

The Chosen ---Study #5 LCR, Marion

Nicodemus: “I should never have come here.”

John the Baptizer: “All your life you’ve been asleep!

... (Nicodemus pauses)

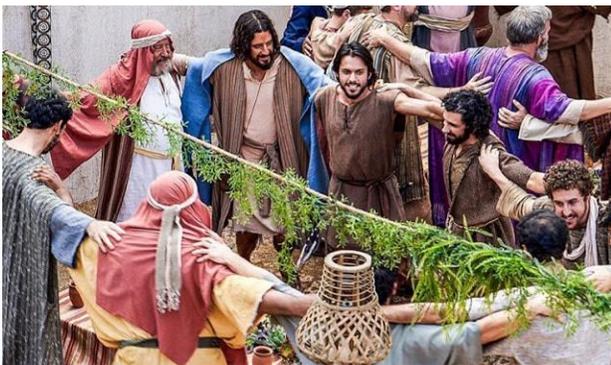
Make straight the way for the King! He is here to awaken the earth, but some will not want to waken. They’re in love with the dark.

I wonder which one you’ll be.”



Where do we place our hope? That is a question that the writers of “The Chosen” are asking in this episode. The bride and groom are certainly putting their hope in each other. The grooms family seems to put their hope in pulling off a good wedding. The family of the bride put their hope in perhaps the new in-laws aren’t so backwards as they thought. The disciples seem to put their hope in Jesus going public and gathering followers. Mary puts her hope in Jesus---‘If not now, when?’ Jesus puts his trust in God the Father—and water is turned to wine!

1. So far everyone who has a loved one who decides to follow Jesus, seems



pleased. Zebedee is pleased to send his boys off with Jesus. Eden is pleased to send Simon to follow. What happens when the affirmation turns to suspicion or even disdain? Are people always happy that their loved ones follow Jesus?

2. It seems that the idea of watching is lifted up as an important part of discipleship in the movie. Simon says over and over how he and Andrew watched their father in order to learn how to fish, and then made their own mistakes. Jesus tells Thomas to watch. How important is observing others to the faith? Whom to others 'watch' when trying to discern whether or not they too will follow Jesus?



3. In the Gospel of John, the miracle at Cana is called the 'first sign.' A sign is more than just a miracle. A sign points to a reality beyond itself. Like a "bridge out" sign, points ahead to a greater

reality than itself. What do you think the sign at Cana is pointing toward? What does this sign tell us about God?

4. I was drawn to a comparison between Nicodemus and Thomas. Both are struggling to understand a 'miracle.' Both are skeptical yet inquisitive. In the movie Jesus apparently had asked Thomas to meet him in Samaria. Samaria was a place that 'good Jews' would try to avoid. Nicodemus finds himself talking to a 'radical' in a Roman prison cell—a place where a Pharisee certainly shouldn't be found. What does this say about the consequences a person might face if they are interested in Jesus?

