

The CHOSEN

Episode 5

The Wedding Gift – Part 2



Explaining the parable of the four types of seed to his disciples, Jesus said:

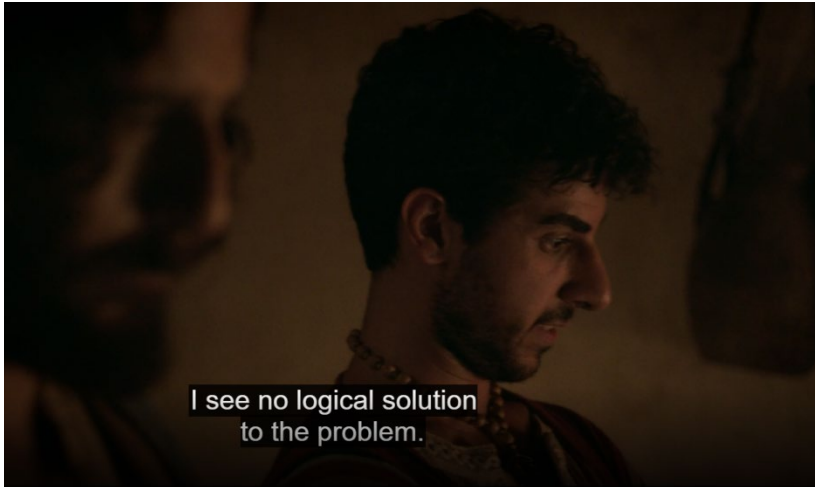
...blessed are your eyes because they **see**, and your ears because they **hear**. For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did **not see** it, and to hear what you hear but did **not hear** it.

—Matthew 13:16-17 & Luke 10:23-24

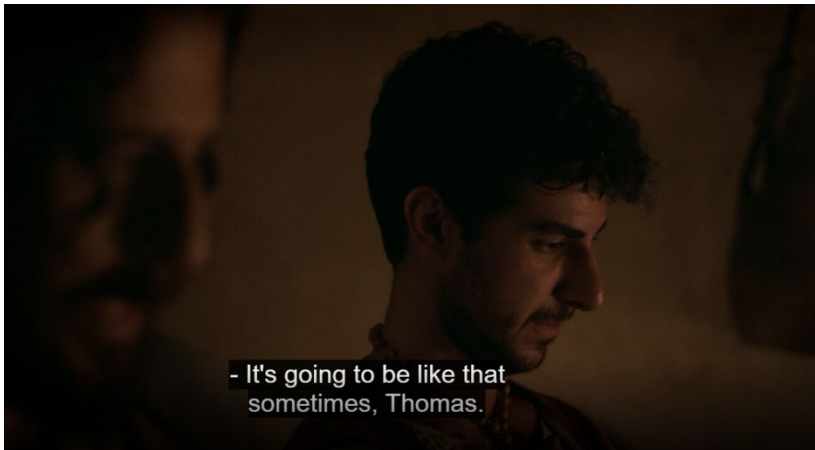
Speaking to Nicodemus, Jesus said:

“Very truly I tell you, **no one can see** the kingdom of God **unless** they are born again.” —John 3:3

Having eyes open to see spiritual truth and reality does not come naturally.



I see no logical solution to the problem.



- It's going to be like that sometimes, Thomas.



Walking by faith—or by sight?

Certain Bible verses, can trigger responses like the one portrayed by Thomas in this episode of *The Chosen*. Not logical. Consider the following:

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be **first** must be the very **last**, and the servant of all."
—Mark 9:35

An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. Jesus, knowing their thoughts...said...For it is the one who is **least** among you all who is the **greatest**."—Luke 9:46-48

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that **I, your Lord and Teacher**, have **washed your feet**, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an **example** that you should do as I have done for you.
—John 13:12-14

The **mind** governed by the **flesh** is death, but the **mind** governed by the **Spirit** is life and peace.
—Romans 8:6

It can seem upside down—topsy turvy. (It's going to be like that sometimes, Thomas.)

Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come...For we live by faith, not by sight.
—2 Cor. 5:5-7

With that in mind, consider the following:

Jesus described the exalted **role John the Baptist fulfilled** as follows:

After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

—Luke 7:24-28

However, John appeared more plain.

And so John the Baptist appeared **in the wilderness**, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins... John wore **clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt** around his waist, and **he ate locusts and wild honey**.

—Mark 1:4-6



John the Baptist described the exalted **role Jesus fulfilled** as follows:

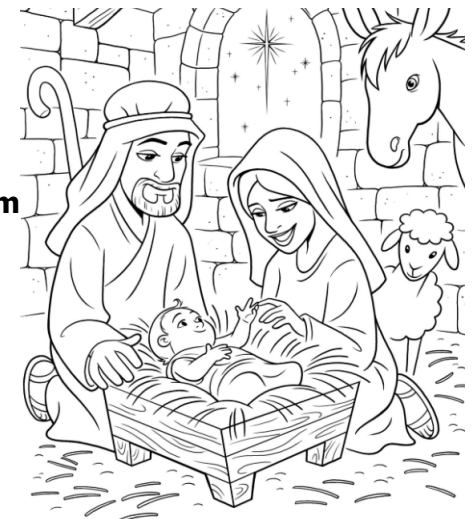
And this was his message: "After me comes the **one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie**. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

—Mark 1:7b-8; Matt. 3:11b-12; Luke 3:16b-17

Jesus arrived in humble obscurity.

[Mary] gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him **in a manger**, because there was **no guest room available** for them.

—Luke 2:7



And Jesus taught his followers to serve others with humility. He set the example—the pattern for his followers to imitate.

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.

—John 15:12-14

To this you were called, because **Christ** suffered for you, **leaving you an example**, that you should follow in his steps.

—1 Peter 2:21

Q. John the Baptist—in or out of the kingdom of God?
Jesus said:

I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than **John**; yet the one who is **least** in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

—Luke 7:28

μικρότερος mikrōtērōs, *mik-rot'-er-os*;
appar. a prim. word; *small* (in size, quantity, number or (fig.) dignity):—least, less, little, small.

Jesus began public ministry after John was arrested by Herod and put in prison.

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The **kingdom** of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

—Mark 1:14-15

John—like Nicodemus—after hearing about Jesus' public ministry preaching, performing miracles, and gathering followers, wanted to question Jesus.

Nobody—not John, Nicodemus, or the crowd of disciples knew what kingdom Jesus was talking about. Understand that those closest to Jesus, the disciples, after three years of training, being given secrets of the kingdom of God [Mark 4:11], watching his crucifixion, and witnessing his resurrection, still had expectations that missed the mark.

...they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to **restore** the **kingdom** to Israel?"

—Acts 1:6

Jesus was ushering in or inaugurating a New Covenant.

"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a **new covenant** with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah..." —Jeremiah 31:31

Although John had baptized Jesus in water, John was not yet a disciple; therefore, not yet in the new covenant. He was not yet a participant in the new state of affairs. *Great* has a new meaning in the new covenant and is a gift to the least—the "little ones."

...if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these **little ones** who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

—Matthew 10:42

See that you do not despise one of these **little ones**. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. —Matthew 18:10

If anyone causes one of these **little ones**—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. —Mark 9:42

Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is **least** among you all who is the greatest."

—Luke 9:48

Jesus' concern for "little ones" is like his concern for outcasts, misfits, the poor, and the sinners. See Luke 4:18; 6:20+22; 7:22; 15:7.

What do you learn about John the Baptist—his work or character qualities, from the following Bible verses:

Matt. 3:4 _____

Matt. 3:7; 14:4 _____

Matt. 3:15 _____

Mark 1:5 _____

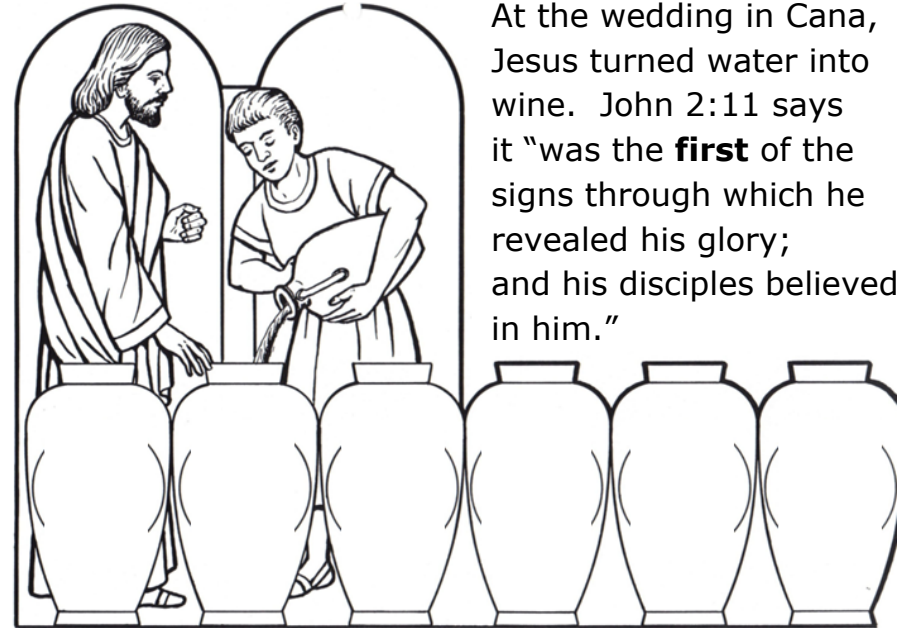
Mark 1:7 & John 1:19-23 _____

Mark 6:20 _____

John 5:35 _____

John 10:41 _____

Matt. 14:10 _____



At the wedding in Cana, Jesus turned water into wine. John 2:11 says it “was the **first** of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.”

What does this passage show about:

a) Jesus’ power? _____

b) Jesus’ relationship with his mother? _____

c) How well-known he was at that point? _____

Prior to changing water to wine, Jesus said to his mother, “My hour has not yet come.” He referred to his “hour” seven times in the Gospel of John.

What does each verse say about His “hour?”

a) John 2:4

b) John 7:30

c) John 8:20

d) John 12:23

e) John 12:27

f) John 16:32

g) John 17:1



Do you see any truths and/or principles about marriage Jesus communicated by His attendance at a friend's wedding?
