Capernaum, 26 A.D.
 - 26 A.D. is just before Jesus starts his ministry
 - Capernaum was a fishing village on the north of the Sea of Galilee
- Shabbat: Saturday, the Jewish sabbath, a day of rest

Bible characters we meet

- Mary Magdalene:
 - One of Jesus' disciples and was cured of 7 demons:
 - "...The Twelve were [following Jesus], and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out..." (see Luke 8:1-2)
 - The first to see the risen Jesus, and got to tell the rest of the disciples:
 - "Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: 'I have seen the Lord!' And she told them that he had said these things to her." (see John 20:11-18)
- Nicodemus
 - Pharisee who met with Jesus under the cover of darkness (the dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus includes the famous John 3:16 passage):
 - "Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night..." (see John 3:1-21)
 - One of them who prepared Jesus' body for burial:
 - "[Joseph of Arimathea] was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds." (see John 19:38-42)
- Matthew
 - Was a tax collector and became one of Jesus' disciples:
 - "As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him." (see Matthew 9:9-13)



- Tradition holds that he wrote the gospel of Matthew
- Simon (Peter) and his brother Andrew
 - Simon Peter and Andrew were fishermen and became Jesus' disciples:
 - “As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people.’ At once they left their nets and followed him.” (see Matthew 4:18-20)
 - Andrew was one of John the Baptist’s disciples before he followed Jesus, and Simon was also called “Peter”:
 - “Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John [the Baptist] had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas’ (which, when translated, is Peter).” (see John 1:35-42)
- Jesus
 - “...the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” (see Matthew 16:16)

Discussion

- There was a lot of religious and political tension 2000 years ago between the Romans and Jews, which can be easy to forget when reading the Gospels. Does knowing more historical context impact the way you understand and read scripture? What historical context stood out to you the most in this episode?
- Did you connect with Mary, Nicodemus, Matthew, or Simon? How do you feel they introduced the characters given what we know about them in scripture? (see above for some example scriptures)
- What emotions did you experience in the final scene with Mary and Jesus? Can you relate? How does it feel for Jesus to call you by name?
 - Repeat this truth from Isaiah 43:1 to yourself, inserting your name in the blank:
 “Fear not, _____, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.”