

The Chosen – Season 1- Episode 5

The Wedding Gift



You can watch this episode via The Chosen app on your smartphone or tablet, or via your web browser on thechosen.tv [here](#).

Scripture References:

- >The Boy Jesus at the Temple - [Luke 2:41-52](#)
- >There will be heard the sounds of joy and gladness – [Jeremiah 33:10-36](#)
- >Water into Wine - [John 2:1-12](#)

Synopsis:

In a sentence: At the urging of his mother, Jesus performs His first public miracle; turning water into wine.

The episode begins with the frantic search by Jesus's parents for their young son, when they realize he is not with them in the caravan returning to Galilee after the Feast of the Passover celebrations in Jerusalem. After the opening credits we see Simon telling his wife Eden about his amazing encounter with Jesus and his decision to answer Jesus' call to follow Him. Simon joins a small band of Jesus' followers as they travel to Cana¹ to celebrate the wedding of a family friend of Jesus and his mother. Nicodemus questions an imprisoned John the Baptist about the healing of Mary. At the pleading of his mother, a major social disaster is averted at the wedding by Jesus performing his first public miracle. A previously arrogant father-of-the-bride, Abner, is profoundly affected simply by being in the presence of Jesus. Thaddeus reveals that he worked with Jesus on a construction project – building a latrine. Even after witnessing the miracle Thomas has many doubts, compounded by Jesus asking Thomas to meet

him in the dreaded Samaria² in 12 days. In reflecting on Jesus' turning the water into wine Ramah says *"He gave us more than we needed."*

Episode review on Patheos.com:

The full review of this episode is available on patheos.com [here](#). The review provides detail on the historical context and basis for this episode in Old and New Testament scripture, and where the episode departs from scripture through artistic license.

Memorable lines of dialogue:

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."*

Simon: *"You mean to tell me Jesus was building a latrine?"*

Thomas (to Jesus): *"From the instructions you have provided I see no logical solution to the problem."*

Jesus (to Thomas): *"It's going to be like that sometimes, Thomas. ... I do not rebuke you. It is good to ask questions, to seek understanding."*

Jesus' mother to the servants: *"Do whatever He says."*

Ramah to Thomas: *"He gave us even more than we need."*

Abner's wife to Abner: *"What is wrong?"*

Abner: *"I was."*

Jesus (responding to a request to make Andrew a good dancer):

“Ah, some things even I cannot do.”

Watch for This:



Starting at 43:07

As Jesus is preparing to perform his first public miracle we hear Thaddeus in a voice over saying *“Once you make that first cut into the stone, it can’t be undone. It sets in motion a series of choices. What used to be a shapeless block of limestone or granite begins its long journey of transformation – and it will never be the same”*.

Note how Thaddeus’ comments about stone cutting also apply to Jesus beginning His ministry.

Note also Jesus’ expression turning to anguish as He contemplates the red wine dripping from His hand. What might He be thinking about?



Starting at 49:23

Enjoy Jesus’ gentle humor at the end of this snippet. Simon asks Jesus if He can help with Andrew’s dancing ability. Jesus replies: *“Ah, some things even I cannot do.”*

Questions for an informal discussion:

1. What did you think about this episode? Did anything particularly stand out for you?
2. What questions do you have about this episode?
3. Why do you think Jesus asked everyone to leave before he turned the water into wine? i.e. why did he not want others to witness the miracle? Note Jesus did something similar in Episode 4, sending the crowd away before he told Simon to lower his nets back into the water.
4. What were your impressions of Abner (the Father of the bride)? What do you think he was referring to when, in response to his wife asking “What’s wrong” he replied “I was”.

For personal reflection and/or discussion with friends:

5. Who has been a supporter/encourager for you in your faith journey?

6. The uplifting song, [New Wine](#), was reportedly one of the inspirations for the snippet at 14:00 where we see the juice draining from the press – the result of grapes being crushed. Where have you experienced God making *new wine* out of something bad?
7. Instead of condemning John the Baptist, 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.” Where might you need to do this?
8. “*If not now, when?*”. Reflect on where Jesus might be asking you the same question – *If not now, when?*
9. During the wedding celebration Mary Magdala says to Andrew “*With him I have learned to stop worrying about those things.*” What worries are you carrying that you might lay at Jesus’ feet?
10. Share an experience where Jesus called you to step out in faith.
11. Reflect on the scene (starting at 43:07) where Jesus turns the water into wine, accompanied by the voice over of Thaddeus. What thoughts come to mind as you watch Jesus perform the miracle?
12. **Over the course of the coming week:** ask Jesus what he wants to show you or teach you in this episode. If you are comfortable doing so, please consider sharing what comes to mind with the group next week.

Going deeper:

- This episode’s Round Table discussion by a group of Biblical Experts can be seen [here](#).
- In this YouTube [video](#) Brandon Robbins shares some surprising details and insights on the episode.
- Loaves and Fish - see a blessing God provided as *The Chosen* was in production: watch the feature [The amazing story behind the backpack](#). You can watch it on YouTube [here](#).

Music to reflect on:

Song: [New wine](#) (artist: Hillsong)

About This Companion:

This Episode Companion is offered as bread and fish for our Lord’s use in spreading the good news of the Gospels. Its author, Peter McCaskell, lives in Guelph, Ontario, Canada and attends [Lakeside Church](#). You are welcome to contact Peter via email to peter.mccaskell@rogers.com

End notes:

1. A map of Israel in New Testament times is [here](#). Cana was a village west of the Sea of Galilee, not far from Nazareth.
2. In New Testament times Jews would avoid travelling to or through Samaria at all cost, or even associating with Samaritans. This [video](#) talks about the historical reasons for the hostility.