

## The Chosen ---Study #2 LCR, Marion

“When Jews say ‘Shabbat shalom – Sabbath peace’ to family and friends after a draining work week, we mean far more than ‘have a peaceful and restful day.’ What we are really saying is: May you be restored to wholeness on the blessed Sabbath!”

-- Rabbi Harold F. Caminker



Many Christians are a bit anemic in our understanding of the depths of what Sabbath (Shabbat) means for the people of God. This happens partly because we have become convinced that Sabbath observance was a source of idolatry in the time of Jesus—given the stories about his breaking customs that were in place. This is also the case because we have come to connect Sabbath with the so-called “Blue laws” and a legalistic enforcement of Christian worship. Neither of these understandings helps us to understand the beauty and power of the Sabbath day.

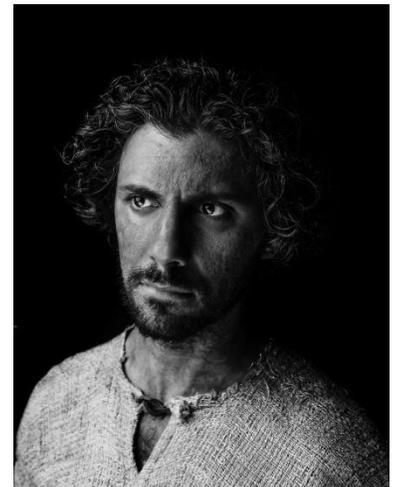
- In “The Chosen” we were able to sit in on four different Sabbath meals. Which one did you connect with? Where they all faithful Shabbat meals?

Peter and Andrew- a meal filled with family tension.

Mary Magdalene- simple and awkward, but warm/loving.

Nicodemus-Formal and elegant and all as it should be.

Matthew-alone with a dog as his Shabbat companion.



- The Bible teaches us that the Sabbath is at once to remind us of the rest that God took at the end of creation (Exodus 20.8-11) and also as a way to observe in our lives the liberty that God gave from the oppression of slavery in Egypt to all people (Deuteronomy 5.12-15). The Sabbath is of course on Saturday, the last day of the week. Christians worship and remember the resurrection on Sunday.

What does Sabbath mean to you? Has it been important?

- Read Isaiah 56.1-8; what is one of things that God does through the Sabbath? Who is invited to be a part of what God is doing?



- How does Christian worship reflect the idea of Sabbath?

And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,  
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,  
and to be his servants,  
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,  
and hold fast my covenant—  
<sup>7</sup> these I will bring to my holy mountain,  
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices  
will be accepted on my altar;  
for my house shall be called a house of prayer  
for all peoples.

Isaiah 56.6-7