

The CHOSEN

The Wedding Gift

Episode 5

Key Bible Verse

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother said to him, "They don't have any wine." Jesus replied, "Woman, what does that have to do with me? My time hasn't come yet." His mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Nearby were six stone water jars used for the Jewish cleansing ritual, each able to hold about twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water," and they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some from them and take it to the headwaiter," and they did. The headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine. He didn't know where it came from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. The headwaiter called the groom and said, "Everyone serves the good wine first. They bring out the second-rate wine only when the guests are drinking freely. You kept the good wine until now." This was the first miraculous sign that Jesus did in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

Meet the Characters



Mary, Mother of Jesus – Luke 1:26-56; 2; 8:19-21; John 2:1-12; 19:25-27, Acts 1:12-14
Mary was a first-century Jewish woman of Nazareth. She was a humble teenager when God chose her to give birth to Jesus, who was conceived in her by the Holy Spirit. She raises Jesus together with Joseph, who married her in faith. She weeps at the crucifixion and, along with at least some of her other children, is part of the early church as well.

Thomas – John 11:16; 14:5-6; 20:24-29.

Best known for doubting Jesus through his words, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands... I will not believe" (John 20:25), Thomas is one of the twelve disciples and is the last of them to see Jesus after the resurrection. On seeing Jesus' wounds left over from the crucifixion he proclaims, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28).



John the Baptist– *Matthew 3, 11:1-19, 14:1-12, Luke 1:5-25, 57-80, John 1*

John was the foretold forerunner of Jesus who called Jews to repent in preparation for the Messiah. John and Jesus were cousins. After a faithful ministry, he was imprisoned for his unpopular message and beheaded by Herod. Jesus tags him "greatest of those born of women." John is mentioned in all four Gospels as having baptized Jesus.



Peter – John 1:40-42, Luke 5:1-11, Matthew 16:13-28, Mark 14:66-72

A fisherman known as Simon until Jesus renames him. The name Peter in Greek is petros, meaning rock. He is introduced to Jesus by his brother, Andrew, and follows Jesus after a miraculous catch of fish caused by Jesus. He is well known for walking on water, slicing off a soldier's ear, denying Jesus three times before being asked by Jesus three times to feed his "sheep." He is attributed with writing 1 & 2 Peter.



Andrew – John 1:40-42, John 6:8-9

One of the first to follow Jesus and known for introducing his brother Simon/Peter to Jesus. Together with Peter along with fellow fishermen James and John, he leaves everything to follow Jesus after the miraculous catch of fish. He plays a key role in feeding of the 5,000.



Is that true? (clarifying artistic imagination)

Did Nicodemus visit John the Baptist in prison?

There is no record of this in the Gospels. Nicodemus was curious about who Jesus was, and would likely seek out anyone who could help him know Jesus' character, but it's not likely he visited John in prison.

Did Jesus teach in the temple as a boy?

Yes – Luke 2:41-52 tells of how Jesus stayed in Jerusalem without his parents knowing and returned to find him teaching in the temple courts. It is the only account we have in Scripture from Jesus' childhood. Jesus was not sinning in this act but was obeying his Father.

Did Jesus get invited to the wedding?

Yes (John 2:2). There is good chance the family was friends with Jesus' family, as the show imagines.

Did Thomas serve at the wedding?

We have no record of Thomas serving at the wedding or being called to follow Jesus there. Thomas's profession is not known. The show's portrayal of Thomas as a "measurer" and "doubter" is consistent with the character we see in the gospels who has become known as "doubting Thomas" (John 11:16; 14:5-6; 20:24-29).

Did Jesus make the wine at the request of Mary?

Yes, (John 2:3-5). Jesus responds to the request of Mary at the wedding to help with the problem of the wine running out. His turning of the water into wine was "the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him" (2:11).



Growth Questions

1. What stood out to you most in this episode?
2. Do you think Jesus' parents struggled in raising him? How?
3. In the episode, Mary Magdalene was quite content not knowing where Jesus was leading them. How do you deal with not knowing where Jesus is leading you?
4. The request to make more wine, seems somewhat trivial. What lesson can we learn from this story when asking God for help?
5. In the episode, Thomas witnessed his first miracle and begins his journey of belief. How much "seeing" do you need in order to believe?
6. We continue to see the humanity of Jesus on display. How did it feel to see Jesus playing with children at the wedding and dancing with the other wedding guests?
7. Why do you think Jesus chose to attend a wedding (a week-long celebration) on the third day of his ministry? Doesn't it seem, as suggested in the show, rather unproductive?
8. Nicodemus is growing more and more curious about Jesus. Can you relate to his curiosity at all in your spiritual journey? Explain.
9. Instead of condemning John the Baptizer, Nicodemus sat down and said, "Tell me about your ministry." When was the last time you sat down and talked to someone you might not agree with and simply said, "Tell me more...?"
10. As the disciples experience Jesus, they exhibit such joy and excitement. When can you remember feeling especially enthusiastic about Jesus?
11. What else did you learn about Jesus from this episode? Are there any ways in which your impression or understanding of Jesus was sharpened, challenged, or changed?