

Episode 5: The Wedding Gift

While you watch: As you watch this episode, mark off each person and the main events that happen in the show. This will help to keep your focus so you can pay close attention to each character and what they do.

Characters:

- Dinah
- Mary
- John the Baptist
- Nicodemus
- Simon
- Thomas
- Ramah
- Thaddeaus
- Jesus

Events:

- Mary looking for her child
- Nicodemus talking to John the Baptist
- Thomas and Ramah preparing for the wedding
- Jesus and Disciples arrive at the wedding
- They run out of wine at the wedding
- Jesus makes more wine
- Disciples all dance

Reflect on the episode: This is a fun episode all about a wedding. Who doesn't love a wedding and to have Jesus as your guest, wow that must have been amazing! Not only did he save the day, but he brought the party too!

The episode starts out with a flashback to 8 AD in Jerusalem with a mother looking for her child. We have very little in the gospels recorded about Jesus after his birth and before he starts his ministry at the age of 30. But we do get a glimpse into teenage Jesus through one part of scripture when his family lost him for 3 days. Read the scripture below and fill in the blanks.

- **Luke 2:41-52 (ESV)** - ⁴¹ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the _____ . ⁴² And when he was _____ years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³ And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴ but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵ and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the _____, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹ And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my _____?" ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her _____. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Have you ever lost something dear to you? Maybe it was a valuable item, maybe it was a child, just like Mary. How did you feel and what did you do to find the item?

Have you ever felt lost? Not lost in a store, but lost in the direction of your life, lost in the desire for material things, worldly experiences? Explain a time you have felt lost.

Did that phrase from Luke 2:51 "treasured up all these things in her heart" sound familiar to you? In Luke 2:19 this similar language is used to describe how Mary reflected on the shepherds telling the people about Jesus' birth in the Christmas story.

Jesus' reply was he was in his father's house, it is almost like "duh – I was with God". It makes me think that Jesus' reply should be the reply we all should have. I was at church, I was thinking about God, I was studying my bible, I was telling others about Jesus. When our focus is on God we are not lost. We are focused on him and obedient to what he wants for our lives. The question is are you focusing on God? Are you spending time with him? Are you praying and listening for his direction? Reflect on these questions below.

After the flashback, we are back in the year 26AD, in a town called Cana. Mary is helping her friend Dinah prepare for her son's wedding. And Jesus was invited to this wedding.

- **John 2:1-2(ESV)** – ¹ On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus was invited to the wedding with his disciples.

What an honor to have Jesus and his disciples at your wedding. Can you even imagine?

Before the wedding starts we get to meet two new characters, Thomas and Ramah. Ramah is not a woman that is named in scriptures, but she is added to the show to bring forth some hard situations in future episodes. Although we know Thomas will end up being a disciple, we do not have scripture to back up that he was involved in weddings and wine.

At the wedding, there ends up being way more people than expected and not enough wine to go around. Thomas and Ramah start to freak out and Dinah tells Mary. Luckily, there is someone at the party that can save the day!

- **John 2:3-9 (ESV)** – ³ When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them to the brim. ⁸ And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it.

Bible Reference

Simon was dreading telling Eden that he wanted to follow Jesus. He mentioned how Elisha dropped everything to follow Elijah. See the Old Testament scripture reference:

- **1 Kings 19:19-21 (ESV)** - ¹⁹ So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. ²⁰ And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" ²¹ And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND?

Eden was supportive of Simon leaving her to follow Jesus. Would you react the same way if you were Eden?

This story makes me think that when we endure hard things or things don't go our way, we could see a miracle. If there would have been enough wine, Jesus would not have turned water into wine. Are you going through a struggle now? Have you thought of it this way? Or have you gone through a struggle and witnessed a miracle (or at least a sign from God) that got you through it? Share below.

This is one of the first miracles recorded in the bible. Although The Chosen has Jesus healing Mary as the first miracle, the bible does not state when he did this. Many believe the water turned into wine to be the first public miracle. Fill in the blanks below:

- **John 2:9-11(ESV)** – ⁹ *When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now. ¹¹ This, the _____ of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples _____ in him.*

To those of us who have suffered, it seems almost trivial that Jesus' first miracle is turning water into wine. But I think it shows that Jesus cares about what we care about. Not having enough wine at a wedding is embarrassing and would hurt the reputation of the hosts. Although it is not a life changing miracle compared to what we will see Jesus do in his ministry, it was important to that couple and their families. Jesus cares about what we care about. How does this make you feel about your daily life and struggles?

Bible Reference

Nicodemus questions John the Baptist to see who healed Mary Magdalene. John the Baptist starts quoting Solomon. See the Old Testament scripture reference:

- **Proverbs 30:4 (ESV)** - *Who has ascended to heaven and come down? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name? and what is his son's name? Surely you know!*

Nicodemus cries out blasphemy as John the Baptist quotes Solomon in the proverb. Little does he know John the Baptist was not wrong. He was referring to Jesus and he is the son of God.

DID YOU KNOW?

John the Baptist was sent to be the forerunner of Jesus. He was sent to prepare the way for the Messiah.

At the end of the show Jesus and the disciples are dancing and enjoying themselves. This made me smile to see Jesus so happy because we know the ending. We know that Jesus is going to die and suffer for us, but we also know that Jesus enjoys us. He is with us always and wants to celebrate with us. He is proud of us when we bring him glory, he laughs when we laugh. Seeing Jesus as a normal, humble person brings a smile to my face. How does it make you feel? Write a prayer of thankfulness to Jesus for all he has done for you and don't forget to express how much you enjoy him. Because he enjoys you!