

THE CHOSEN

Episode #206

"Unlawful"

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# The Chosen-Media Valet

TEASER

600 EXT. NOB - ESTABLISHING - DAY 600

A Yahwistic worship tabernacle in a rural settlement called Nob -- a place as unremarkable and boring as its name.

601 INT. HOUSE OF AHIMALECH - PREPARATION ROOM - DAY 601

The town priest, AHIMALECH (45) stands while his wife YAFA (early 40s) helps adorn him with layers of priestly garments.

It is Shabbat, but because he is of the line of Aaron, there is one special kind of work the priest is allowed, yea, REQUIRED to do on this day.

YAFA

The fever hasn't broken. Five days now.

AHIMALECH

He will heal. He always does.

YAFA

And what if our oldest son *doesn't* heal? Hmm?!

AHIMALECH

That is why I must teach Abiathar how to make the show bread today.

YAFA

Our family's share in the secret traditions of Aaron's priestly lineage will be damaged otherwise.

AHIMALECH

Yes, Yafa, I'm aware.

YAFA

Yet one more in our never-ending string of family curses.

Ahimalech sighs.

AHIMALECH

You. Always thinking in catastrophes.

YAF A  
And you, always thinking it will be  
a sunny day.

Ahimalech relents.

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AHIMALECH  
Send for the boy.

602 INT. NOB TEMPLE - PREPARATION ROOM - LATER 602

Ahimalech pulls a tapered peel of 12 hot cakes of unleavened bread -- like small pitas -- from a stone oven-fire, while his son, ABIATHAR (10) watches.

AHIMALECH  
Twelve cakes, one for each of the  
tribes of Isreal.

Abiathar peeks through a curtain into the Front Room (before the Holy of Holies) where there is a table of gold and wood. On top of which two stacks of six dried out cakes sit.

ABIATHAR  
But if the bread is still here, why  
didn't God eat it, Abba?

AHIMALECH  
God doesn't need food. It's called  
the Bread of the Presence because  
it's a reminder of His Presence in  
our lives, a symbol that He sits at  
our table, dwells in our midst.

The priest unloads six steaming cakes onto a platter that Abiathar is holding with the first century version of oven mitts, and they both go into --

603 INT. FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS 603

Ahimalech removes the current two stacks, setting them onto a special linen.

ABIATHAR  
What happens to the old bread?

AHIMALECH  
In the Law of Moses it is written,  
"Aaron and his sons shall eat it in  
a holy place, since it is for Him a  
most holy portion out of Adonai's  
food offerings, a perpetual due."

ABIATHAR  
I always wondered where you and  
saba went every Shabbat!

AHIMALECH

(chuckles)

Yes! We come here to eat the bread  
that has been removed -

(a sudden sharp  
distinction)

PROVIDED neither of us has lain  
with his wife that morning.

ABIATHAR

Don't you lay with Eema every  
night, Abba?

AHIMALECH

Ehh...we will discuss that another  
time. Now we replace with the hot  
bread as an offering to Adonai.

They take turns slipping a hot cake onto the table -- leading  
toward two stacks of six.

They say a name of the tribe of Israel with each placing of  
the cake --

AHIMALECH (CONT'D)

Reuben.

ABIATHAR

Simeon.

AHIMALECH

Levi

ABIATHAR

Judah.

On the name Judah the sound of someone stumbling through the  
door startles them and they turn to see a distressed man  
we'll soon know as DAVID (late 20s) leaning, famished against  
a wall. Ahimalech trembles, wide-eyed.

DAVID

Ahimalech...

Ahimalech sets the bread down.

AHIMALECH

Abiathar. Go home. Tell your  
mother I sent you, and that  
everything is fine.

Abiathar exits, worried, obedient, somehow aware this is a  
bad situation.

DAVID  
 (out of breath)  
 Listen, I--

AHIMALECH  
 Why are you alone? Where's your  
 protection?

David swallows hard, forlorn.

DAVID  
 The King sent me on a mission and  
 said no one is to know anything  
 about it. I've arranged to meet my  
 men in a certain place.

AHIMALECH  
 David, my understanding is that you  
 and the king are not on friendly  
 terms.

DAVID  
 I've been sent on a mission from  
 the KING.

David makes the faintest flick of the eyes and chin upward.  
 Ahimalech's face changes as he understands.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
 Please. I haven't eaten in days,  
 and I know my men won't have  
 either, they're in hiding. We  
 could make do with five loaves of  
 bread - anything.

AHIMALECH  
 I have no ordinary bread.

DAVID  
 What about that, that was replaced  
 by the hot bread?

AHIMALECH  
 It's still holy bread, an offering  
 to Adonai, only to be eaten by the  
 sons of Aaron. You KNOW the Law of  
 Moses.

DAVID  
 And I know the pikuach nefesh.

Ahimalech wants to give the bread to him. There's just one  
 more thing to cover --

AHIMALECH

Have the men kept themselves from women?

DAVID

TRULY they have, and ALWAYS, even when we are on an ordinary journey, they keep the rules. And they've been in hiding at Gibeah, waiting for me for days, how much more so now?

Ahimalech studies David, both men full of emotion. Ahimalech turns and heads back toward the table. He orders without looking back-

AHIMALECH

Secure the entrance.

Relieved, David rushes to the entrance, while Ahimalech gathers up the removed bread in the special linen. They meet in the middle.

AHIMALECH (CONT'D)

Just remember -- what I am about to give you is sacred.

The priest presses the bundle into the fugitive's hands and holds it there, not letting go, not breaking gaze.

DAVID

Life is more sacred than bread.

AHIMALECH

If Saul finds out I helped you, I won't get to keep mine.

DAVID

I know.

AHIMALECH

And I'm not sorry. Something special is going to come through you. I can feel it. Something bigger and more exciting, I don't know what.

David laughs fondly.

DAVID

(shaking his head with a smile)

There was nothing bigger or more exciting than that giant.

A sad, tender, wonder gathers in the corners of Ahimalech's eyes.

AHIMALECH  
(a near whisper)  
We'll see.

END TEASER

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ACT ONE

604 FADE IN ON: 604

CREDIT SEQUENCE:

XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX

605 I/E. JERICHO - STABLES - MORNING 605

SIMON stirs from a sleep, stretching on a bed of...hay. Half awake, he suddenly recalls that he's in a horse stable. SPITS out a stray piece of hay. Looking around --

SIMON

Matthew?

He stops a moment and closes his eyes.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I am thankful before You, living and enduring King, for you have mercifully restored my soul within me. Great is Your faithfulness.

Simon rises to his feet, brushes himself off. He emerges from the stable into the BLINDING light of morning.

MATTHEW (O.S.)

Are you hungry?

Simon squints to see Matthew standing at a table, pouring over a rough diagram of the city.

Matthew is filthy. His expensive garments are covered in hay, clumped in horse crap.

SIMON

What did you do to yourself?

Matthew realizes Simon is referring to his clothes.

MATTHEW

Oh.

He brushes some of the hay and notices the horse poop.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

OH!

Matthew GAGS.

SIMON

Ugh. That's disgusting. Didn't you put down new hay before lying down?

MATTHEW

No. Did you?

SIMON

Of course I did.

Matthew removes his top shirt, gagging the whole way. He washes his hands vigorously. Simon does the same and whispers his next morning prayer.

MATTHEW

My mind is racing. I guess I wasn't paying attention.

After a thorough rinse, he turns right back to the diagram.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

If we split up today, we'll be able to cover more ground.

SIMON

We're not splitting up.

MATTHEW

It would be logical--

SIMON

Jesus wants you back in one piece. Did you say there was breakfast?

MATTHEW

No. I asked if you were hungry.  
(off Simon's deadpan)  
Do you know how to cook eggs?

SIMON

No.

Matthew hands Simon a pan and some eggs.

MATTHEW

Boil water. Put the eggs in the water.

Matthew goes back to his diagram. Simon is left holding the pot and eggs. Did he just get orders from Matthew. A beat.

SIMON

No. No, no. Something's not right.

MATTHEW

What is it?

SIMON

I am not the cook, for starters.

MATTHEW

Neither am I. But we must sustain ourselves. While you make eggs however you like them, you can also devise our plan for the day. With me.

That sounds better to Simon.

SIMON

Fine.

He takes the pot to the fire.

SIMON (CONT'D)

We may have to accept the possibly she went somewhere other than Jericho.

MATTHEW

Ephraim or Bethel? No. Too much wilderness to cross between camp and either of those places. She's comfortable in cities.

SIMON

You think she's still here?

MATTHEW

I do. We must analyze her history, what she normally does.

SIMON

Lately -- before this -- all she did was study Torah with you and Ramah.

MATTHEW

I checked the synagogue, the officials said they hadn't seen her.

SIMON

How did you describe her?

MATTHEW  
How would you?

SIMON  
(struggling)  
She's got black hair.

MATTHEW  
**Long** black hair.

SIMON  
All our women have...

MATTHEW  
Sometimes she can't even cover it  
all.

Simon studies Matthew, the way he's talking.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)  
She may be distressed, possibly  
inconsolable.

SIMON  
Anything else?

MATTHEW  
(after a beat)  
Unusually pleasant to look at?

And there it is. Simon sees it -- Matthew likes Mary. He  
debates whether or not to bust him. Decides not to.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)  
You'll want to add the water before  
the pot heats up.

SIMON  
Okay, Matthew.

They are interrupted by a tottering Roman soldier named  
GAVIUS. He drunkenly stumbles to the edge of the stable.

Matthew pays him little mind. Simon approaches --

SIMON (CONT'D)  
Are you alright?

Gavius wipes his mouth.

GAVIUS  
Just another night at The Nomad.

SIMON

The Nomad?

GAIIVUS

I can't believe I made it up the stairs. Dionysus carried me.

Gavius trips over his own feet and Simon tries to help him up, but Gavius clumsily deflects with a drunken hand.

GAVIUS

Paws off, rat.

Gavius trudges away, late for work. Simon shakes his head, turns back to Matthew.

SIMON

Anyway, where were we? Oh yes, you gave a description of Mary to the official--

MATTHEW

(lowers his face cloth,  
squinting)

What did he say about stairs?

They both turn their heads in the direction from which Gavius stumbled. A look between them.

SIMON

It's worth a shot.

Matthew nods. Off his look of resolve --

606

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - OUTSIDE JERICHO - DAY

606

RAMAH and MARY MOTHER search for food. They disentangle flora, searching for edible vegetation.

RAMAH

What flowers CAN you eat?

MARY MOTHER

Orchid, begonia, dandelions -- a little tangy, but who's going to complain?

RAMAH

How do you know so much about edible flowers?

MARY MOTHER

My family has been poor my whole life. You learn what the earth can give you.

RAMAH

But your son is--

MARY MOTHER

(cheerfully)

My son is a homeless nomad who no longer brings in income from carpentry.

RAMAH

And you're smiling about it.

MARY MOTHER

I'm smiling because He's doing what He was born to do, and maybe sometimes that means we'll be hungry for a few days, but at least His time has come.

RAMAH

If His time has come, why doesn't He just bring back Mary?

MARY MOTHER

It doesn't work like that.

RAMAH

How does it work?

Mary Mother sighs.

MARY MOTHER

Some days, He's just as much a mystery to me as He is to you.

They spot a bush.

RAMAH

Berries!

She rushes to it and picks one, splits it open with her fingernail, and sniffs, then tosses it.

RAMAH (CONT'D)

Poison.

They forage the other bushes.

MARY MOTHER

We lived in Egypt when Jesus was a boy. One of their gods was called Thoth, whom they believed they could compel to grant their wishes if they performed rituals. It's not like that with our God, so why would it be with Jesus?

RAMAH

Nothing good can come from Mary disappearing like this.

MARY MOTHER

Do you know that?

RAMAH

She was already upset about something even before the possessed man came into camp.

MARY MOTHER

Simon and Matthew are competent searchers.

RAMAH

They do not like each other.

MARY MOTHER

(shrugs)  
They'll have to work together.

RAMAH

She could be dead or dying in a ditch somewhere. Why would Jesus use her pain to unite two men who are annoyed by each other?

MARY MOTHER

We don't know that she is in danger.

RAMAH

She's a woman alone! She's either in a savage wilderness, or a depraved town patrolled by Romans.

MARY MOTHER

(\*quoting Psalm 20\*)  
Ramah, some trust in chariots and some in horses.



ACT TWO

CLOSE ON a dingy, eroding BRICK WALL.

OFF SCREEN -- LOW VOICES. A MENACING LAUGH.

GAMBLER (O.S.)  
Three Hohj.

MOVING along the wall, enter --

607 INT. THE NOMAD - DAY

607

Day but it could be anytime. Any place. It's like Vegas. No windows or clocks at the Nomad.

The bar is populated by a table of LABORERS, CROOKS, RUFFIANS and, set apart, a table of ROMAN SOLDIERS. But at the center of it all --

A well stocked, messy table, a HALF-DOZEN GAMBLERS sit around a table playing knucklebones.

A DOZING GAMBLER, two players named SHOOB and HOHJ, and a SCOWLING GAMBLER, grumbling over his losses. All eyes on --

MARY MAGDALENE  
Nine for Shoob.

OOOHS at the pronouncement. Mary holds her cards tightly to her chest. Literally and otherwise. She's giving these people nothing. Her contempt for everyone around her thinly veiled. She takes a SHOT to numb it.

A PATRON on the outside of the game, to no one --

PATRON  
Nine is too much.

MARY MAGDALENE  
I came in here without a single shekel to my name, and now look at this pile.

Indeed. She's taking these guys for a ride. Probably others before we joined the scene.

PATRON  
How'd you get your first one, woman? What'd you have to do for it?

He laughs lecherously. Mary doesn't blink.

MARY MAGDALENE  
Wouldn't you like to know.

HOHJ  
Are we playing or not?

MARY MAGDALENE  
Get on with it.

Hohj tosses five knucklebones from his palm up into the air, flips his hand and catches two of them on the back of his hand, the other 3 scatter.

MARY MAGDALENE (CONT'D)  
First time, Hohj?

She finishes a drink, holds up a shekel. Calls to the bar --

MARY MAGDALENE (CONT'D)  
Another.  
(catching a cheating move)  
AH AH! No sweeps on twos!

PATRON  
That's a loose rule.

MARY MAGDALENE  
Well, we're playing by...

She looks around the table. The faces surrounding her. Pathetic, drunken, people with no futures.

For a split second, Mary looks like she might cry in despair. Then the disdain returns.

MARY MAGDALENE (CONT'D)  
We're not playing. We're done.

Mary grabs her winnings.

HOHJ  
You can't do that! I'm gonna win my money back.

MARY MAGDALENE  
Yeah? When?

HOHJ  
Now.

MARY MAGDALENE  
I see. Hohj--  
(steading herself)  
Hohj was just slow-playing us,  
everyone. He's actually a lion.

Others SCOFF.

MARY MAGDALENE (CONT'D)  
You want your money back?

HOHJ  
Seriously?

MARY MAGDALENE  
Mm hmm. It'll be behind the bar.

Turning to the BARKEEPER who has her drink ready. Mary takes a shot and winks.

MARY MAGDALENE (CONT'D)  
Another.

The GAMBLERS and PATRONS roar with laughter. But not Hohj. He fixes Mary with a scowl, pushes away from the table.

HOHJ  
A woman should know her place.

MARY MAGDALENE  
I suppose you're gonna show me?

Hohj angrily approaches as THRO steps out from the back.

Hohj and Thro square up, nose-to-nose.

ON MARY -- the VOICES of arguing men OFF SCREEN fade to ECHOES, barely distinguishable.

PUSH IN on Mary as, OVER -- a WOMAN'S SHRIEK...Her FATHER'S VOICE --

FATHER (V.O.)  
We say the words...

A flash of panic on Mary's face. She drops the money on the bar like a handful of hot rocks.

Covering her mouth, Mary FLEES. She runs to the door, exits in a brilliant flash of daylight as the door opens and closes.

Back inside, Thro stands over an unconscious Hohj, rubbing his knuckles. He turns to where Mary stood moments ago. Confusion washes over his face. Until he sees the money.

CUT TO:

608 EXT. JERICHO CAMP - EDGE - DAY

608 \*

THOMAS sorts through the last remaining bits of food they have next to a distracted ANDREW. Thomas counts lentils one by one, setting them on a small table.

The two men are in completely different head spaces, barely hearing one another.

THOMAS

16, 17, 18...19. Nineteen lentils.  
And there are 15 of us.

ANDREW

14 if Philip doesn't make it back today.

THOMAS

That's true. And 11 if Simon and Matthew don't find Mary.

ANDREW

It's only a day's walk to Jerusalem.

THOMAS

If Philip, Matthew, Simon and Mary don't come back, we could split the remaining 8 lentils, but someone would still be left out. And what if the others DO return? We'll have nothing for them!

ANDREW

Maybe Philip stayed an extra day to visit his brother Micah.

THOMAS

(finally snapping)  
Why are you so troubled about Philip? This is literally our last meal. These lentils.

(MORE)

THOMAS (CONT'D)

We don't have even half a beitzza of flour or yeast.

ANDREW

Ramah and Mary might find berries.

THOMAS

He can make people walk, He can heal lepers, why can't He make food appear out of thin air?

ANDREW

When I was with John, sometimes we would go for days without food, and other days a person he baptized would give us money and we would eat like kings. For a day.

Thomas' attention drifts to an odd sight OFF --

SIMON "ZEE" runs through a meditative breathing exercise. The movements are at once graceful and violent.

THOMAS

(distracted)

He doesn't sound like much of a planner.

ANDREW

We never thought about it. John doesn't believe in money.

THOMAS

Doesn't believe in it?

(re Zee)

Are you seeing this?

Andrew turns, watches casually. Too distracted to be disturbed by Zee's standing kicks.

ANDREW

He says it's a man-made construct designed to assign value and take ownership of things that belong to God.

THOMAS

Sounds like the guy needs an accountant. Maybe we should send Matthew to him.

Andrew sighs and looks back to the direction where he hopes to see Philip.

ANDREW

Right now isn't the best time for jokes.

Follow Andrew's look to --

609 EXT. JERICHO CAMPSITE - CONTINUOUS

609 \*

JOHN and BIG JAMES chop firewood, and watching Zee workout from a distance, practicing.

John and James are perplexed by Zee's movements.

JOHN

I once thought about joining the Zealots.

BIG JAMES

(offended)  
You never told me that.

JOHN

You never asked.

BIG JAMES

So, why didn't you?

JOHN

(indicating Zee)  
This very thing. We have enough rules from Torah to follow as it is.

BIG JAMES

613.

JOHN

(nodding)  
613. All these prayers to recite, all these things we can and can't do. Add a bunch of body exercises to that each morning.

BIG JAMES

They have to be in prime shape. You know?

JOHN

To kill people.

BIG JAMES

Yeah.

JOHN

Rolling out of bed each morning to Eema's breakfast and going out on the boat with Abba seemed pretty great when I thought about it.

BIG JAMES

What about me?

JOHN

(disregarding the question)

I just didn't have a zealots'...

BIG JAMES

Zeal?

JOHN

How'd you know I was gonna I say that?

BIG JAMES

Shut up. But now that he's with us, he's technically not a Zealot, right?

JOHN

I have this theory. That some people, like Little James and Thaddeus over there--

ANGLE ON: LITTLE JAMES and THADDEUS tending the fire in the middle of the camp.

JOHN (CONT'D)

They're called to follow our Rabbi, and somehow they just know it's a better path than the one they were on.

BIG JAMES

(indicating Zee)

And then there's him.

JOHN

Decades of training for one thing? It can't just go away overnight.

BIG JAMES

I'm more worried about Simon than him.

JOHN

We've had our moments, too.

BIG JAMES  
 (remembering with regret)  
 "Sons of Thunder." What will Eema  
 say?

JOHN  
 Maybe she'll be glad we got a  
 title.

A silent beat as they reflect. Then --

BIG JAMES  
 Poor Mary.

JOHN  
 I don't understand why Jesus paired  
 Simon and MATTHEW to find her.  
 It's like asking a....fox and a  
 fish to team up and do something  
 productive.

BIG JAMES  
 What?

JOHN  
 Because they would never work  
 together! It's just a saying.

BIG JAMES  
 No one says that. Anyway...I  
 actually don't understand most of  
 this. Just pieces here and there.  
 When something good happens. The  
 rest? Just...following.

John rests the blade of his axe on the ground and leans on  
 the long handle.

JOHN  
 I have a sinking feeling...it's  
 going to take a long time to  
 understand.

BIG JAMES  
 For us?

JOHN  
 For everyone.

Just then, Zee KICKS and THRUSTS. As the brothers watch --

610

**INT. TEMPLE - HALLWAYS - JERUSALEM - DAY**

610

An elder Pharisee, DUNASH (60s) walks through the halls of the great Temple at a good pace. SHMUEL and YANNI close on his heels.

DUNASH

So, all you're telling me is that he told someone to carry his mat on Shabbat?

SHMUEL

AND invoked the title Son of Man, from the prophet Daniel.

DUNASH

Many have. And maybe something happened in Capernaum but you're not certain it was the same person.

SHMUEL

I AM certain.

DUNASH

Right. And your second witness--

SHMUEL

My colleague, Yussef.

DUNASH

--was not at the pool and neither were you.

YANNI

I was there.

Dunash stops in his tracks, turns to give them his verdict.

DUNASH

I'm sorry, but your case is thin, and President Shimon does not preoccupy himself with minutiae.

Dunash turns on his heel and resumes striding.

SHMUEL

MINUTIAE?!

Yanni and Shmuel follow again.

YANNI

If I may be so bold, which violations of God's immutable Law DOES President Shimon deem worthy of his attention?

Dunash sighs.

DUNASH

You're not listening, Yanni, just as you have not in the past, which is why you hold such a low station.

Yanni is visibly stung.

SHMUEL

I would like to know as well -- if Shabbat violations are not worthy of Shimon's time, what is?

DUNASH

Of the 613 commandments, there are some, which, when pitted against one another in certain circumstances, create pain for our people who are already suffering.

SHMUEL

(\*quoting Psalm 19\*)  
"The Law of Adonai is PERFECT, reviving--

DUNASH

Let us return to the matter of witnesses. In the Torah, the testimony of how many witnesses are required to judiciously establish a fact?

SHMUEL

Two.

DUNASH

Suppose a husband dies, and his wife was the only one to witness the death? What does it make her?

YANNI

A widow.

DUNASH

Hmm?

SHMUEL

(oh fine)

An agunah - an abandoned woman because there was not a second witness to his death.

DUNASH

What if she remarries?

SHMUEL

It makes her an adulterer, and her children illegitimate.

DUNASH

Do you not see the cruelty of that? These are the laws Shimon -- like his father Hillel -- is seeking to reform. His care is for women, widows, the vulnerable. Yours is about people carrying mats on Shabbat.

YANNI

Blasphemy is not harmless. Dunash, think of the political value...

DUNASH

I'm only telling you Shimon is extremely focused, and he will not expend energy on this case. Shalom.

Dunash leaves them in the dust. Yanni and Shmuel are speechless.

611 EXT. THE NOMAD - DAY

611

Simon and Matthew look at the forbidding staircase and door of The Nomad.

After a short stand off, Matthew goes first. Simon stops him.

SIMON

I know places like this.

Descending the stairs behind Simon, Matthew WHISPERS to himself --

MATTHEW

"If I make my bed in the deep in the depths, You are there."

Simon feels the gravity of the errand.

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SIMON  
Just stay behind me.

They enter.

END ACT TWO

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ACT THREE

612 INT. THE NOMAD - DAY

612

Simon and Matthew enter, unnoticed. They fix their attention on --

Things have gotten uproarious at the gaming table.

HOHJ

Round four! Round four, Shoob!

Shoob PLAYS. He tosses the knuckle bone up into the air and is only able to sweep up 3 before catching it. The room explodes as Gambler greedily scoops the entire pile of shekels into his purse.

CHEERS and BOOS at the outcome. Shoob pounds his fists.

ON SIMON and MATTHEW -- watching the scene. Matthew's eyes are like saucer plates.

A SOLDIER from the Roman table stands --

ROMAN

Keep it civil over there. Hebrew dogs.

The gaming table goes quiet. Only SOUNDS of Dozing Gambler, scraping up his winnings.

Matthew and Simon stand nearby, Matthew surveys the faces.

MATTHEW

Excuse me?!

If they played records, the needle would skip. ALL TURN to Matthew and a horrified Simon.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

Have you seen a woman with long dark hair? She may be distraught...

At the table, Hohj stands. Nose swollen, eye blacked.

HOHJ

Are you friends of Lilith?

Simon and Matthew exchange quizzical looks.

SIMON  
No.

MATTHEW  
Mary?

HOHJ  
It sounds like Lilith. That witch  
took me for everything I had at  
knucklebones.

Simon nods, totally gets it. To Matthew --

SIMON  
It's Mary.

MATTHEW  
(sotto)  
Lilith?

SIMON  
Do you know where she is now?

613 EXT. JERICHO STREET - MOMENTS LATER

613

Matthew and Simon walk down the street from The Nomad. Simon  
looks exasperated, shell-shocked. Matthew plots --

MATTHEW  
She can't have gone too far. We'll  
cover more ground if we split--

SIMON  
We're not doing that.

MATTHEW  
We can meet back at the stables!

UNKNOWN POV - of Matthew and Simon talking. Nearby.

SIMON  
Didn't you learn anything in there?  
Mary can obviously take care of  
herself. YOU can't.

MATTHEW  
What if you were cut off from Jesus  
by something in your past?  
Wouldn't you want help getting back  
to Him as soon as possible?

The notion hits Simon like a 2 x 4.

SIMON  
 Okay. We split up.  
 (pointing each one--)  
 North. East. South. West. I'll  
 go North as far as--

MARY MAGDALENE (O.S.)  
 Boys?

They freeze and turn.

ANGLE ON -- MARY. 20 feet away. She sits on a bench, under a tree. Drunk. Swaying as she tries to squint the two Matthews and two Simons out of her eyes.

MATTHEW  
 Mary!

Matthew rushes to her. Simon grins relief.

MARY MAGDALENE  
 I thought I was dreaming you.

Mary trails off, face puckers, overcome with emotion. Her eyes well.

Matthew's look is one of full acceptance. Simon scans the street for signs of danger.

SIMON  
 Can you walk?

MARY MAGDALENE  
 I'm not going anywhere.

MATTHEW  
 We have to go back.

MARY MAGDALENE  
 I can't.

SIMON  
 C'mon, Mary. He told us to come  
 for you.

MARY MAGDALENE  
 No. He already fixed me once and I  
 broke again. I can't face Him.

As Mary weeps, Simon gives Matthew a look. Out of ideas. Matthew kneels before Mary. Mustering his courage to admit --

MATTHEW  
 I'm a bad person, Mary.

MARY MAGDALENE

Matthew...

MATTHEW

No! My whole life, all for me. No faith.

MARY MAGDALENE

I do have faith in Him. Just not in me.

MATTHEW

I'm learning more about Torah and God because of you. I'm studying harder because you are such a good student.

Matthew prods Simon with a look. **Say something.**

SIMON

Remember when we were at Zebedee's? And they lowered that man after breaking Zeb's roof?

Mary snorts a laugh through tears and snot. Nods.

SIMON (CONT'D)

We did that together. And they got to meet Jesus because of your care for them and your good ideas.

MATTHEW

Ramah is beginning to read and write because of you. He saved you to do all these things.

Mary breaks down, keels over onto her knees, and vomits the poison she's consumed in the past 48 hours.

Matthew immediately tends to her, holding back her hair as she coughs and retches.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

It's alright.

Simon is shocked at Matthew.

SIMON

Where's your handkerch--

MATTHEW

Will you get some water, please?

Simon realizes that this is what Matthew's love looks like. His expression and manner communicate an amused kindness.

SIMON

Yeah, right. I'll find some water.

Simon exits. Off Matthew tending to Mary --

CUT TO:

614 INT. YANNI'S OFFICE - DAY

614

Yanni and Shmuel lick their wounds after Dunash's dressing down. While Yanni gives an animated play-by-play, Shmuel is more reflective.

YANNI

Thin? Blatantly COMMANDING someone to violate shabbat, in addition to blasphemy? President Shimon would call that a "thin" case?

SHMUEL

Dunash was totally dismissive.

YANNI

He is arrogant because he believes he's the final word. He thinks there's no consequence in talking down to us.

SHMUEL

It's hopeless.

Yanni has turned a corner. Now it's personal.

YANNI

No, it's just getting started...NOW we go to the other side. The rigid one.

SHMUEL

Shammai?

In his mind, Yanni is already down the road with his plan. Musing out loud --

YANNI

I was hoping to create more chaos by working through Shimon, but perhaps Shammai will respond to our stories with such fury this will work better anyway.

(MORE)

## YANNI (CONT'D)

Once, during the Feast of Tabernacles, Shammai's daughter gave birth to a son. He climbed up onto the roof of the chamber where she and the boy lay and **tore open** a hole in the plaster to make it a sukkah.

The Chosen-Media Valet

SHMUEL

Yes, and his philosophies have weight in the Sanhedrin, which helps. But what if he finds out we sought President Shimon first?

YANNI

Not what if -- we spell it out for him. Shammai and Shimon are philosophical rivals. Here we have a matter of law that Shimon doesn't have time for. It's a perfect issue for Shammai. Shimon will have no answer as to why he didn't take this seriously.

Shmuel considers this.

SHMUEL

Why does it take all this?

615 EXT. JERICHO CAMPSITE - DAY

615 \*

Simon, Mary, and Matthew return to camp. Sitting at the edge, of camp are Mary Mother, Ramah, John, and Big James.

All turn suddenly to see the returning group. Ramah leaps up and runs to Mary Magdalene.

RAMAH

Mary!

Ramah holds her, cradles her face. Forehead to forehead --

RAMAH (CONT'D)

You're alive. Thank heaven you're alive.

John has risen with a somewhat foreboding look on his face. Simon immediately senses something is wrong. He scans the camp -- worried faces all around.

SIMON

What happened?

JOHN

Philip returned with news -- John the Baptizer was taken into custody.

BIG JAMES

In Herod's most heavily blockaded prison, high security.

JOHN

I guess it was pretty bad. They were rough, they hurt him.

SIMON

Does Jesus know?

John nods yes. Simon's eyes go wide --

SIMON (CONT'D)

Has Andrew heard?

John nods again. Simon looks across to --

SIMON POV -- Andrew and Philip in tense discussion at the opposite edge of camp.

Simon goes to him. Mary Mother pulls a shawl from her waist and wraps it over Mary's hair.

Mary Mother and Ramah fix Mary Mag's hair, wipe tears from her eyes, try to clean her up.

MARY MAGDALENE

Where is He?

MARY MOTHER

In His tent.

MARY MAGDALENE

Should I wai--

MARY MOTHER

No. I will take you to him.

With a broken heart and a powerful shame on, Mary Magdalene puts one foot in front of the other behind Mary Mother.

616 INT. JERICHO CAMP - JESUS' TENT - CONTINUOUS

616 \*

Jesus sits with his back to the entrance, head in his hands, grieving deeply. Not just about JtB--but about everything that he knows, somewhere deep in his human-God bone marrow--must now be accelerated. Mary Mother pulls open the flap and Mary enters.

She stands midway between the entrance and Jesus for a moment. Jesus snuffles.

JESUS  
(pulling himself out of  
it)  
It's not you.

He wipes his nose and rallies. He rises and turns to her.

JESUS (CONT'D)  
There's quite a lot going on right  
now.

All she can do is nod.

JESUS (CONT'D)  
So...it's good to have you back.

Mary lowers her head. Fighting to keep from breaking.

MARY MAGDALENE  
I don't know what to say.

JESUS  
I don't require much.

MARY MAGDALENE  
I'm so ashamed. You redeemed me,  
and I just threw it all away.

JESUS  
Hm, that's not much of a redemption  
if it can be lost in a day, is it?

MARY MAGDALENE  
I owe you everything, and I just  
don't think I can do it.

JESUS  
Do what?

MARY MAGDALENE  
Live up to it. Repay you. How  
could I leave, how could I --

JESUS

Mary.

MARY MAGDALENE

-- go back to the place I was, and I didn't even come back on my own, they had to get me. I just can't live up to it.

JESUS

Well, that's true.

Mary cries harder. Mary Mother approaches and hands her a cloth.

JESUS (CONT'D)

But you don't have to. I just want your heart.

(points up)

The father just wants your heart. Give us that, which you have, and the rest will come in time. Did you really think you'd never struggle or sin again?

MARY MAGDALENE

I shouldn't.

JESUS

Someday. But not here.

MARY MAGDALENE

I'm just so sorry.

JESUS

Look up.

MARY MAGDALENE

I can't.

JESUS

You can. Look at me.

She looks up.

JESUS (CONT'D)

I forgive you.

She breaks, head down again.

JESUS (CONT'D)

It's over.

She shakes her head.

He approaches and hugs her, and she surrenders.

JESUS (CONT'D)  
It's forgotten.

CUT TO:

Matthew stands outside, listening, moved.

617 EXT. JERICHO CAMPSITE - SAME 617 \*

Simon consoles Andrew. Philip, Zee, and Thomas stand nearby.

SIMON  
(to Philip)  
You're certain Herod said forever?

PHILIP  
I think that's what life  
imprisonment means. Signed the  
declaration on the spot -- in  
blood.

ANDREW  
(inconsolable)  
We'll never see him again.

ZEE  
We can break him out. I know some  
people.

PHILIP  
The Zealots against Herod's army?  
Oooh. That's a fight I'd pay to  
see. It is maximum security up  
there.

ZEE  
That would make it more fun.

PHILIP  
You're not a part of that order  
anymore. You're a part of this  
one.

ZEE  
We needn't limit our options, is my  
point.

SIMON  
Now isn't the time for that.

THOMAS  
I'm afraid the situation is worse  
than you know.

ANDREW  
What could be worse??

Thomas looks ill. An uncomfortable silence needles the  
group.

SIMON  
Thomas?

THOMAS  
This never used to happen to me  
before I met you guys.

Off the others' quizzical looks --

618 INT. JERICHO CAMP - JESUS' TENT - MOMENTS LATER 618 \*

Mary is still with Jesus. Matthew appears at the entrance.

MATTHEW  
I'm sorry to interrupt, Rabbi. It  
seems there's--

JESUS  
Yes, let him in, Matthew.

Thomas enters.

THOMAS  
Rabbi?

JESUS  
Yes.

THOMAS  
I recognize there's a lot  
happening, and now may not be a  
good time.

SIMON  
Go on, say it.

THOMAS  
After last night's Shabbat dinner,  
we are completely out of food.

JESUS  
Not a single lentil or green?

THOMAS

We split the remaining lentils last night.

JESUS

Sounds like something we should seek my father about.

THOMAS

PRAY?

JESUS

It is Shabbat after all. I know of a synagogue nearby.

THOMAS

The nearest settlement is Wadi Kelt, and I don't think they give out free meals.

JESUS

Tell everyone we're heading out.

Mary exits, followed closely by Thomas. Jesus closes his eyes to pray as we --

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

619 EXT. WADI KELT - ESTABLISHING - DAY 619

A podunk town on a podunk hill. The ancient equivalent of a one stop sign town. The synagogue is the town's most prominent feature.

A field of well-tended wheat, adjacent to the synagogue property, stretches out before us.

620 INT. WADI KELT SYNAGOGUE - DAY 620

SHOTS of the synagogue --

1) The Mikveh pool

2) The DUST piling up on the front steps.

3) A kitchen/prep room reminiscent of the one from our cold open. Unlike the first scene, however, the stone oven hasn't been used in years.

END SERIES.

621 INT. WADI KELT SYNAGOGUE - DAY 621

A Pharisee LAMECH (late 30s) stands before an altar preparing the Torah scroll.

An elder Pharisee, MADAI, shuffles in.

LAMECH  
Shabbat shalom, rabbi.

MADAI  
Shabbat shalom, Lamech.

Aaaand that was the most exciting thing that's happened in a while. Let's get outta here.

622 EXT. RURAL ROAD - DAY 622

Jesus and His disciples walk to synagogue.

This is our first chance to show what they each do on shabbat.

The women are definitely separated from the men.

Jesus leads the procession. Simon, John, and Big James follow closely.

Jesus leads the group OFF the road, directly through the wheatfield. Wadi Kelt synagogue sits off in the distance.

The others share a look at the path Jesus has taken.

SIMON

Have you been to this synagogue, Rabbi?

JESUS

No, I have not, Simon.

JOHN

Why this synagogue Rabbi? It's not on any of our maps.

JESUS

That's a good question. Have you noticed that, no matter where we go recently, we are more and more misunderstood?

The three of them share a look.

JOHN

Definitely.

JESUS

It's a very complicated time. It grieves me that Mary was not welcome at the synagogue in Jericho when she first arrived in distress.

SIMON

They turned her away? She didn't mention it.

JESUS

She is a woman -- she didn't expect their help. But she needed it. Add to that John's arrest... You could say I'm feeling nostalgic for a small town.

Off the disciples looks --

623

INT. WADI KELT SYNAGOGUE - LATER

623

Lamech stands at the table, reading from Torah scroll. Madai stands just off.

The assembled crowd is small, bedraggled, but glad for a place to rest and listen.

Jesus and the male disciples enter and everyone turns. It's a town so small you notice a new person. Even Lamech is thrown for a moment, but continues reading.

Mary Mother, Mary Magdalene, and Ramah join another WOMAN in an outer portion of the room.

Jesus walks part way down the center aisle and notices a Man with a WITHERED HAND, paralyzed and coiled.

Jesus kneels next to the man, whom we'll come to know as ELAM (30s), who turns to him, surprised.

Jesus reaches out to inspect the hand. Whispers twitter through the crowd, overlapping --

**"who is this?" "what is going on?"** etc.

Lamech PAUSES reading. Now raising his voice --

LAMECH

Excuse me! What are you doing?

JESUS

(to Elam)

What is your name?

ELAM

Elam.

JESUS

(to Lamech)

Your friend Elam has a withered hand.

MADAI

Are you a healer?

LAMECH

It is not lawful to heal on Shabbat!

Jesus rises from Elam's side and takes a step down the aisle toward the front of the synagogue.

Addressing the congregation --

JESUS

Which one of you who has a sheep,  
if it falls into a pit on the  
Sabbath, will not take hold of it  
and lift it out?

MADAI

Who are you to speak to our  
congregation in such a way?

JESUS

Of how much more value is a man  
than a sheep!

LAMECH

Stop this at once!

Jesus turns to Elam.

JESUS

Come and stand here.

Elam stands, uncertain.

MADAI

Elam, sit down, we don't know this  
person, he could be a shaman.

But Elam proceeds, trembling with hope, like a magnet, toward  
Jesus.

JESUS

(to all)

Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do  
good or to do harm, to save life or  
to kill?

MADAI

This affliction does not threaten  
his life.

LAMECH

It does not even affect his health.

Elam gives Lamech a heartbroken look of betrayal. Jesus  
looks around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of  
heart.

JESUS

Stretch out your hand.

Elam stretches it out. Jesus takes him by the hand and  
it...is restored.

Shock, scandal, and joy! A ripple through the room.

Through tears of amazement, Elam flexes his hand, awed by its strength and usefulness.

LAMECH

If he was supposed to be healed God would have done it Himself!

JESUS

Interesting point.

MADAI

GET OUT.

JESUS

(if looks could kill)  
Gladly.

The shock and gasps in the room ratchet up. Jesus turns to the door. Simon practically has to grab the other disciples by their shocked collars to get them to follow.

Elam's WIFE and FRIENDS rush to him, fawning over his hand, some weeping with joy.

LAMECH

Blasphemer! Abomination!

MADAI

What is wrong with you?!

As he sails out the door, Jesus murmurs ironically --

JESUS

Apparently everything.

The disciples follow him quickly, heading straight into the grain field outside the rural synagogue.

LAMECH (O.S.)

Wait! Come back! How dare you!

RAMAH

(rushing through the  
field)

Are they going to send the town  
guard after us?

THOMAS

I think those guys ARE the town  
guard.

Up ahead, practically skipping through the field--

SIMON  
 (chaos muppet joy)  
 So, for those of you outside who  
 couldn't see, first he interrupted  
 the reading simply by kneeling next  
 to this guy with a paralyzed hand--

Simon absently pulls a head of grain off its stalk and eats.

SIMON (CONT'D)  
 (mouth full)  
 And then the priest, he was--

Everyone freezes, shocked by Simon's transgression. Simon realizes what he's just done, mid-chew, and freezes.

Matthew is close to Philip.

MATTHEW  
 What?

PHILIP  
 Reaping or harvesting on Shabbat...

MATTHEW  
 Oh yes.

Simon spits it out.

SIMON  
 I'm sorry, I've been so hungry I  
 forgot what day it is.

Simon stares at Jesus.

JESUS  
 You may.

He turns to the group and nods.

They all pluck heads of grain and eat, relieved to have their hunger abated. The Pharisees catch up, spitting their lines:

MADAI  
 You have made a mockery of our  
 little synagogue AND of Torah.

LAMECH  
 You will tell us your name, your  
 lineage, your---

Lamech and Madai are dumbstruck at the sight of the disciples eating heads of grain. Their heads all but explode.

LAMECH (CONT'D)

(screaming)

First You...and now your  
disciples... are doing what is not  
lawful to do on the Sabbath!

JESUS

Have you not read what David did  
when he was in need and was hungry,  
how he entered the house of God, in  
the time of Ahimalech the priest,  
and ate the bread of the Presence,  
which it was not lawful for him to  
eat but only for the priests?

LAMECH

You would compare yourself to  
David?

MADAI

That was an emergency, you MONSTER!

JESUS

Or have you not read in the Law how  
on Shabbat the priests in the  
temple profane the Sabbath but are  
guiltless?

LAMECH

That's for Levites. Are you a  
Levite? Of the priestly lineage?

JESUS

Listen carefully... something  
greater than the temple is here.  
And if you had known what this  
means, 'I desire mercy, not  
sacrifice,' you would not have  
condemned the guiltless.

He approaches them and leans in...

JESUS (CONT'D)

Sabbath was made for man, not man  
for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man  
is lord even of the Sabbath.

MADAI

(stunned)

Son of M-m--

JESUS

(to His followers)

Let's go.

Lamech and Madai are speechless. As The Crew hurries away through the field:

MATTHEW

(to Philip)

That title: Son of Man. It seems to really upset people. Why?

PHILIP

I'll tell you later. Come on.

624 INT. LAMECH'S STUDY - NIGHT

624

Madai paces in front of Lamech's desk as Lamech writes furiously.

MADAI

They probably won't even read it. This is WADI KELT. Not Bethany, or Jericho. They routinely forget to send us memoranda of liturgical changes for synagogue practice!

LAMECH

And if we don't alert the Sanhedrin?

MADAI

We sin by omission.

LAMECH

He even had WOMEN following him. THREE.

MADAI

Be sure to add that.

LAMECH

If that doesn't catch their attention...

MADAI

But the Sanhedrin is distracted. Between Rome, and the factions and reforms and Zealots and Herod and Caesar... Their attention is diluted.

Lamech sighs.

LAMECH

Who'd have dreamed? Someone claiming to be the Son of Man--

MADAI

--The one who approaches the  
Ancient of Days--

LAMECH

--AND Lord of the Sabbath, walking  
into our tiny synagogue.

The two are quiet for a moment.

MADAI

Wadi Kelt. Jerusalem. David.  
Goliath. Maybe there's hope for  
the little, the overlooked.

LAMECH

Or they'll write it off as just  
another lunatic in the wilderness  
spewing blasphemies and trying to  
get attention.

MADAI

And it will go straight to the  
bottom of the pile on some  
secretary's desk. We could also go  
to Tiberius, there will be some  
people of import among the  
protests, we could tell them as  
well.

LAMECH

Yes, we'll do both. Who knows?  
All we can do is fulfill our duty  
to report the facts. And pray.

MADAI

For what?

After a beat --

LAMECH.

Justice.

And off their hopeful looks, we --

FADE TO BLACK.

END EPISODE