

The Chosen: Nicodemus Astonished at Mary Magdalene's Healing

Editorial

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Last week, KBYU re-started "The Chosen" series at the beginning. This is now my fourth time through. (Thanks KBYU TV.) Each time I see it, I love it more, falling in love with the characters, getting to know them better—especially Jesus.

Yes, I realize that the back-story extrapolations are fictional, and filled with modern culture parallels, but I'm guessing that the script writers, actors, producers, casting, costumes, scenery designers, etc. are all highly inspired in their work to approximate very closely to how things really were.

Jonathian Roumie, playing Jesus, does a phenomenal job depicting Jesus as I see him. And given the ecumenical popularity of the series, apparently, so do millions of others. Intuition is universal in its congruence with truth.

The casting for Nicodemus, his wife, and Mary Magdalene, and the script of their dialogue is also stunningly brilliant, inspired, moving. At this early stage, you see Nicodemus becoming intrigued at the possibility of Jesus being the Messiah—something he toys with but doesn't embrace until the crucifixion, giving Jesus his own tomb.

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In the previous episode, Nicodemus attempted unsuccessfully to cast the demons out of Mary, stating that only God himself could do it [isn't that the case with all miracles?]. In today's episode, the Sanhedrin is abuzz in seeing Mary healed, thinking their revered Nicodemus had been successful after all. Sensing that not to be the case, Nicodemus went to investigate for himself.

His dialogue with Mary was deeply moving, her reluctance to talk to him, his astonishment with her clarity. I loved her lines, ~ "I'm still trying to figure it out myself. What I can say is that I was one way before, and now I'm another, and here's what happened in between."

I loved the juxtaposition of Mary's humble Shabbat ceremony, with Jesus and several disciples present, in contrast to polished Nicodemus & his Sanhedrin ritzy Shabbat ceremony. I love how "The Chosen" features Jewish traditions, ceremonies, culture. Very magnetic, making one wish they were there, too. At least that's how I felt.

The scene of Matthew and Caius going to see Quintus about Peter's unreliability - ratting on a fellow Jew, who had struck up an agreement with Quintus to rat on his fellow Jews fishing on the Sabbath - was brilliantly done. All fantastically cast and developed throughout the series.

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BTW, I should point out a couple of things in each episode back-drop that relate to my ministry and "The Chosen's" alignment with prepping for it, getting people to think outside the box and finding great treasures in so doing. Note how prominently the "Out of Order Studios" logo shows up at the beginning and ending, tying to the super-controversial D&C 85:7, 8 passage. And in the opening, when they show the Christian Fish circling the screen, that at first, just one Flip direction and is filled in with color, going the opposite direction to the other fish that are empty. Then more and more Flip direction and are filled in. I see these symbolizing a person repenting and going all-in, to become ChoFFB. And true to my N→0 book title, it starts with just one.

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