

THE CHOSEN SEASON ONE

Episode 5--WORRY--The Wedding Gift



Jesus could have kicked off His signs and wonders with a parting-of-the-Red-Sea-caliber miracle. Instead, He chose a simpler approach—He changed water into wine because it ran out. It was a relatively minor problem that Jesus was asked to solve. His mother was anxious on behalf of the wedding hosts and wanted Him to step in—so He did. Which means it was during a party to reveal His glory to His disciples for the first time. It was the public triumph over trouble.

Quick Summary: In this beautiful, happy episode, we first see Jesus in a definitive moment of His childhood, which provides us important clues to His career ahead. Fast-forward to adulthood: He has begun to call followers, but at first, they're confused. Yes, they believe; what do they do next? Nicodemus interrogates John the Baptizer while Jesus and his students make their way to a wedding celebration in Cana. During the ceremony, Jesus' mother Mary makes a special request.

Intro talk: Jesus' mother was anxious on behalf of the wedding hosts and wanted Him to step in—and so He did. In doing so, Jesus demonstrated that nothing is inconsequential. Every predicament is an opportunity for divine intervention and continued celebration. We too tend to worry about issues large and small, and Jesus cares about each one, especially because of the opportunity they present—but we have to do our part. Like Mary, we have to ask even with seemingly small matters. Otherwise, we'll read verses about not worrying and worry even more about our inability to cease worrying, rather than seeking and asking so that Jesus can prove Himself triumphant.

CHARACTERS

Jesus, Mary the Mother of Jesus, John the Baptist, Nicodemus, Simon Peter, Thomas

SCRIPTURE

John 2: 1-11 (Jesus turns water to wine), Luke 2: 41-52 (The boy Jesus at the temple), Prov. 30:4 (What is His Name, or that of His Son...?) Jeremiah 33:10-16, 1 Kings 19:19-21

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“(Nicodemus to John the Baptist) “I am looking in places I would never go because I am searching for an explanation for something I cannot unsee.”

(John the Baptist to Nicodemus) “He is here to awaken the earth, but some will not want to waken. They are in love with the dark. I wonder which one you’ll be.”

(Thomas) “From the instructions you have provided I see no logical solution to the problem.
(Jesus) “It’s going to be like that sometimes, Thomas”

(Ramah to Thomas) “ He gave us even more than we need.”

(Jesus to His Mother) “It is too early for all of this”

(Mary to her Son Jesus) “If not now, when?”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1) In the opening scene, Mary’s desires and expectations collided with Jesus’s. Even though Jesus’s relationship with the Father ranks higher than Jesus’s relationship with Mary, Jesus assented to Mary’s wishes. What does this story tell us about obedience and listening to family? What do we learn about Mary’s desire to intercede for all brothers & sisters of Jesus, as our own “heavenly mother”?

2) This passage is often viewed as Jesus correcting/ directing his mother, but that’s not the path the show takes. What do you think that might have looked like?

3) Instead of condemning John, Nicodemus sat down and said “Tell me about your ministry.” When’s the last time you sat down and talked to someone you might not agree with and simply said “Tell me more”?

4) Simon mentions that he and Andrew will learn by observing Jesus: “We’ll watch him and do what he does... and then we’ll do it ourselves...make our own mistakes...” However, Simon struggled to follow his own advice. Several times, Simon gives Jesus advice and tries to get Jesus’s ministry rolling. What is your reaction to Simon’s definition of “following” Jesus, and his struggle to live it out? Is it easy for me to “wait” for Jesus’ timing?

5) Jesus reassures Thomas that “I do not correct you [for asking]; it is good to ask questions...”. We won’t always receive the answers we desire right away, nor at times understand the answers we’re given. How do you handle this when it comes to questions about Jesus & the Ways he has revealed? How do you feel when a teaching of Jesus is presented as “to be accepted on Faith,” especially teachings that are hard to understand within human logic? Jesus reassures Thomas that, while it’s good to ask questions, that we won’t always understand the answers or even get answers. How do you handle this?

6) As Jesus was turning the water into wine, Thaddeus told Mary Magdalene: “Once you

make that first cut into the stone, it can't be undone. It sets into motion a series of choices ...and it will never be the same." Jesus made a deliberate choice when he began his public ministry, and he knew where that choice would lead him and his followers. Do I recognize where following Jesus might lead me—and do I still want to follow him throughout this life and into the next? Are there moments when I feel it's too hard?

7) Reflect for a moment on Jesus words in Luke 14:28-30: "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

8) What did you think of Eden's response to Simon Peter's calling?

9) Just as the servants had to draw the water before they saw the miracle, what are ways you can step out in faith because of God's promises?

10) Jesus used an everyday occasion to reveal His glory. Describe a common event in your life through which He revealed His glory and increased your faith.

11) Do you ask for Jesus' help with the seemingly small stuff? Why or why not?

EPISODE 6—AUTHORITY—INDESCRIBABLE COMPASSION



What must a person sound like to solicit awe? “He speaks with authority” is such a specific observation. The Jews tried to understand where the authority that oozed out of Jesus came from. Who granted it? Who taught you how to speak this way? What entitles you to come onto our turf and teach our people? His answer was simple, but would seal His fate: “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58)

Quick Summary. In this episode of the greatest adventure in history, Jesus' followers are asking questions, learning about their charismatic rabbi, slowly gaining faith, and witnessing some very incredible things! Their excitement is growing; people are paying attention. Jesus heals and urges people to remember to be vigilant with their faith, remembering that no one person is greater than any other. We are all God's beloved creation. While the following of Jesus is growing, His enemies are also growing in number.

Intro Talk: A leper meets the Master and the best part of the leper's story isn't the healing that took place, though the healing was awesome. And it isn't the faith of the man, though he's an example for us to follow. The best part is when Jesus reached out His hand and touched him. Because Jesus could have just spoken the words; instead He moved in and bent low to touch a man who no one had been willing to touch for a very long time. He touched him before he was clean. So while the words of healing restored his body, no doubt Jesus' touch restored his soul.

What a wild scene. There was such a mob at the house where Jesus was staying that latecomers couldn't get in, let alone be healed. Here was a guy paralyzed and strapped to a stretcher, and people wouldn't even make way. Tough crowd. They didn't even clear a path when they saw men dragging him onto the roof, a task that couldn't have been quick or smooth. When they finally made it up, they began hacking away at the straw and mud. Christ's mission was to save souls, and healing was useful in demonstrating His power to do that. So for the man who

entered the room through the roof, walking was hopefully just the beginning of a lifetime spent following hard after the one who forgave him.

CHARACTERS

Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus, Simon, Peter, Andrew, Tamar, The Leper, James, John, The Paralytic

SCRIPTURE

Mark 2:1-12 (Jesus heals the man let down through the roof), Matthew 8:1-4 (Jesus heals a leper), Luke 12: 36-48 (The parable of the servant), Matthew 6: 1-18 (Giving to the needy and prayer), Matthew 8:1-4 (Jesus heals a leper, Luke 18:1-14

QUOTABLE QUOTES

(Nicodemus) "If God did something that you felt contradicted the Torah, would you tell Him to get back in that box you have cared for him, or would you question your interpretation of the Torah?"

(Matthew) "They don't believe what I saw, but I do. I need to know, am I deceived?"

(Jesus to Tamar) "Your faith is beautiful."

(the Leper) " Please don't turn away from me." (Jesus) "I won't."

(John says to Simon) "Simon, you don't need to be His bodyguard—I think He can handle anything! He called you to catch men." (Simon replies) "I don't even know what that means."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Which part of this episode was the most different from how you imagined it being after reading the passage in Scripture?
- 2) In order to take such extreme measures, what must the four men carrying their friend have believed about Jesus?
- 3) There was a LOT of compassion emphasized in this episode. From not giving publicly to the healing of a leper. How did Jesus preach about and show compassion? Do you think there is a difference between compassion, giving, empathy and good will?
- 4) What keeps you from pursuing Jesus with that kind of passion?
- 5) What's your plan for submitting to Christ's authority?
- 6) What's holding you back from the kind of bold faith the leper had?
- 7) Who would you equate with a tax collector today? A Roman soldier? A Jewish citizen?

- 8) “We can do both”, walking the road that has been laid out for us and also keeping our eyes open. What did you think of Nicodemus’ speech? It’s easy to cling to our God shaped boxes.
- 9) Who in today’s society might you equate with a “tax collector” in Jesus’ time? A “Roman soldier”? A “Jewish Rabbi”? A “leper”?
- 10) Leprosy is a corruptive, contagious disease of the body, crippling & corroding the flesh from within, and leading the person to isolation and, ultimately, to a slow and miserable death. Why do you think Sin and habits of sin can so often be compared to “leprosy” of the soul?
- 11) In the episode, Nicodemus struggled with his disciple to remain both faithful to the “old”, written Word of God while being open to the surprising new ways of the Spirit—walking the ancient roads while being open to novelty: “We can do both”. Many today err on the side of either extreme, dismissing the new so as to hold on to the old teachings, or dismissing the old teachings so as to be open-minded to new ways. Where do you find yourself in that discernment?
Consider 3 examples of this tension between the old and the new: What would Jesus think of each one? How do I stay faithful to Him amidst changing times and values—or does He have any opinions between the old, the new, and “the newer”?
- 12) How can you connect, as Jesus did, with people in your life who aren’t part of the “in” crowd?

References

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