

THE CHOSEN

Episode #207

"Reckoning"

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PINK Draft

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Address
Phone Number

The Chosen-Media Valet

TEASER

700 EXT. CAPERNAUM - DAY

700

UNKNOWN POV -- as we WALK the streets of Capernaum. SEE places and PEOPLE --

ZEBEDEE wraps his fishing nets. He SEES us, the look on his face is passive but distinctly disapproving.

Town square. A NEW TAX COLLECTOR inside Matthew's Tax Booth struggles to process a LONG LINE of CITIZENS.

MARCUS (from episode #101, a la "...fire of fires."), the new escort, stands guard, infuriated by the line. To a pair of UNRULY BROTHERS --

MARCUS

Hey! I told you to get BACK IN
LINE!!

More through the town square. A seated BARNABY animatedly telling SHULA the latest town gossip.

Barnaby trails off, casts a brief glance up, clocking us with disdain.

BARNABY

(re us, to Shula)
Take my word for it, Shula.
Messiah coming has done nothing for
the quality of people in this town.

CONTINUE on past --

A SIGN nailed to wall reads, "Jesus of Nazareth is sought for questioning"

POV's HAND rips it down, the parchment tearing through the nail. A CIVILIAN watches in shock as we --

REVERSE POV -- to find ATTICUS inspecting the poster thoughtfully. He heads off.

701 INT. ROMAN AUTHORITY - VESTIBULE - CONTINUOUS

701

Atticus greeted by a CLERK sits at the front desk, writing. Without looking up --

CLERK

Yes?

ATTICUS
I'm here to see Quintus.

CLERK
That's PRAETOR Quintus, and you may
only request an audience via
formal...

Atticus thumps the paper notice down on the desk. Clerk is
horrified.

CLERK (CONT'D)
...application. Did you deface and
remove a public notice?

Atticus peels back a layer of his clothing to reveal the
gleaming S.P.Q.R Eagle insignia.

Suddenly wide-eyed, Clerk slowly sets down his quill and
swallows hard.

702 INT. ROMAN AUTHORITY - QUINTUS' OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER 702

Quintus muses at his window.

QUINTUS
Atticus Adronicus Pulcher. Sent
all the way to the Upper Galilee.

ATTICUS
You're behind the times, Quintus.
I've been up and down Judea.
Practically under your nose.

QUINTUS
I thought you retired.

ATTICUS
Cohortes Urbanae don't retire.

QUINTUS
Oh that's right. They ship you off
to GAUL.

ATTICUS
How do you hold up all that armor
with no spine?

QUINTUS
Oooh, don't be salty. Gaul's not a
bad place to end a career. I hear
the women all have red hair, and
the music...

ATTICUS

I'm not here to talk about women or music, though I'm sure you have plenty of time for both.

QUINTUS

Yes, because I keep things so tight around here. It's how I have time for you. Oh, and Hail Caesar! Did I hail already? How can I serve him today?

ATTICUS

I come bearing intelligence.

QUINTUS

I bear ears.

ATTICUS

Good. Open them wide Quintus. I've got news...it's about Jesus of Nazareth.

Quintus's demeanor changes. He can't cover his pleasure and intrigue. Off the gleam in his eye --

END TEASER

ACT ONE

703 FADE IN ON: 703

CREDIT SEQUENCE:

XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX

704 EXT. SEA OF GALILEE SHORE - DAY 704

SIMON, ANDREW, JOHN, and BIG JAMES stand on the southwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee outside the city of Tiberias, each holding a stone.

JOHN
I'm going first.

John rears back, about to throw his stone into the sea.

SIMON
Wait wait wait wait!!!

John freezes, annoyed.

SIMON (CONT'D)
How are we gonna measure if you
throw it in the sea?

JOHN
By the splash.

ANDREW
Uh uh. Throw it on the shore.

BIG JAMES
I'm gonna win anyway.

SIMON
We'll see. If it's between fishing
or hearing Rabbi's instructions
about the sermon, I'll throw this
thing to the mediterranean.

ANDREW
We should all be fishing! Try to
avoid anything like what happened
in Wadi Kelt.

JOHN
So throw it, big guy. Winner's
pick.

ANDREW
Yeah. Yeah, okay.

Andrew prepares to throw his stone. All business. Taking this very seriously.

They all four THROW their stones as far as they can.

Andrew --

John --

Simon --

Finally, Big James' stone sails past the others.

JOHN
Yes!

Andrew ROARS in frustration.

BIG JAMES
The sons of Jonah fish today.

SIMON
Two out of three? What if we arm wrestle?

ANDREW
Why are we deciding anything? We should ALL fish like Jesus asked, we can't risk messing up his sermon plans.

JOHN
Andrew, I never took you for a sore loser.

SIMON
All right, easy, Little Thunder. You go listen to Rabbi, and catch us up when we come back.

ANDREW
No, I mean it. Rabbi told all four of us to find food, and if we don't do what he says, bad things will happen.

BIG JAMES
A sore loser AND superstitious. Not a good look.

He winks as they turn to leave, but Andrew doesn't smile.

The Brothers Thunder head toward a knoll where Jesus is talking to a small group of disciples. Turning back --

JOHN

We can arm wrestle next time,
Simon. No problem.

They LAUGH as they go.

ANDREW

That was a terrible suggestion.

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SIMON

You don't think I can take at least one of them?

Andrew continues gathering nets silently.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Have some faith, man.

ANDREW

Faith isn't my problem.

They step into the boat.

704A EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF JOTAPATA - KNOLL - DAY

704A *

Big James and John arrive at the gathering of Jesus with Philip, Nathanael, Mother Mary, and Matthew.

JESUS

Sons of Thunder, aren't you supposed to still be fishing?

BIG JAMES

We decided they could handle it, we wanted to hear more about what you're planning.

JESUS

You won a contest, huh? How is Andrew?

JOHN

He'll get over it. So what have we missed?

MATTHEW

(reading notes)

Zee is working on a security plan, Ramah and Mary are back at the camp working on --

JESUS

Thank you, Matthew, they don't need all the details. Here's what I want each of you to understand, and I need you to help make sure everyone else understands as well. It's the "why" of this sermon. It's not because we need to make our presence felt in the region, and it's not about the details of how we make this happen.

(MORE)

JESUS (CONT'D)

The details matter, yes, and you all will help make sure this is executed well. But what makes this sermon so important is each person who will be there. Philip, what makes John's sermons so memorable?

PHILIP

The volume.

JESUS

Well yes, that, too.

PHILIP

He spoke directly to whoever was there. It was personal.

JESUS

Yes, good. But this sermon will have thousands of people, so I won't be directing it to one people group over another. But what I say will be for each and every one of them. They're coming because the word is spreading from the signs and wonders, but I'll be giving them something far more important. Truth. Many people we've encountered are still confused about parts of my message, including some in this clearing. This will define our whole ministry, and that's what we need to focus on, understood?

They nod.

705 EXT. CAPERNAUM SYNOGAGUE - DAY

705

Shmuel and Yanni approach the Capernaum Synagogue.

SHMUEL

It's customary to send word ahead when rabbis return to the order.

Yanni chuckles knowingly.

YANNI

Well, let's just see what happens when we don't.

They walk on. Yanni smirks. Shmuel dismayed.

706

INT. CAPERNAUM SYNOGAGUE - MOMENTS LATER

706

SHMUEL and YANNI enter. They stand there for a beat, eyes adjusting to the light.

Around them, PHARISEES go about their business.

Shmuel shoots Yanni a worried look. Yanni clears his throat. Announces --

YANNI

Rabbi Shmuel bar Yosef of
Capernaum.

Pharisees freeze. In an instant, a BUZZ races through the temple entry. Like ten games of telephone, Pharisees pass the message.

Pharisees within the entryway APPLAUD and BOW. Shmuel's face betrays surprise, relief.

From the corridor, YUSSIF emerges.

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YUSSIF

Shmuel!

SHMUEL

Shalom, Yussif.

YUSSIF

The Learned Shmuel returns from Jerusalem! For what reason, we cannot say, but we are honored.

SHMUEL

For the sardines! Where else would I go?

The men exchange smiles. HUG. The OTHERS catch on, LAUGH.

YANNI

(defensive, to someone)

We DO have them pickled in the Holy City as well.

YUSSIF

I think Nicodemus made a fish joke upon his last arrival as well.

An awkward beat. To a YOUNG PHARISEE, ordering --

YUSSIF (CONT'D)

Prepare the seat of honor.

Young Pharisee rushes OFF.

SHMUEL

No, no, Yussif. I've done nothing to--

YUSSIF

You were accepted by the Great Sanhedrin of Jerusalem for special research. A proposal few are granted. Please--

SHMUEL

I am flattered by your gesture, Yussif, but this is no time for sitting.

The room tenses.

SHMUEL (CONT'D)

May I speak with you privately.

YUSSIF
Well...yes, of course.

SHMUEL
Accompany me to the Bet Midrash.

Yussif follows, mystified. Yanni follows. Pharisees watch befuddled as the three exit.

707 INT. CAPERNAUM TEMPLE - BET MIDRASH - MOMENTS LATER 707

Shmuel, Yussif, and Yanni deep in conversation.

YUSSIF
But why her?

SHMUEL
She referenced the healing of a leper. Remember?

YUSSIF
There is no law against healing a leper.

SHMUEL
But if it was on Shabbat, like he did at the Pool, then a pattern has emerged. He can tell us what blasphemy The Ethiopian woman--

YUSSIF
Tamar.

SHMUEL
She could be the key to confirming two incidents.

YUSSIF
But a woman's testimony is worthless.

SHMUEL
Not if she leads us to the leper.

YUSSIF
You think someone healed of leprosy would turn over damning information about his healer?

YANNI
To do otherwise would violate the commandment against bearing false witness.

YUSSIF

With all due respect, teacher, I thought you went to Jerusalem to study false prophecy, not hunt down this one man from NAZARETH, of all places.

SHMUEL

One in the same errand, Yussif.

YUSSIF

I know He spends time with sinners, but --

SHMUEL

The Ethiopian -- is she still in Capernaum?

YUSSIF

Not in Capernaum. Last I heard of her was from Yehuda. He encountered her in Magdal.

SHMUEL

Why did Yehuda bother to mention it?

YUSSIF

She was offering testimony. On the street.

YANNI

(dismissive)

A woman.

SHMUEL

Blasphemy. It's like a wild fire with this Man. Everywhere He goes. We must find her.

YUSSIF

And if you discover the healing was not on Shabbat...

All consider the implications of failure.

YUSSIF (CONT'D)

I hope you will consider sharing your experience in Jerusalem with us.

SHMUEL

I would like that, Yussif. But there is one other I must speak with.

Off Yussif's inquiring look --

708

EXT. SEA OF GALILEE - DAY

708

The brothers fish and talk. Talk and fish.

SIMON

I don't know why the grain thing bothers you so much. Jesus didn't mind.

ANDREW

The Pharisees DID mind. And they'll report Him now.

SIMON

Jesus knows what He's doing. You don't have to ride to His rescue all the time.

Andrew shoots lasers beams through Simon. Incredulous.

ANDREW

Seriously? You, the master of riding to His rescue?

SIMON

All right. Yeah, I did that a few times. I know it doesn't help.

ANDREW

You know what happened to John. We can't let that--

SIMON

We won't!

ANDREW

Then let's not make a scene everywhere we go! That's all I'm saying. It's common sense.

SIMON

I think He's more of an uncommon sense guy. Get used to different, brother.

ANDREW
I'm being smart.
(off Simon's grimace)
What?

SIMON
Leave smart to Matthew and Thomas.

ANDREW
What's that supposed to mean?!

Simon shrugs. Trying to let it go. Andrew's mind races.
Lets it go for a beat, then --

ANDREW (CONT'D)
So, Matthew's smart now? The
Messiah really HAS come.

Simon feels exposed. Isn't ready to admit anything re
Matthew.

SIMON
Forget I said anything. Let's just
fish.

Andrew frustratedly returns to fishing.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO709 **INT. ROMAN AUTHORITY VESTIBULE**

709

Clerk from the first scene is writing at the front desk.

SHMUEL

I'm here to request an audience
with the Praetor. It's urgent.

CLERK

That's what everyone says.

SHMUEL

There are signs all over Capernaum
saying the man known as Jesus of
Nazareth is sought for questioning.

Suddenly both the Clerk and MARCUS in the corner snap to
attention.

CLERK

I can take your statement.

SHMUEL

I believe he was last seen in
Jerusalem, for one of our
Pilgrimage Festivals.

Clerk and Marcus exchange looks.

CLERK

When was this?

SHMUEL

Five days ago.

Marcus stands down. Clerk, smugly --

CLERK

That's outdated intelligence.

SHMUEL

What?

MARCUS

We'll have him in custody by
tomorrow.

Yanni and Shmuel are incredulous.

SHMUEL
What's happened?

YANNI
Arrested on what charge?

Marcus ignores the question, prepared to usher them out.

MARCUS
Do you have anything else to report?

SHMUEL
With all respect, officer, I must know the nature of the charges. If he has broken Jewish law, then we--

CLERK
We?

MARCUS
What do you know of the order of Zealots?

SHMUEL
The Fourth Philosophy? I-I don't understand.

YANNI
Stories and rumors. They are outsiders.

SHMUEL
What have the zealots got to do with Jesus of Nazareth?

MARCUS
Thank you for coming in. Can you see yourselves out or would you like me to show you the way?

SHMUEL
No, no. You're on the wrong track. Jesus is dangerous but he's not--

MARCUS
We can decide for ourselves who's dangerous. Thank you.

Ushering them out. Shmuel throws a helpless look at Yanni who throws up a last ditch Hail Mary.

YANNI

May we question him? Once you have him in custody?

SHMUEL

Yes, I would very much like to speak with him on behalf of the Capernaum Synagogue.

CLERK

We'll pass that along.

SHMUEL

Will you really?

CLERK

No.

MARCUS

Out. You've wasted enough of our time.

Shmuel turns to the door. Just before exiting --

SHMUEL

Mark my words -- do not underestimate Him.

Marcus calmly slides his sword a few inches out of the sheath at his hip, its steel glinting in the light.

MARCUS

Do not underestimate this.

Schmuel is calm and steely himself.

710 EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF JOTAPATA - DAY

710 *

Roman TROOPS march in formation through the countryside.

At the head of the formation -- Primi GAIUS.

Walking alongside the troops is Atticus. He walks with his hands behind his back, consciously walks to his own rhythm.

As he catches up to Gaius --

ATTICUS

What's your plan, Primi?

GAIUS

Plan? We're gonna walk through that city like we own it, arrest our man, and be home by breakfast, cohorte. That's the plan.

ATTICUS

Have you been to Jotapata? *

GAIUS

I've seen schematics.

ATTICUS

It's a very, um...*intense* place.

GAIUS

Meaning...

ATTICUS

Well...let's just say the Praetor in Jotapata doesn't have the kind of control Quintus has in Capernaum. *

This gets Gaius' attention.

GAIUS

It's named after a Roman Emperor.

ATTICUS

Exactly. Herod built it, on top of Jewish tombs no less, named it after a Roman, and forced many Jews to settle there against their will. How do you think that's going?

GAIUS

Not great.

ATTICUS

Yeah, you know the guys in black and white?

GAIUS

Pharisees.

ATTICUS

They got a lot of em. And the other ones?

GAIUS

Saducees.

ATTICUS

Some of those, too. And preachers.
Like this Jesus. All over the
place. Pretty much everyone in the
town is on a mission of protest.
You know what I mean, Primi?

GAIUS

I'm starting to get the picture.

ATTICUS

Jesus' camp is just south of the
city...

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GAIUS
 Maybe we'll take the long way
 around?

ATTICUS
 Sounds like a good plan.

GAIUS
 Is that why you came along?

ATTICUS
 I wanted the exercise, Primi. But
 mostly your Praetor is about the
 most detestable guy in all Galilee.

A beat. Gaius senses there's more to this story.

GAIUS
 You're sure that's all? You
 could've walked along the seashore.
 If you wanted to avoid Quintus,
 there's always plenty to drink in a
 fishing city.

ATTICUS
 You've got instincts, Primi. I
 admit I'm...intrigued by your prey.

GAIUS
 Jesus of Nazareth?

ATTICUS
 I saw a man who had not stood on
 his own two feet in half a century,
 bounding like a boy. I watched a
 martyr throw down his weapon and
 take a knee. I saw a lunatic's
 eyes go clear. Jesus of Nazareth
 did those things.

(a pause)
 He doesn't strike me at all as
 threatening or scary...and that
 scares me.

Gaius takes this in for a second, struck. He, too, had a
 moment with Jesus after all.

ATTICUS (CONT'D)
 I guess I'm interested to see how
 he'll take to wrist irons.

Atticus falls back in line with the soldiers.

GAIUS
Listen up, men...

CUT TO:

711 EXT. SEE OF GALILEE - DAY

711

Simon and Andrew cast a net. Simon sits with a sigh.

SIMON
Like old times.

ANDREW
As He said, no one ever has to
guess what's in your head.

SIMON
There's nothing in my head.
This...
(indicating the fishing)
it's in our bones. Don't have to
think.

ANDREW
Must be nice.

Simon adjusts the net.

SIMON
What?

ANDREW
Having nothing in your head.

SIMON
Don't be smart. It's just a
saying.

ANDREW
It certainly was true when you
plucked the heads of grain at Wadi
Kelt.

SIMON
Again? EVERYBODY did that.
(remembers)
Except Mary.

Andrew scoffs.

ANDREW
She'd already done her part.

SIMON

You think you're never going to make another mistake in your life?

ANDREW

She was gone for DAYS!

SIMON

Two. Don't exaggerate.

ANDREW

Oh, you telling ME not to exaggerate. That's...wow!

SIMON

She went through something horrible and terrifying and she dealt with it the best way she knew how.

ANDREW

She should have gone to Jesus.

SIMON

She knows that now. If you remember, Jesus was disarming crazy Simon of his dagger.

ANDREW

Oh now HE'S the crazy Simon?

SIMON

I'm a married man who worked an honest trade--

ANDREW

Worked an honest trade DIShonestly!

Simon shrugs, trying to diffuse Andrew's rant. But not wrong in saying --

SIMON

It is how I met Jesus. Unexpected roads.

ANDREW

Gambling and brawling was also unexpected?

SIMON

YOU gambled, too.

ANDREW

And I'll never do it again. And if I'm tempted, I'll ask the Rabbi for help. I won't do something selfish that leaves the group stuck at camp, starving for two days, or puts Jesus on edge and makes him snap at the Pharisees who are now hunting us down!

SIMON

He was grieving John's arrest. And they're not hunting us down. You're so dramatic.

ANDREW

When word reaches Jerusalem that he claimed the title Son of Man AND Lord of the Sabbath, they'll have him put away, and it could completely ruin the plans for the sermon and stop all the momentum we've gained. That's what I'm afraid of.

SIMON

Jerusalem doesn't even open the mail from Wadi Kelt! Andrew, this is just fear talking.

ANDREW

I've been at this longer than you. When they decide they don't like someone, it's over. Look at John -- he might spend his LIFE in prison!

SIMON

Herod arrested John -- not the Sanhedrin.

ANDREW

The Sanhedrin arrests people all the time.

Simon stops his work and turns to him.

SIMON

You're the one who told me He was the Messiah. Am I going to have to be the one to remind you now?

ANDREW

The very FACT that He's the Messiah
means there will be trouble, don't
you get it?

(after a beat. Intense)
Maybe even a war.

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SIMON

C'mon. If you were building an army, would you start with Little James and Thad?

ANDREW

Simon!

They toss the nets, each on an opposite side of the boat, Andrew shaking his head.

SIMON

What? You think he's drawing up military plans all the times he goes away to desolate places?

ANDREW

He never comes back with anything!

SIMON

Let's just fish. All right? Can we?

They sit back and wait on their respective sides. Andrew staring West, Simon staring East when SOMETHING OFF SCREEN turns him ashen.

Simon SEES in the distance --

ROMAN TROOPS marching along the eastern shore. They move toward where JESUS teaches up aways on the knoll.

No one from camp notices the soldiers yet, still far off. Simon remains extremely calm.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Andrew? My little brother whom I love very much?

ANDREW

What?

SIMON

I need you to take a very long, deep breath. Can you do that?

ANDREW

What? Why?

SIMON

Just please. Ask Adonai to give you peace before--

Andrew instinctively follows Simon's eyes. He turns around, ignoring all the instructions.

As he lurches up in panic, Simon exhales and closes his eyes, lips pursed. Why did he even bother?

712 EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF JOTAPATA - KNOLL - CONTINUOUS 712 *

Jesus continues to address Mary Mother, Big James, John, Philip, Matthew, and Nathanael.

Jesus SEES -- the soldiers approaching in the distance.

Big James and John rise, but he motions them to sit back down with the subtlest gesture.

JESUS

Now, a few days is plenty of time to make this all happen smoothly. Nathanael, I'll want you to take Thaddeus and Little James to find a suitable location based on everything we've discussed, and you and Thaddeus can decide if it makes sense to build some sort of stage.

There is a murmur at the back of the crowd as people see the soldiers and become frightened. Jesus turns to Philip --

JESUS (CONT'D)

Don't be afraid. Tell everyone to keep working on the plans. I'll be back.

The disciples share worried looks.

713 EXT. SEA OF GALILEE - FISHING BOAT - CONTINUOUS 713

Simon and Andrew pull up their nets with ferocious speed.

ANDREW

I knew it! I knew it!

SIMON
Keep it together, man.

Andrew desperately pulls in the nets. Simon helps.

714 EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF JOTAPATA - KNOLL - CONTINUOUS 714 *

The crowd parts, SCATTERS as Gaius moves straight through the crowd toward Jesus. His troops move into tactical position.

The disciples REACT to being suddenly surrounded.

GAIUS
Jesus of Nazareth! You are sought for questioning by a Roman authority. Will you surrender to detainment peacefully?

JESUS
Yes.

JOHN AND BIG JAMES
Jesus, no!

Mary Mother shushes them.

GAIUS
Are you armed?

JESUS
I am not.
(gesturing)
But some of my followers are.

Roman Troops draw swords, training them on the disciples.

GAIUS
Tell your followers to drop their weapons and step back 10 cubits.

JESUS
I will. May I say goodbye to my Eema?

Gaius doesn't respond.

JESUS (CONT'D)
Mater mea.

Gaius gnaws his lip, moved. Covers quickly --

GAIUS
Yes.

Jesus embraces Mary Mother.

JESUS
You don't need to be afraid.

He puts a hand on the side of John's head. Two soldiers approach.

JESUS (CONT'D)
Not this time.

JOHN
(sotto)
Not this time?!

JESUS
Everyone drop your weapons and step
back ten cubits.

Big James and John unbuckle their belts and drop sheathed knives on the ground as the whole group walks backward.

In the space they create, Atticus comes into view.

The soldiers bind Jesus' hands with rope.

ON GAIUS, searching the faces of the disciples. From OFF --

JESUS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Matthew is safe and doing well.

Gaius turns to Jesus with a look of mild confusion. *How did he know --*

JESUS (CONT'D)
He's back at camp.

ON ATTICUS -- who witnesses the exchange with some satisfaction.

Gaius approaches Jesus. Troops take a step back.

GAIUS
You all look underfed. Filthy.

JESUS
We went through a hungry spell,
(nodding to the sea)
But we've got men out on the water
stocking us up now.

GAIUS
He's used to eating well. What do
you have to offer him?

JESUS
Should we talk about this later?

Gaius examines Jesus for a beat like a jealous ex meeting the new guy. Back on the job --

GAIUS
Move out!

The Troops march away. Jesus gives a last reassuring look.

Mary Mother holds her hands over her mouth to keep from crying.

John tries to comfort her. He's awkward as a goat.

As the Troops lead Jesus over a rise in the landscape --

END ACT TWO

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ACT THREE

715 EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF JOTAPATA - CAMP - DAY

715 *

Simon and Andrew run breathlessly toward camp -- Andrew leading. Mary Magdalene, Ramah, and Zee have met up with the others from the previous gathering.

ANDREW

What happened?!

SIMON

You stood there and did nothing while he was arrested?!

PHILIP

He was specific.

BIG JAMES

DETAINED. Not arrested.

SIMON

Those are just WORDS! Have you no experience with Rome?

ANDREW

We have to go after them.

JOHN

He agreed to surrender peacefully.

ANDREW

No no no...and if they change their minds? Have you forgotten what they're doing to John?

Mary Magdalene, standing with Mary Mother --

MARY MAGDALENE

You're frightening her.

Mary Mother gently waves Mary Magdalene off.

MARY MOTHER

I will be fine.

ANDREW

Well, I'm going. They're headed north. I'll catch them in Jotapata and petition for his release.

*

JOHN
Andrew, He didn't ask you for help.

ANDREW
He shouldn't have to!
(Near tears)
I don't recognize any of you.

SIMON
Brother, you're not yourself.

Andrew swats Simon away.

MARY MAGDALENE
Maybe I should come too. I feel
responsible.

ANDREW
You might be responsible!

SIMON
Andrew!

ANDREW
How *could* you leave?

SIMON
Stop this right now.

MARY MOTHER
It isn't anyone's fault.

PHILIP
Mary, please stay. I'll accompany
Andrew. I have lots of experience
waiting outside jails for my Rabbi.

ZEE
Why wait? Let's break him out.

ALL are taken aback for a beat as they consider.

The moment broken when --

Andrew makes a hasty exit from camp. An improvised pack
slung over his shoulders. Always ready, Philip follows
Andrew. Turning back at the edge of camp --

PHILIP
Don't wait up.

And they're gone. Simon kicks the dirt in frustration.

716 EXT. CITY OF JOTAPATA - STREET - DAY

716 *

Shmuel and Yanni enter the city of Jotapata. *

Every corner is like the Wailing Wall. Lots of big displays of extreme orthodoxy -- ORTHODOX JEWS reciting liturgical prayers. PHARISEES on the street.

Our first glimpse of SADUCEES.

On one street corner, a DRAMATIC PHARISEE recites that Amidah with all the flourishes of a Shakespearean actor.

DRAMATIC PHARISEE

"You graciously bestow knowledge upon man and teach mortals understanding. Graciously bestow upon us from You, wisdom, understanding and knowledge..."

Shmuel gently tries to cut in--

SHMUEL

Excuse me, friend. Shalom, we're--

But he is cut off sharply by the stern hand of Dramatic Pharisee. Shmuel is annoyed but patient.

DRAMATIC PHARISEE

"O behold our affliction and wage our battle; redeem us speedily for the sake of Your Name, for You God are the mighty redeemer. Blessed are You Lord, Redeemer of Israel."

SHMUEL

We're from Jerusalem and we're looking for--

Again, the stern hand -- NOT DONE.

DRAMATIC PHARISEE

"Heal us, O Lord..."

Shmuel and Yanni have finally had enough.

A female TOOTHLESS BEGGAR motions at them.

TOOTHLESS

He does this every day.

SHMUEL

It's okay, we'll find someone else.

TOOTHLESS

If you wanna get a word in, you're gonna have to wait a long time.

Yanni stares at her.

YANNI

Have you spent a lot of time in this area?

TOOTHLESS

Do I look like a world traveler?

YANNI

Fair enough. Have you seen any Ethiopians around here?

TOOTHLESS

Not many.

Shmuel hands the woman a shekel.

SHMUEL

What about a woman, impossible to miss? Lots of jewelry, very striking, very loud.

She examines the coin for a hot second, smiles.

TOOTHLESS

Gets men like you upset?

Shmuel and Yanni look at each other.

SHMUEL

Yes.

YANNI

Yes.

TOOTHLESS

If you're talking about the woman who rattles on and on about a healer from Nazareth, then she's probably not far.

Shmuel hands her another shekel.

SHMUEL

Tell us everything you know.

717

EXT. DISCIPLES CAMP - DAY

717

Mary Mother watches in distress as the disciples argue what to do next.

NATHANAEL

I'm not sure what could be clearer than the three words, I will be back.

MATTHEW

That's four.

BIG JAMES

How can you dispute that?

ZEE

Maybe it was a hint. That we were supposed to be the fulfillment of those words.

NATHANAEL

Zealots, and your secret handshakes and codes!

ZEE

I'm not a Zealot anymore, just zealous. There's a difference.

NATHANAEL

Oh yeah? You just interpreted plain speech about trust and peacefulness as code for insurrection.

BIG JAMES

I think he's on to something. Rabbi told us how important this sermon is, we can't let anything stop it. Maybe it was a hint.

ZEE

You're not going to keep me from another obvious fight, are you?

JOHN

With Zee's skills, we could do it.

MARY MOTHER

James and John, be mindful of what He named you.

JOHN

Seems perfect for such a time as this.

MARY MAGDALENE

We should do as He said and wait here for Him.

JOHN

Yeah, great advice, coming from someone who disappeared for two days.

RAMAH

How DARE you--

MATTHEW

Don't talk to her like that.

JOHN

Oh, now he speaks. Suddenly he has a voice. When it's about her.

SIMON

You've made mistakes, too.

MARY MOTHER

BOYS! Stop it.

JOHN

Boys?

MARY MOTHER

You're acting like children.

MATTHEW

Nathanael's right. The words were plain.

ZEE

You weren't there.

MATTHEW

So now it's a matter of whose testimony is more credible?

Mary Mother buries her face in her hands. Mary Magdalene comforts her. The group looks on, emotions high.

SIMON

Now look! You've upset our Rabbi's Eema!

ZEE

I only made an observation.

A beat. All are made silent at the sight of Mary Mother upset.

MARY MAGDALENE

I made a mistake leaving camp. I was wrong.

(MORE)

MARY MAGDALENE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I relied on my own
understanding -- my own
observations -- so heavily. Jesus
said He will return.

With that, Mary and Mary head off toward the women's fire.
Leaving the men.

718 EXT. JOTAPATA - STREET - EVENING

718 *

Andrew and Philip enter Jotapata from a different gate than
Yanni and Shmuel did, but the scene of extreme orthodoxy
g greets them. *

Andrew is intimidated by the atmosphere, and instinctively
turns to Philip.

PHILIP

Don't worry about them. They're
here for God or to preen. You
don't get in the way of either.

ANDREW

Where should we go first?

PHILIP

(duh)
Jail. It's this way.

PHARISEE 1 and PHARISEE 2 stand feet apart, DAVENING like no
one's watching.

PHARISEE 1

Restore our judges as in
former times, and our
counsellors as of yore;
remove from us sorrow and
sighing, and reign over us,
You alone, O L-rd, with
kindness and compassion, with
righteousness and justice.
Blessed are You L-rd, King
who loves righteousness and
justice.

PHARISEE 2

Let there be no hope for
informers, and may all the
heretics and all the wicked
instantly perish; may all the
enemies of Your people be
speedily extirpated; and may
You swiftly uproot, break,
crush and subdue the reign of
wickedness speedily in our
days. Blessed are You L-rd,
who crushes enemies and
subdues the wicked.

Philip moves through this spectacle with indifference.
Andrew follows, unable to look away. Shock all over his
face.

As they finally pass the Pharisees, Philip turns --

PHILIP
And they say we're extreme.

719 EXT. JOTAPATA - TOWN SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

719 *

In the town square, they SEE --

A CROWD OF 20 citizens, Pharisees and OTHERS have gathered around A WOMAN'S VOICE OFF SCREEN, cut off from our POV --

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
It was faith that delivered this
man a miracle.

Philip raises an eyebrow. To Andrew --

PHILIP
Now that's more like it.

As Andrew and Philip round a corner, they SEE -- TAMAR and the man formerly known as the Paralytic, ETHAN at the center of the CROWD.

Andrew does a double take --

ANDREW
I know her! And him.

PHILIP
Who cares? We have a Rabbi to find.

PILGRIMS volley with Tamar and Ethan, firing questions faster than Tamar can answer.

PILGRIM 1
We heard he consorts with
Samaritans!

TAMAR
I can't personally confirm that,
but it wouldn't surprise me.

ETHAN
Who cares who he ministers to. I
was paralyzed for 23 years, and I
stand before you now on two feet!

ANDREW
(seizing Philip
aggressively)
She's talking about--

PILGRIM 2

Who on earth can claim authority to forgive sins?

TAMAR

The kind of person who can tell a paralyzed man to stand and the miracle happens in front of dozens of witnesses.

PILGRIM 2

It could be witchcraft, or sorcery!

ETHAN

Witches and sorcerers require payment for their services.

TAMAR

He gave freely.

Andrew presses forward into the crowd.

PILGRIM 1

But why does he hide Himself?

ETHAN

We don't know.

PILGRIM 1

Only one reason -- he must have something to hide.

The crowd MURMURS in agreement.

TAMAR

He seeks no credit for his work. He told the leper on the road to keep the healing a secret.

PILGRIM 2

Then why are you telling people?

ETHAN

Because I can't NOT! I'm quite literally WALKING PROOF.

TAMAR

And he gave us no such order to remain silent. Only the leper. I believe he will soon make himself more known. I sense it in my spirit.

Andrew, elbowing through the crowd. Tamar spots him --

TAMAR (CONT'D)
You were there! In Capernaum!

ANDREW
Can I talk to you?

ETHAN
This man can attest! He was a witness!

Andrew is suddenly in the middle of a crowd that turns their earnest interest to him.

PILGRIM 1
Where is He?

PILGRIM 2
You know this Jesus of Nazareth?

PILGRIM 1
Is He here in Jotapata? *

Andrew PUSHES away from the group, taking Tamar by the arm.

ANDREW
Please, both of you, come with me!

ETHAN
What?

TAMAR
Why?!

Andrew pulls Tamar behind a pillar.

ANDREW
You must stop drawing attention to Jesus.

TAMAR
How can we not speak of what we have seen? How can YOU remain silent?

ANDREW
The Romans...

Suddenly Andrew is overcome with emotion, tries to physically wipe the anguish off his face with one hand.

TAMAR
Oh no....

She watches him grapple with his grief.

TAMAR (CONT'D)
What's happened?

PHILIP
We'll tell you all about it. Can
we go somewhere a little more
private?

Ethan and Tamar share a look. Both are ready to go. They
NOD assent and make a bee-line out of the scrum.

PILGRIM 2 (O.S.)
Where are you going?

As they disappear into the city --

END ACT THREE

The Chosen-Media Valet

ACT FOUR

720 INT. ROMAN AUTHORITY - QUINTUS' OFFICE - NIGHT

720

Jesus is ushered into Quintus' office by Gaius.

Quintus sits facing sideways, his feet having just been washed by a SERVANT who is now drying them.

Atticus brings up the rear. He wordlessly sends Servant away.

QUINTUS
Did he resist?

GAIUS
No, Dominus.

QUINTUS
His followers?

GAIUS
Peaceful and compliant.

QUINTUS
(to Jesus)
Have a seat.
(to Gaius)
Leave us.

Gaius bows. Atticus remains behind.

QUINTUS (CONT'D)
Jesus of Nazareth! We finally
meet.

JESUS
Here I am.

QUINTUS
You know, I thought you'd be sort
of...

JESUS
Taller?

QUINTUS
...crazier looking. Wild hair and
animal skins.

JESUS
I'm glad to disappoint you.

Quintus pops an olive.

QUINTUS

You know, the first story I ever
heard about you,
(spits out the pit)
I didn't believe it.

JESUS

That's usually how it goes.

QUINTUS

And it wasn't a story about
preaching, or religion, or God. It
was about fish.

JESUS

Another common theme.

This gets Atticus' attention. Quintus spots Atticus' interest.

QUINTUS

It was an impossibly huge catch,
Atticus. It settled the largest
debt in Capernaum's ledger.

Quintus turns to Jesus.

QUINTUS (CONT'D)

Have you met Atticus? He's
cohortes urbanae. They're like
Caesar's personal detectives.
Mostly in Rome but they go
wherever. He's especially
interested in you.

JESUS

Hello.

QUINTUS

Have you ever visited the Far East,
Jesus?

JESUS

Have received visitors FROM there,
but haven't been myself.

QUINTUS

They eat their fish raw. Peel the
scales, cut off their heads and
tails and take a bite.

JESUS
Quite something.

QUINTUS
They eat the flesh and spit out the bones.

JESUS
Of course.

QUINTUS
If Simon had not settled his debt, it could have resulted in my demotion. That was flesh. You create a public disruption that results in damage to property, a stampede, and a blight on my reputation. Bones. You seduce the single most and brilliant and effective tax collector in the entire Upper Galilee. Also bones. And now, the most tenured Cohortes Urbanae in the history of the Roman Empire tells me he personally witnessed you disarm a Zealot sicarii of his dagger. Well...That's flesh.

JESUS
Sorry to have caused you so much confusion over flesh and bone.

QUINTUS
Confusion? If your race wasn't so odious and repugnant I'd offer you a job!

JESUS
I cannot take that as a compliment.

QUINTUS
Jesus, this whole thing is very simple. You seem to be splitting your time between creating headaches for Rome and victories we could not achieve ourselves.

JESUS
That's a little reductive.

ATTICUS
You've doubled your following since leaving Capernaum.

(MORE)

ATTICUS (CONT'D)

Then again, you returned a violent man that had been terrorizing Jericho to his senses.

QUINTUS

But word of your "miracles" or whatever spreads through all of Syria and they start coming over here... Do you see my problem?

Jesus remains impassive. His eyes go to Atticus. He's interested in Atticus' interest.

QUINTUS (CONT'D)

I don't know whether to eat you or spit you out. To stick with the fish metaphor. We're probably past that. I'm saying I don't know what to make of you.

JESUS

That's going to be a lot of people's problem with me.

QUINTUS

No more bones, Jesus. Follow me? No more draining my talent pool, creating spectacles, crowds... No more meddling.

JESUS

I cannot promise any of those things.

QUINTUS

Then I cannot promise you won't stop breathing.

JESUS

It sounds like we're clear on what we can and cannot promise.

Quintus bursts into authentic laughter.

QUINTUS

I honestly... Jesus of Nazareth, I like you. We're on the same team. Just don't make me kill you. Okay?

JESUS

I won't make you do anything. My father, on the other hand...

QUINTUS

I don't know what that means, but let's leave on a high note. I think we have an understanding here. You're free to go.

As Jesus rises to leave--

QUINTUS (CONT'D)

I'm sorry about your cousin.

Jesus pauses.

QUINTUS (CONT'D)

Marching himself into Herod's court and moralizing wasn't a wise or brave thing to do.

JESUS

He knew what he was getting himself into.

QUINTUS

Do you? Know what you're getting yourself into?

Jesus stares at him with with those big, sad eyes. After a beat, he makes for the door.

JESUS

It was a privilege speaking with you today, Quintus.

Quintus nods. *Of course it was.* He turns to Atticus and shrugs.

QUINTUS

Well, that was fun.

ATTICUS

So nothing about him concerns you, huh?

QUINTUS

If it did, I wouldn't have let him go. He'll be a nice diversion for the people for awhile. Let me handle my own territory, I've earned it.

Atticus chuckles to himself. Quintus isn't in on the joke.

721 EXT. JOTAPATA - TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

721 *

Andrew, Ethan, and Tamar wait in the town square, in view of the Roman Jail.

Tamar is distraught and confused by what Andrew has just told her and Ethan.

TAMAR

But "Lord of the Sabbath," "Son of Man," are religious scandals. No interest to Rome.

The Chosen-Media Valet

ANDREW

We don't know why he was arrested.
Rome may feel threatened as word
spreads. I don't know, but you
can't do this. Not now.

TAMAR

I cannot keep what I know inside.

ANDREW

Don't you understand what I'm
explaining?

TAMAR

I'm not a child.

ANDREW

It's dangerous.

YUSSIF (O.S.)

More than you know.

Everyone TURNS to -- Yussif. He is disguised in plain
clothes.

YUSSIF (CONT'D)

Don't be alarmed. My name is
Yussif--

ANDREW

You're a Pharisee from Capernaum.

YUSSIF

I spoke harshly to you at the house
of Matthew.

ANDREW

Don't worry about it.

YUSSIF

I'm not.

It's clear Yussif has no affinity for Andrew or his ilk. He
turns his attention to Tamar.

YUSSIF (CONT'D)

You are being sought for
questioning.

TAMAR

For what?

YUSSIF

Your testimony about Jesus of Nazareth.

ANDREW

I told you!

YUSSIF

One of Nicodemus' former students named Shmuel has come in search of you. He will twist your testimony to make an argument about false prophecy.

TAMAR

False?

YUSSIF

I do not care about your convictions, and your testimony is worthless. What Shmuel wants is information about another healing and Jesus' background.

TAMAR

We both spent time in Egypt.

*

YUSSIF

(mortified)

I---that's even worse. Andrew, get her out of here.

ANDREW

I don't trust you. Why are you helping?

YUSSIF

It's my business. But so that you'll do as I ask, I believe my rabbi, Nicodemus, saw something remarkable in your master. Shmuel is threatened by what he can't comprehend. Worse, he's ambitious. Shmuel does not honor Nicodemus' teaching.

(to Ethan)

You are the paralytic man Jesus healed?

ETHAN

Yes.

YUSSIF

You both must leave this place.

Ethan and Tamar, closely --

ETHAN
You should go with Andrew.

TAMAR
What will you do?

ETHAN
I'll lay low, disappear until
things go quiet.

TAMAR
What if they don't go quiet?

ETHAN
(wry smile)
I hope they don't. But it's a good
idea to separate for now. I'll
find you.
(to Andrew)
Take her with you.

ANDREW
I don't know if...

TAMAR
I do want to follow him.

ANDREW
We'll talk to him.

YUSSIF
Go now.

Philip moseys on back from the Jail.

PHILIP
He's not here.
(re Yussif)
Who are you?

Everyone remains silent. Philip takes in the conspiratorial
vibe.

PHILIP (CONT'D)
Okay then. Fill me in on the road?

Off Andrew's nod --

722 EXT. JOTAPATA - TOWN SQUARE - LATER

722 *

Shmuel and Yanni arrive to find the square abuzz, adrift, and beguiled.

SHMUEL

What are you all doing here?

PILGRIM 1

We were hearing stories about a man from Nazareth.

PILGRIM 2

From an Ethiopian woman and a man who claimed to have been healed.

YANNI

Where have they gone?

PILGRIM 1

They all disappeared with a curly haired man.

PILGRIM 2

They knew they would be exposed.

SHMUEL

In what direction?

PILGRIM 1

Beyond those colonnades.

YANNI

(to Shmuel)

Hurry.

MADAI (O.S.)

Brothers, wait!

Yanni and Shmuel turn to see the priests from Wadi Kelt: Madai and Lamech.

LAMECH

Are you looking for a man who performs healings on Shabbat?

YANNI

(suspicious)

Yes. Who are you?

LAMECH

Oh, we can't believe our fortune.

MADAI

Has he invoked the title "Son of Man," from the prophet Daniel?

SHMUEL

You witnessed this?

YANNI

Yes, how did you know?

SHMUEL (CONT'D)

Is he here?

MADAI

We're from Wadi Kelt.

YANNI

Where?

SHMUEL

Why haven't you filed a report?

LAMECH

We did. But we're a small town. He healed on Shabbat IN OUR SYNAGOGUE and it got even worse from there.

MADAI

And there were women among his followers. Three, to be precise.

SHMUEL

Tell us everything.

ANGLE ON -- Yussif eavesdropping nearby.

CUT TO:

722A EXT. DISCIPLES CAMP - DUSK

722A

The disciples (everyone except Philip, Andrew, Thaddeus, and Little James) are scattered about, slowly preparing for bed, clearly dejected. Zee and Simon are on opposite ends, standing guard.

Suddenly, Zee's eyes widen as he looks into a clearing outside the camp--

ZEE'S POV--It's Jesus, clearly in intense prayer as he paces.

ZEE

HE'S BACK!

Everyone reacts quickly and heads towards where Zee goes. Zee hustles through the clearing towards Jesus.

ZEE (CONT'D)
Teacher! Are you hurt? What happened?

Jesus stops praying, turns, and smirks.

JESUS
Ah, I suppose I shouldn't be surprised YOU would spot me.

The others arrive in spurts. AD LIB reconnecting, maybe Mary Mother hugs him.

NATHANAEL
Rabbi, are you safe?

SIMON
Did anyone follow you?

JESUS
Yes, yes, I'm safe. They just wanted to talk.

Matthew smiles big, a rare site.

MATTHEW
I'm very happy.

Jesus chuckles.

JESUS
I'm glad, Matthew.

SIMON
Just talk?

JESUS
Quintus wanted to talk, yes, but the Romans don't see me as much of a threat, which is fine.

ZEE
(aside)
Hopefully that'll change soon.

JOHN
So what were you doing out here?

JESUS
Praying, John. Remember, there's a big event coming up.

A pause. No one knows how to process Jesus' actions.

BIG JAMES

Rabbi, with all due respect,
couldn't you have let us know you
were back first? You were arrested
by Roman soldiers with weapons, we
were all worried sick.

JESUS

Did I not tell you I would be back,
and to keep planning?

Off their looks--

JESUS (CONT'D)

You all are going to have to learn
how to do this regardless of what's
happening, good or bad. This is
only going to get more difficult,
you can't just shut down when
you're fearful. And what are you
going to do when I'm no longer
here?

JOHN

We're still figuring this out.

SIMON

Yes, but we can do better--we will
do better.

PHILIP

Like other masters with their
students, the Baptizer gave us a
prayer in addition to the daily
traditional prayers. Perhaps you
could do the same?

BIG JAMES

Yes, I know I'd love to get an idea
of what you're saying when you're
out alone.

Jesus chuckles.

JESUS

Now you are behaving like true
students, this is what I like to
see. And prayer is the first step
in getting your mind and heart
right, it's why you see me go to it
so often.

SIMON

So teach us to pray like you
do...please.

JESUS

Well, when we pray, we want to be
sure to start with first
acknowledging our Father in heaven,
and his greatness. So you can say,
"Our Father, hallowed be your
name."

As he continues, WE PULL AWAY, and --

CUT TO:

723 EXT. CAMP - NIGHT

723

The camp sleeps quietly.

Out of the quiet, JESUS emerges, and he approaches Matthew.

Jesus gently wakes him.

MATTHEW

Rabbi?

The Chosen-Media Valet

JESUS

Matthew, I'm sorry to wake you.

MATTHEW

Are you in trouble?

JESUS

Shhh, I don't want to wake the others. Nothing is wrong.

MATTHEW

Why did you wake me up and not the others?

JESUS

I've been forming fragments of teaching in my mind for some months now in preparation for the sermon. I'm ready to organize them.

MATTHEW

I'll get my writing materials. It must be tonight?

JESUS

The time has come.

Matthew wipes the sleep from his eyes, grabs his writing materials.

MATTHEW

You've just returned from detention. Will these teachings make things worse?

JESUS
I'm here to make things better, not
worse, Matthew.

MATTHEW
But I mean -- for all of us who
love you.

A moment passes between them.

JESUS
No promises.

Matthew freezes.

JESUS (CONT'D)
Let's go.

Matthew gathers his materials and they head toward Jesus' tent.

As we WIDEN to reveal the scattered disciples and the dying embers --

FADE TO BLACK.

END EPISODE

The Chosen Media Valet