

TEASER

501 EXT. JERUSALEM - STEET - DAY

501

An average side street in a maze-like city. The midday heat is scorching, air dusty. MERCHANTS outside shops don't even try to solicit a rare PASSERBY.

MARY MOTHER (late 20s) rounds the corner, desperate. She's dirty and exhausted. Her stride halting. Out of breath. She looks like she'll collapse any second. She heads straight for a MERCHANT.

MARY MOTHER

Please! Have you seen --

Mary slumps in exhaustion, leans on a post near the Merchant, who steps back to avoid them touching.

MERCHANT

Why are you alone, woman?

MARY MOTHER

(unexpected strength)

My son! He's only 12, he's --

MERCHANT

I see kids all over.

(hands up)

It's Jerusalem. You from here?

MARY MOTHER

No, we came for the Passover Feast.

We thought he was in the caravan.

MERCHANT

The feast was three days ago!

Without even the energy to move, still bracing herself against a post, she cries out --

MARY MOTHER

JESUS?!?!!

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Mary?!

Mary doesn't move, too weak to have her hopes dashed again.

A lithe figure approaches. Standing just out of focus --

(CONTINUED)

501

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1A.
501

Eema?

JESUS

The Chosen-Media Valet

(CONTINUED)

Mary spins around, and sees JOSEPH (40s) and JESUS (12) rounding a corner.

And the light comes on. And Mary is aglow -- a mother reunited with her lost son. She rushes to them and practically collapses at Jesus' feet.

MARY MOTHER

(sobbing)

We looked everywhere. Day and night. We were so scared.

JOSEPH

I told him. He's okay.

JESUS

Why is everyone so upset?

JOSEPH

Mary, he was in the --

MARY MOTHER

(a wave of a mom's anger)

You were supposed to ride in the caravan with Uncle Abijah!

JESUS

I was supposed to be with my father.

MARY MOTHER

Then why weren't you?!

JESUS

I was.

Mary freezes. She looks at Joseph. He tilts his head behind him towards --

REVEAL: THE JERUSALEM TEMPLE, towering behind the wall.

MARY MOTHER

You were IN the temple?

Joseph, reeling with a different energy than his wife. He seems almost rejuvenated. Marveling --

JOSEPH

It was incredible, Mary. He was teaching when I found him. Rabbis, scribes, scholars...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

They could not believe their ears.
They barely let us leave.

The Chosen-Media Valet

JESUS

Didn't you know I must be in my
father's house?

The words take Mary's breath away. Jesus' earnest little
face.

MARY MOTHER

It's too early for all...
(indicates the temple)
This.

JESUS

If not now, when?

Mary and Joseph glance at each other and give a "who the h
knows?" look.

Mary bends down, her face close to Jesus.

JESUS POV - Mary's face nearly fills the frame.

MARY MOTHER

Just help us get through all this
WITH you. Please.

Jesus NODS understanding.

JOSEPH

Maybe we should get going before
they make a formal inquiry.
(chuckles)
Jesus -- please don't do that
again.

JESUS

Yes, Abba.
(then, hopeful)
May I read?

JOSEPH

We'll see. Come on, now. We've
got a long journey.

AD-LIBBED family discussion as they recede from view.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

502 FADE IN ON: 502

CREDIT SEQUENCE:

XXXXX XXXXX XXXXX

DISSOLVE TO:

503 EXT. CANA SYNAGOGUE - ESTABLISHING - DAWN 503

SUPER: CANA, GALILEE A.D. 30

An ancient but modest stone synagogue tucked into a grove of mature olive trees at the edge of a semi-arid, rolling plain.

504 EXT. CANA SYNAGOGUE - FRONT DOOR - DAWN 504

DINAH (40s), in a modest frock, face framed by long braids of raven black hair, kneels before the stone doors of the Cana Synagogue. She prays.

505 EXT. CANA SYNAGOGUE - COURTYARD - MOMENTS LATER 505

Dinah crosses the courtyard. She looks deep in thought, tense. Her hands tightly clasped.

Then, as she steps along the cobbles, hears the CLICK of her sandals...she lightens up --

Dinah flashes an impish smile. And DANCES. Just a couple steps before she catches herself. She checks to see if anybody saw. All clear. With a skip step --

506 EXT. CANA SYNAGOGUE - COURTYARD - MOMENTS LATER 506

Dinah watches from a distance as:

-- FEMALE SERVANT carries buckets of water on a yolk slung across her shoulders.

-- CARPENTER and his ASSISTANT assemble the ceremonial canopy (chuppah). Carpenter pounds nails.

-- Two MALE SERVANTS move tables into rows.

(CONTINUED)

MARY MOTHER (O.S.)

Dinah!

Startled, Dinah turns, searches for the voice. Face lighting up at --

MARY MOTHER (now 40s) approaches, walking a mule.

DINAH

Mary!

Dinah rushes to meet her.

Mary and Dinah embrace. Dinah inspects Mary as if afraid she'll vanish.

DINAH

What're you doing here?

MARY MOTHER

I heard someone is celebrating a marriage.

DINAH

I mean so early.

MARY MOTHER

I'm here to help.

Dinah looks like she might cry.

DINAH

All the way from Nazareth? You must've been riding in the dark...

MARY MOTHER

When your best friend is the mother of the groom, you'll show up early for the feast, too. Now, c'mon. Give me a broom or something.

Now Dinah does cry. Mary throws an arm around Dinah, wipes her friend's tears, and they walk toward the synagogue.

CUT TO:

John the Baptist emerges from the shadows looking as disheveled as his reputation. He regards the vaunted figure of Nicodemus standing outside the cell.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Miracles?

Now over the shock of John's appearance, Nicodemus quickly regains his composure. It's not the first time he's sat down with a zealot. He's good at this.

NICODEMUS

Yes, John. Signs and wonders.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

From who?

NICODEMUS

You.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Are you adding those to my list of infractions? Only a Pharisee. You would have labeled Moses a lunatic for talking to a shrub.

NICODEMUS

Do you consider yourself to be like Moses?

Nicodemus places a stool in front of the cell, takes a seat.

NICODEMUS (CONT'D)

Tell me about your ministry.

After a hard look, as though it were a non-sequitur recollection --

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Remember when Caesar traveled through Judea?

NICODEMUS

Yes.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

They sent all these workers ahead of his caravan to clear logs and debris for the coming king. "Make straight the way for the king!" they'd shout. "Prepare the way!"

(CONTINUED)

NICODEMUS

The roads in Jerusalem don't have that problem, but yes, I remember...

JOHN THE BAPTIST

I had to move. Romans aren't kind to the homeless. Lost all my possessions.

NICODEMUS

Many in Jerusalem were frightened as well.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

(serve)

They were lucky to have you to comfort them. For a price, of course.

NICODEMUS

(volley)

Should we be clearing the road for you, John? Is that the point of your story?

John scoffs, disappointed.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

I don't like your frock. The cost of the vestments alone could feed three children in Nazareth for a month.

NICODEMUS

Do you hail from Nazareth?

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Mm. And Samaria. And Jericho. Bethlehem, Jaffa, Hebron...

NICODEMUS

I see. Well, you've got a new home now.

(rising to his feet)

Whatever your mission was, I hope you've completed it.

John is silent. Until curiosity wins out.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

I thought you were here to ask about miracles.

(CONTINUED)

NICODEMUS

I wanted to first *tell* you about a miracle. One I've seen and cannot comprehend.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

And then to make accusations.

NICODEMUS

This is pointless. It's clear you're not a frothing madman, but you're just as unreasonable.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

You imprison me and then accuse me of being ill-tempered about it?

NICODEMUS

I am *not* your captor. Do you understand? This is a Roman cell. I came to speak to the warden on your behalf.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

On my behalf?

(scoffs)

Why are you really here, old man?

NICODEMUS

The official answer is that you're a Jewish citizen. If you've broken Jewish law, it sets a dangerous precedent to allow Rome to adjudicate.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

And the real answer?

Nicodemus retakes a seat on the stool. A thoughtful beat.

NICODEMUS

The truth is that I am far from home, and I am looking in places I would never go because...I am seeking an explanation for something I cannot un-see."

John is taken aback, as if sincerity were the strangest thing Nicodemus could have exhibited.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

(realizing as he speaks)

No one else knows you're here...

(CONTINUED)

508 CONTINUED: (3)

Nicodemus indicates they do not. John's all ears for this.

JOHN THE BAPTIST (CONT'D)
Tell me from the beginning.

John leans in intently. Nicodemus lights up. As their conversation finally arrives at the good part, we --

CUT TO:

509 EXT. CAPERNAUM OUTSKIRTS - MORNING 509

CLOSE-UP on the stone floor of a very small winepress.

BARE FEET enter the frame and a shower of grapes rains down, emptied from a sack.

WIDEN to reveal EDEN. She retrieves a second bag and empties it into the press -- a sunken, circular hole on a raised stone ledge.

SIMON enters the frame.

SIMON
Eden.

She turns. She exhales. There's love, but things aren't resolved.

SIMON (CONT'D)
We need to talk.

EDEN
So I hear.

SIMON
What have you heard?

EDEN
Nothing that makes sense.

Simon chuckles and nods.

EDEN (CONT'D)
Last night you told me the truth.
Let's continue with that.

Simon takes a deep breath. Might as well just--

SIMON
So I worked for hours last night
and couldn't even catch one fish.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SIMON (CONT'D)

And then Andrew and the boys showed up, thank you for that by the way, and none of us could catch one fish the entire night, it was horrible. And this morning, we finally gave up and went to shore, but there was this teacher on shore, and Andrew knew who he was but I'll talk about that later. He told me to cast one more time, which made no sense but I did it anyway, and then so many fish showed up they were pouring into the boat. So many kept coming that Zebedee ended up filling both our boats, enough to pay off the whole debt.

A pause. They stare at each other.

EDEN

I...uh...what?

SIMON

I know.

EDEN

Why don't you seem happy?

SIMON

This is hard to explain...

EDEN

More than what you just told me?

SIMON

It's like the story of Elijah and Elisha.

EDEN

Yes?

SIMON

Elisha was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and Elijah the prophet walked up and threw his cloak over him, a calling to follow him.

EDEN

And without delay Elisha slaughtered the oxen, burned his plow, and left everything behind.

(CONTINUED)

SIMON

Yes!

The Chosen-Media Valet

She looks at him expectantly.

SIMON (CONT'D)

The teacher...Andrew told me but I didn't believe him at first...He's the Messiah. I know it sounds impossible, but I saw it with my own eyes: he made boatfulls of fish appear out of nowhere, and the words he spoke. The one John told Andrew was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. It was him. And then he called me to follow him. And Andrew, James, and John.

To go where he goes and learn from him. And he said I wouldn't be a fisherman anymore but that I would catch people instead. I don't even know what that means, but I am sure what I saw. He's the one we've been waiting for all our lives. And...I want to quit fishing and leave the sea behind to go.

Overcome, she covers her mouth and turns away sharply, trembling.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I know it makes no sense, and I knew it would make you upset, all I can tell you is--

EDEN

I'm not upset.

He doesn't understand.

EDEN (CONT'D)

Why would I be upset?

She turns to face him, her tear-streaked face twisted with emotion.

EDEN (CONT'D)

Come here.

He approaches, they meet at the edge of the winepress. She puts her hands on his face.

(CONTINUED)

EDEN (CONT'D)
This is the man I married.
Of course he chose you.

The Chosen-Media Valet

SIMON

I don't know why he did. I tried to tell him I'm a sinful man.

EDEN

Everyone is sinful.

SIMON

I don't know what this means, I don't know yet how I'm going to provide.

EDEN

I don't care about that.

SIMON

Then why are you crying?

EDEN

Because someone finally sees in you what I've always seen -- you're more than a fisherman.

He leans his forehead against hers.

SIMON

I will travel sometimes, I don't want you to feel abandoned.

EDEN

You have to go with him. How could I feel abandoned? I feel saved!

SIMON

It's not going to be easy.

EDEN

(wiping tears away)

When have we ever had anything easy? That's not our people's way.

They manage a laugh. After a beat, she backs into the winepress and resumes stepping on the grapes...

EDEN (CONT'D)

So are you going to help me?

SIMON

I actually could watch you do that all day.

(CONTINUED)

EDEN
(smiles)
Wash your feet.

The Chosen-Media Valet

As he removes his sandals and wipes his feet...

SIMON
We leave for Cana today.

EDEN
What's in Cana?

SIMON
A wedding.

EDEN
What does a wedding have to do with
the liberation of Israel?

SIMON
I'm about to find out. But, c'mon,
don't you think our wedding was a
kind of...liberation?

They hold on to one another's forearms as they tread the
grapes in a methodical, grooving motion, a kind of dance.

EDEN
From your fear that I would be
bald.

SIMON
My father is nearly blind.

She moves in close, their feet treading nearly on top of each
other.

EDEN
Remember how cold it was?
(Simon shakes his head no)
Remember Andrew's toast?
(shakes his head)
Remember the Rabbi lost his place?
(maybe...no. He shakes
his head)
What?! He made everyone stand up
and *please be seated* twice in a
row. You don't remember?

Simon brushes hair out of her face. Brings his face closer --

SIMON
What I will remember for the rest
of my life is lifting your veil.

He kisses her forehead.

(CONTINUED)

SIMON (CONT'D)

I'd fight tigers for that memory.

EDEN

You'd fight tigers?

SIMON

Well, unless it was as cold as our wedding day, right before the sun came out and you got tangled in our chuppah.

EDEN

You DO remember!

He laughs mischievously through kisses as their feet intermingle in the grapes. You get the idea.

CUT TO BLACK.

END ACT ONE

The Chosen-Media Valet

ACT TWO

510 EXT. HOME BACK ENTRANCE - DAY

510

A donkey and cart are loaded up with crates, cheese wheels, sundry items, etc.. Throughout the scene, the caterer THOMAS (22) and his vintner, RAMAH (21), load the cart with the main attraction -- three amphorae (large ceramic jugs).

THOMAS

The lamb meat will be there before
or after we arrive?

RAMAH

After. They don't have a good place
to keep it so I didn't want it
there too early.

THOMAS

But are they going to show up --

RAMAH

With plenty of time for you to
roast it your way, yes, they
promised me.

As he adjusts one of the jars into place...

THOMAS

Wait, there's only three jars.

RAMAH

Yes, that's what they asked for.

THOMAS

Ramah, I'm very concerned we won't
be able to get all three all the
way to Cana intact. I told you we
needed four from your vineyard to
be safe.

RAMAH

And I told you the wedding family
can't afford it.

THOMAS

I would have paid you out of my own
pocket.

(CONTINUED)

510 CONTINUED:

RAMAH

Thomas. That would almost erase your whole margin, why would you do that?

THOMAS

(busted)

I-I mean, we're a team, right?

Thomas pulls back, afraid he's said too much. Thomas has a crush on Ramah. Has for a long time. It's mostly a one-sided thing. Mostly.

RAMAH

Well, I think everything will arrive perfectly intact, especially with how carefully you drive.

THOMAS

I just want to be certain that --

RAMAH

Thomas. It's going to be fine.

She stares at him. He sighs, then offers a slight smile.

CUT TO:

511 EXT. CANA SYNAGOGUE - COURTYARD

511

Dinah hugs Female Servant in gratitude and returns to --

Mary Mother, assembling strings of wildflowers at one of the tables nearby, smiles at the sight.

MARY MOTHER

I'm so happy you got some hired help. There's much to do.

DINAH

(re Female Servant)

Tirza? She wasn't hired, she's a neighbor.

MARY POV - Female servant scrubs the courtyard cobbles.

DINAH (CONT'D)

We couldn't afford anyone, so she volunteered -- on her only day off.

(CONTINUED)

MARY MOTHER

And here I was, thinking how lucky
you are to have me.

The Chosen-Media Valet

DINAH

My son just married his love and
I'm surrounded by friends. Couldn't
be luckier.

MARY MOTHER

What's she like?

DINAH

Sarah is lovely and respectful and
just...wonderful. She loves Asher
more than life itself.

(air out of the balloon)

Her parents, Helah and Abner, are
not so convinced.

MARY MOTHER

About Abner?

DINAH

About Rafi and me as in-laws. The
father especially.

Mary offers a sympathetic nod. Been there.

DINAH (CONT'D)

But he's very successful. And
influential. Maybe it will be good
for the kids' future...

MARY MOTHER

You don't have to grovel to
anybody, Dinah. I'm sure they'll
come around.

Mary flashes an inspiring smile. Dinah nods agreement.

DINAH

I should go find Rafi.

As she goes, Mary's smile vanishes. Concern washes over her.

Simon and Andrew walk along a path in the countryside outside
Capernaum. Each man carries a pack lunch in his hands.

ANDREW

I do appreciate it. You heard me
tell Eden how grateful I was.

SIMON

I heard your words. But I also
watched your movements.

ANDREW

I don't know what to do with it! I
don't go on long trips. Do I hold
it like this? If I had a stick, I
could sling it over my shoulder.

SIMON

We'll see what the others do.

ANDREW

What if they didn't pack lunch?
Will we look stupid?
(freezing in his tracks)
What if it comes off as ungrateful?

SIMON

I don't know. Maybe it'll look
like we never traveled with The
Messiah before and we don't know
what we're doing!

The idea washes over them both, like a wave. Its enormity.
They walk on in silence.

Finally, at the top of a grassy knoll --

ANDREW

I'm a little nervous.

SIMON

Don't be nervous. If you're
nervous, I'll come on too strong.

ANDREW

Don't tell me you're not nervous.

SIMON

I said I was.

ANDREW

No, you said, if I'm nervous--

SIMON

I know what I said.
(a beat)
I don't want to let him down.

ANDREW

I don't want to do it wrong.

(CONTINUED)

SIMON

C'mon, we'll probably both do it wrong. It's like fishing. Remember when dad taught us?

ANDREW

Dad didn't teach anything. We just sat there.

SIMON

And watched! And then it was our turn and we made our own mistakes.

Simon holds Andrew by the shoulders.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Can you believe this?

THADDEUS (O.S.)

Well, you guys are great. OW!

Simon and Andrew slowly turn to find THADDEUS rubbing his head where a fig just fell on it.

Also near by is MARY MAGDALENE, LITTLE JAMES, and JOHN. Simon and Andrew, both feeling about two inches tall --

SIMON

Hello.

ANDREW

Hello.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Have you been here long?

They nod.

LITTLE JAMES

Oh yeah.

JESUS (O.S.)

Perfect day for a wedding!

They all turn to see JESUS approaching, across the knoll.

SIMON

Master.

JESUS

Simon, Andrew, Mary, James, John and Thaddeus. But where is...

ON CUE, some figs FALL from above. Everyone looks up to SEE:

(CONTINUED)

512 CONTINUED: (3)

BIG JAMES high in the branches of the tree picking figs.

The Chosen-Media Valet

512 CONTINUED: (4)

BIG JAMES
Figs for the journey.

He TOSSES a few more. Jesus laughs.

JESUS
Ah! We won't even need to stop for
lunch.

Simon and Andrew exchange looks, self conscious about their
knapsacks. Big James drops from the tree.

JESUS (CONT'D)
Thank you, James.

LITTLE JAMES
Yes, master?

JESUS
Ahh, two Jameses. How will we
solve this dilemma?

Assessing the hulking Big James and the diminutive Little.

BIG JAMES
What if...
(looking at Little James)
...I go by Big James?

JESUS
A radical solution. Is this
acceptable to you, young James?

LITTLE JAMES
I think that's fair, master.

JESUS
And a sense of justice, too. Then
it's settled. Now, to the road,
friends. The bride and groom
await!

ALL start walking. The men and Mary exchange intrigued,
excited looks as we --

CUT TO:

513 EXT. CANA SYNAGOGUE - COURTYARD - MORNING

513

LOOKING DOWN AT --

(CONTINUED)

513 CONTINUED:

Mary Mother and Dinah stand side by side, LOOKING UP AT US
from the courtyard.

The Chosen-Media Valet

Mary's brow is creased in confusion.

MARY MOTHER

I think... I think it might be
just...a little...

Mary and Dinah both tilt their heads in the same direction.

YASMIN

Perfect.

MARY MOTHER (CONT'D)

Roomier on the one side.

REVERSE POV -- reveals a crooked canopy. Not comically
misshapen but unmistakably crooked.

DINAH

Yeah. No, it's perfect.
(testing it)
And sturdy.

MARY MOTHER

Let me speak with the carpenter. I
know their language.

DINAH

It will be okay. Will you help me
decorate it?

MARY MOTHER

Dinah, please. Let me do this for
you.

DINAH

I'll let you pick as many flowers
as you can carry, how's that?
(off her look)
Mary, I love you but Rafi and I got
what we paid for. I'm embarrassed
how few timbers we could offer.

MARY MOTHER

That's no reason to settle.

DINAH

Who's settling? It'll be perfect.

Mary is about to protest when --

DINAH (CONT'D)

There are many other things to do
today, Mary. You said so yourself.

Heartened by Dinah's optimism --

(CONTINUED)

MARY MOTHER
Always the bright side.

DINAH
(teasing)
Someone has to be.

Mary takes Dinah's face in her hands when --

Dinah SEES someone that makes all those good feels fade.

ANGLE ON -- HELAH (30s) enters the courtyard, eyes fixed on the chuppah.

In the parlance of our times, Helah is a trophy wife. Arm candy. Ready for The Real Housewives of Cana.

DINAH (CONT'D)
(to Mary)
Will you start on gathering more flowers?

MARY
Of course.

Mary heads to the nearby field. Dinah approaches --

DINAH
Hello, Helah.

HELAH
Dinah.

Helah bows. Dinah was ready to hug but follows her lead.

DINAH
I'm delighted to share this special day. Is Abner here? I'd love to tell Rafi...

HELAH
Abner sent me on ahead. He'll come with friends before the ceremony. He asked me to select his table.

DINAH
Well, we have arrangements...

HELAH
Abner likes things his way. I'm here to see that they are.

The passive aggression continues on both sides.

(CONTINUED)

DINAH

Even at our children's wedding
feast?

HELAH

(taken aback)

Dinah, Abner is set in his ways.
It's not personal.

DINAH

Well, it should be!

Dinah composes herself, regretting her decision to speak.

Her words haven't fallen on deaf ears. A kernel of hope --

HELAH

On certain important occasions,
I've been able to prevail on him.

DINAH

I hope this is important enough.

As Dinah turns to go --

HELAH

Dinah--

(Dinah turns back)

Sarah is unwavering in her love for
your family.

DINAH

We love Sarah...and her father *both*
very much.

HELAH

Sarah knows you do.

(a beat. Then, pointing)

The chuppah is crooked.

Dinah doesn't even look.

The group has been walking for hours, settled into a rhythm.

Simon watches Jesus from a few paces behind, snacking on
dates. Andrew catches a gleam in Simon's eye.

ANDREW

I know that look.

514 CONTINUED:

Simon hands Andrew his pack and catches up to Jesus.

The Chosen-Media Valet

SIMON

Master?

JESUS

Yes, Simon?

SIMON

I was thinking...

Andrew shoots him a look. Simon, pushes on --

SIMON (CONT'D)

If this wedding is worth the journey for you, who has so much to do, perhaps it is also worth the journey to many wealthy Jews.

JESUS

You believe important and powerful Hebrews may be there?

SIMON

Possibly.

JESUS

You are keen, Simon. In fact, the most important and powerful person I know will be there.

SIMON

Yeah?

JESUS

My mother.

ANDREW

But isn't your mother from Nazar--

Simon silences him with a brotherly SMACK.

SIMON

You should announce yourself to the guests, right? There will be no Romans, seems like the perfect place to gather more followers, get this whole thing moving.

Jesus breaks open a fig.

JESUS

It's not my special day. It's the special day of the couple, Asher and Sarah.

(CONTINUED)

ANDREW

They are blessed of all couples to have you at their wedding. Do they know what a remarkable thing it is?

JESUS

I was the clumsy teenager who cracked my head open at Asher's house when he was a child, I don't think he finds me remarkable. Do you think much of your childhood friends?

SIMON

He didn't have any.

ANDREW

That's not true!

SIMON

I stand corrected -- he had me. Compulsory service.

ANDREW

I don't remember kids exactly lining up around the block--

JESUS

(calling back)

Mary? Did you imagine having brothers would be like this?

MARY

I always wished for brothers as a little girl.

JESUS

Soon you shall have twelve. Then tell me how you like it.

ANDREW

Twelve?

JESUS

You'll see.

The disciples trade looks.

JESUS (CONT'D)

We're getting close now. Cana is just over the next rise.

(CONTINUED)

514 CONTINUED: (4)

Off Jesus' childlike enthusiasm --

CUT TO:

515 EXT. CANA SYNAGOGUE - COURTYARD - DAY

515

Wildflowers cascade from the *chuppah* and down each leg. If you weren't looking for it, you'd hardly know it was crooked.

Mary stands on a stool. Dinah on the ground below, handing Mary flowers to tuck into the vines.

MARY MOTHER

We *had* a wedding, it just wasn't like everyone else's.

DINAH

Why not?

MARY MOTHER

(mimes pregnancy)
You *know* why.

DINAH

I would have gone.

MARY MOTHER

I know. If Joseph were here today he would be so proud of you and Rafi. So happy for you.

DINAH

(re: the decorations)
You don't think I'm overdoing it?

MARY MOTHER

I would have said so.

DINAH

It's just that Helah's canopy for their son's feast had--

MARY MOTHER

It doesn't even matter. Sarah and Asher will love it.

Dinah is satisfied. Changing gears.

DINAH

Have you heard from your special guest?

(CONTINUED)

MARY MOTHER

(beaming)

He's coming. He may be joined by several others. Is that okay?

DINAH

Jesus can bring everybody he wants. I haven't seen him in ages. How is he?

MARY MOTHER

He's good. He's...

(sigh)

He's always good.

DINAH

I'm ecstatic for you. I imagine he's a fine craftsman.

MARY MOTHER

When he's not working.

Dinah reacts. *That's an odd thing to say.*

MARY MOTHER (CONT'D)

He has a calling. I seldom know where it will take him. He's bringing students.

DINAH

I bet he's handsome.

(off Mary's modesty)

I bet he is.

RAFI (O.S.)

Dinah!

Dinah's husband, RAFI (55), calls out from across the courtyard

RAFI (CONT'D)

Dinah! They're here!

DINAH

(conspiratorially to Mary)

The moment of truth. I made Rafi spend everything we had left for good wine, so wish me luck.

Dinah rushes off to meet Rafi.

516 EXT. CANA SYNAGOGUE - COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

516

Thomas hops out of the cart, helps Ramah step down. Rafi is hot on his heels. Dinah brings up the rear.

RAFI

You must be Thomas. I am Rafi, and this is my wife, Dinah.

THOMAS

(bowing)

Many blessings to you on this joyous day. And may I present the finest, most beautiful vintner in all of Galilee --

The compliment surprises Ramah. She covers.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

--Ramah bat Kafni of the Kafni Vineyards on the plains of Sharon.

She bows. Both bow. He bows. Lots of bowing.

RAFI

It is an honor to meet you at last. You will give my regards to the old scoundrel upon your return.

(to Dinah)

Ramah is the daughter of my old friend, Kaf.

DINAH

The wine is here on time. A good start to a joyous day!

RAMAH

Of course. Thomas is never late.

Her compliment surprises and moves Thomas.

Ramah uncorks a special clay jar.

RAMAH (CONT'D)

He sends you both his warmest regards...with this.

Rafi leans in, savors the aroma.

(CONTINUED)

RAMAH (CONT'D)

Pressed in the year Augustus died.
Cut with seawater, honey from Mount
Hermon, black pepper, and pine from
Tyre.

The Chosen-Media Valet

RAFI

Divine!

Thomas pours a sample cup. Ramah hands it to Dinah.

DINAH

I certainly won't refuse that.
Blessed are you, Lord our God, King
of the universe, who brings forth
the fruit of the vine.

She takes a gentle sip of the wine, then closes her eyes.

DINAH (CONT'D)

Oh my... Thank heaven on Asher's
day. Abner and Helah will be
pleased.

(finishing another sip)
And maybe a little jealous even.

RAFI

Abner and Helah...I'm now in debt
because of wine for Abner and
Helah...

DINAH

Hush. How much is there?

RAMAH

Of the special vintage, there are
two amphorae and one of a lesser.
Of course we intend to serve the
best wine first, while the guests
are fresh.

THOMAS

Later, when everyone is stuffed and
senses dulled, we'll serve the
remaining jar. Do you understand?

RAFI

Yes, son. It's the oldest trick in
the book. We are in good hands!

Rafi and Dinah hug, giddy. Ramah and Thomas exchange a look,
happy for their happiness.

THOMAS

And I assume the head count is
still accurate? 40 or so at a time
during the week?

(CONTINUED)

Is it? RAFI

The Chosen-Media Valet

THOMAS

I'm asking.

Rafi looks to Dinah who considers, then shoos the idea away.

DINAH

I'm sure it's right.

THOMAS

Perfect. Where would you like us
to set up?

RAFI

This way, the Master of the Banquet
will walk you through it.

Dinah hears voices and turns to see:

MARY hustling to greet Jesus as he and the others arrive.
She hugs him, then puts his face in her hands, a tender
moment before Jesus introduces her to the others.

On Dinah's smile we...

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

517 INT. DUNGEON - INDETERMINATE

517

John paces his cell. His cavalier bravado a distant memory.

JOHN THE BAPTIST
Multiple demons?

NICODEMUS
I saw it myself. They jeered at me from inside her mouth. There was nothing that could be done for her short of a miracle.

JOHN THE BAPTIST
And she won't say who restored her?

NICODEMUS
He did not reveal his name to her.

John explodes involuntarily into an ecstatic JUMP. He lets out a triumphant WHOOP.

NICODEMUS (CONT'D)
What? What, man?!

JOHN THE BAPTIST
(breathless, pacing)
It has begun!

NICODEMUS
What has?

JOHN THE BAPTIST
If he's healing in secret now, the public signs cannot be far off.

NICODEMUS
Public signs? Who? You know him?

JOHN THE BAPTIST
You might say that.

NICODEMUS
What is his name?

JOHN THE BAPTIST
(quoting Proverbs 30:4)
Who has ascended into heaven and come down?

(CONTINUED)

NICODEMUS

I asked you his name.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

...Who has gathered the wind in his fists?

NICODEMUS

Don't quote Solomon to me, wild mongrel--

JOHN THE BAPTIST

...Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment? Finish it.

NICODEMUS

Answer me first!

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Teacher of Israel, finish the oracle of Agur, son of Jakeh --
...Who has established all the ends of the earth?

NICODEMUS AND JOHN THE BAPTIST

...What is his name

NICODEMUS

...And what is the name of his son.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

(almost a whisper)
Surely you know.

John's eyes glint in the light.

Nicodemus resumes pacing along the bars of the cell in deep consideration -- and deep ambivalence. At once, resistant --

NICODEMUS

You're careless with Torah. God does not have a son, except Israel. Israel is his son. All of us.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Suit yourself.

NICODEMUS

You know they'll put a man to death for blasphemy like that.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Who will? You? It'd be a terrible
precedent for Rome to adjudicate.

The Chosen-Media Valet

517 CONTINUED: (3)

NICODEMUS
(turning to go)
I never should have come here.

JOHN THE BAPTIST
All your life you've been asleep!

Nicodemus stops in his tracks, listens without turning around. John speaks to his back.

JOHN THE BAPTIST (CONT'D)
Make straight the way for the King!
He is here to awaken the world, but
some will want to stay asleep.
They're in love with the dark.
(a beat)
I wonder which one you'll be.

Nicodemus composes himself.

NICODEMUS
If this man is anything like you
believe, or if he even exists, you
should leave this region. Your
presence will only put him at risk.

Nicodemus opens the door where Dungeon Guard is waiting on the other side.

JOHN THE BAPTIST (O.S.)
If you think he needs my help,
you've heard nothing.

As Nicodemus is led away --

CONGREGATION (PRE-LAP)
(song)
*"Who is this coming up from the
wilderness, like a column of
smoke..."*

DISSOLVE TO:

518 INT. CANA SYNAGOGUE - COURTYARD - LATE AFTERNOON 518

The WEDDING GUESTS singing the traditional wedding song from Song of Solomon 3:6.

SARAH (teens) makes her debut. She's stunning, even in what today we think of as a frumpy clothes.

Sarah passes through the crowd of singing guests.

(CONTINUED)

518 CONTINUED:

CONGREGATION

*"...Perfumed with myrrh, and
incense made from all the spices of
the merchant?"*

At the edge of the crowd, Ramah is counting the crowd, and as she nears the end, she is clearly concerned.

519 INT. PREPARATION AREA - CONTINUOUS 519

Thomas instructs TWO MALE SERVANTS holding food platters.

THOMAS

When the groom arrives bring out the olives and cheeses. Set them on the long table between the loaves of bread and the cucumbers.

Thomas turns his attention to a lamb roasting on a spit. Ramah enters quickly.

RAMAH

Thomas!

THOMAS

(obsessing over lamb)
In a moment.

RAMAH

Thomas!

THOMAS

Okay, okay.
(facing her)
Hi.

RAMAH

Am I going mad or has 40 been the magic number all along?

THOMAS

The head count? Why, are we over? They always do this. I brought food enough for more.

RAMAH

The last count was 80.

THOMAS

(scoffs)
You made a mistake.

(CONTINUED)

519 CONTINUED:

RAMAH

Maybe by a few. Even if I'm off by
5, the wine...

THOMAS

I did advocate for a fourth--
(off her look)
But three is still enough for 60.

OFF SCREEN, a cheer erupts. Thomas looks like he just threw
up in his mouth.

MASTER OF THE BANQUET (O.S.)

Everybody! Here he is -- the
GROOM!

520 EXT. CANA SYNAGOGUE - COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

520

The crowd parts like the Red Sea and sings the traditional
groom song from Jeremiah 33:10-11 --

CONGREGATION

*"There shall be heard again the
voice of mirth and the voice of
gladness..."*

ASHER (20s) enters looking genuinely happy, moved. He SINGS
along, DANCES in a circle of guests -- Jesus among them.

ANGLE ON the faces of the disciples in the crowd -- Mary,
Simon, Little James, Thad -- taking it in, singing along.

CONGREGATION (CONT'D)

*"...the voice of the bridegroom and
the voice of the bride, the voice
of those who sing, as they bring
thank offerings to the house of the
Lord."*

MARY MOTHER dances with Dinah and Rafi. She is moved by the
sight of so much joy -- especially that of her son.

The song ends in ROAR from the crowd. TOASTS go up to the
happy Groom.

SHOTS of guests draining their glasses. Glass. After glass.

After glass. All empty...

521 INT. PREPARATION AREA - CONTINUOUS

521

Thomas and Ramah pour into goblets arranged on a platter. Thomas takes a pitcher from MALE SERVANT 1, demonstrates --

THOMAS

Lighten your pours, like this --
three quarters full. If they ask
for more, tell 'em you'll be right
back. But guess what? You won't
be. Understand?
(off their nods)
Go.

Male Servant 1 and 2 exit with pitchers, and they pass by the Master of the Banquet as he leans into the room.

MASTER OF THE BANQUET

Well, the guests seem happy so far,
the servants do not. How are we
doing?

Ramah gives a frozen smile, Thomas steps forward.

THOMAS

Nothing to worry about! You're one
of the finest banquet masters we've
seen, keep up the good work.

The master smiles proudly and exits.

Thomas and Ramah exchange weary looks.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

What now?

Ramah considers for a beat. Light bulb --

RAMAH

I have an idea.

522 EXT. CANA SYNAGOGUE - COURTYARD - LATE AFTERNOON

522

At the chuppah, Dinah and Rafi are surrounded by GUESTS offering congratulations and small talk. The crowd parts.

DINAH POV -- ABNER (50s) dressed in fine silk attire with the Babe Ruth of rum noses walks confidently toward us. Helah at his heel.

ABNER

Rafi! Dinah!

(CONTINUED)

522 CONTINUED: (2)

ABNER (CONT'D)
I lost my train of thought.
(re the chuppah, to Helah)
I thought you said this was
crooked. Looks fine to me.

Helah manages a sheepish nod. *Busted.* Abner begins to float
back to the crowd. As he goes --

ABNER (CONT'D)
And the wine is delicious! I must
know the vineyard.

Rafi and Dinah wave goodbye. Once he's out of sight, they
LAUGH and shake their heads.

523 INT. STORAGE ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

523

Inside a cavernous storage room are six stone water jars for
the rites of purification.

A single rectangular window sits high on the wall, like a
garden apartment. Late afternoon light falls onto the jars.

Ramah and Thomas enter.

RAMAH
Purification water. There's some
left in these.

THOMAS
Dilute the wine? People will
notice. Whispers will spread.

RAMAH
If they did, I feel like this
family would die of shame.

THOMAS
What about us? We'd be ruined.

RAMAH
It's not a great option, I agree.
So, help me think.

THOMAS
We could...fill the guests with
extra date cakes, over-salt the
food. Make them thirst for
water... I don't know. This is
humiliating.

(CONTINUED)

523 CONTINUED:

RAMAH
Let's keep looking.

As they exit --

524 EXT. CANA SYNAGOGUE - EVENING 524

A SERIES OF SHOTS communicate the passage of time:

A) People are laughing, eating, drinking, dancing (men and women are separate for the dancing).

B) A Turkish MUSICIAN plays the flute, accompanied by a TAMBOURINE PLAYER.

C) Big James and John chat with a pair of SISTERS.

D) Jesus sits with a group of children, delighting them with a shell game. They cackle and squeal at his reveals.

END SERIES.

525 EXT. CANA SYNAGOGUE - COURTYARD - EVENING 525

Simon, Andrew, Mary, Little James and Thad recline on pillows, watching Jesus with the children from a distance.

SIMON

They have no idea who sits before them.

THADDEUS

To be a child again, yes?

MARY

I think we're the lucky ones. They have to go home with their parents tonight. We get to stay with him.

ANDREW

Where will that be?

MARY

Who can say? With him, I've learned to stop worrying about those things.

ANDREW

I haven't. It's cold in this region.

(CONTINUED)

LITTLE JAMES

You think he would let you freeze?

SIMON

My brother has many worries. I keep reminding him of when our abba taught us to fish. We just sat there and watched until we *became* fisherman.

Andrew rolls his eyes.

MARY

We will watch and watch and watch him. Forever, I think.

Thad and Simon turn their faces to her, haunted by the word "forever." Andrew breaks the spell, holding up his goblet.

ANDREW

I'm going to get more wine.

He gets up and leaves. Simon calls after him --

SIMON

Get two!

Simon turns back to the group.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I don't really know why I'm here, normally students choose rabbis, not the other way around. And I'm not even a student.

LITTLE JAMES

I wasn't either. Thaddeus introduced me to him.

MARY MAGDALENE

And where did you meet?

THADDEUS

On a construction job in Bethsaida. He hasn't exactly been picking the best and brightest students.

SIMON

He works?

MARY MAGDALENE

At least until recently. He's not a professional rabbi.

(CONTINUED)

SIMON

I thought he had no home and no job.

MARY MAGDALENE

He has no *permanent* home.

SIMON

He's a stonemason, like you?

THADDEUS

A craftsman. He taught as well, and he asked me to follow him. He said he was building a kingdom, a fortress stronger than stone. I believed him.

SIMON

What were you building in Bethsaida?

THADDEUS

A...public amenity.

SIMON

An aqueduct?

THADDEUS

No, something...humbler.

SIMON

What then, man?

THADDEUS

It's not proper to say in front of a woman.

MARY MAGDALENE

I've seen and heard things that would turn your blood to ice.

SIMON

A latrine?
(re Mary)
Wait, ice?

THADDEUS

Yes.

SIMON

Our master. Building a privy!

(CONTINUED)

THADDEUS

A job is a job. I was cutting stone for the retaining wall. He was building a ramp of cedar planks so the crippled and the elderly could get to it without climbing the steep stairs.

SIMON

Why didn't he heal them so they could mount the steps themselves?

MARY MAGDALENE

He's always saying his time has not yet come.

SIMON

But calling your name, the catch of fish... Why was it his time for miracles then and not others?

LITTLE JAMES

Those were private, he has not exhibited his signs to others publicly yet.

SIMON

What's keeping him from making his ministry public?

MARY MAGDALENE

The wind blows to the south or to the east and you cannot say why.

SIMON

A latrine. We better not spread that around.

MARY MAGDALENE

He doesn't hide where he's from.

SIMON

Well, don't tell Andrew. That will...he will be surprised.

The MASTER OF THE BANQUET stands.

MASTER OF THE BANQUET

Now, friends...The Song of Miriam!

A CHEER goes up from the crowd.

526 INT. PREPARATION AREA - CONTINUOUS

526

Amphora lay on their sides on the ground. Empty. Thomas attempts one last scoop out of one of them...nothing. He leans against a pillar, staring at the pile of empty jars wide-eyed, nearly catatonic.

Ramah, Dinah, and Mary Mother enter. Dinah takes in the scene, panic rising with each second.

DINAH

Thomas, talk to me.

Thomas looks pale, sick.

527 EXT. CANA SYNAGOGUE - GROUNDS - EVENING

527

Fiery cauldrons illuminate rows of tables and a dance floor. Simon and Andrew wander, searching for something when --

JESUS (O.S.)

Sons of Jonah!

SIMON

We were just looking for you.
They're dancing to the Song of
Miriam and we thought you wouldn't
want to miss it.

JESUS

Of course. The three of us will
show 'em how it's done.

ANDREW

That might not be a good idea.

SIMON

Andrew has four left feet.

JESUS

Four?

SIMON

When he tries to dance he looks
like a donkey walking on hot coals.

JESUS

OOOhhh! Do you deny it, Andrew?

(CONTINUED)

ANDREW

I've never seen a donkey step on hot coals. Actually, that would be a terrible thing to behold.

The Chosen-Media Valet

Simon slings an arm around Andrew.

MARY MOTHER (O.S.)

My son!

ALL turn as --

Mary Mother approaches urgently. Thomas and Ramah follow.

JESUS

You see, Andrew? Even my own
mother will be joining in the Song
of Miriam.

MARY MOTHER

They've run out of wine.

ANDREW

But it's just the first day.

MARY MOTHER

Yes. And it's all gone, not a drop
left.

JESUS

Why are you telling me this?

Mary draws in close to Jesus.

MARY MOTHER

We can't let the celebration end
this way, and Asher's family
humiliated.

Jesus pulls her slightly aside, away from the others.

JESUS

Mother, my hour has not yet come.

MARY MOTHER

If not now...when?

Mary pushes in, her face close to Jesus.

JESUS POV - Invoking the same intonation she did years ago in
Jerusalem, her face nearly filling the frame --

MARY MOTHER (CONT'D)

Please.

They hold one another's gaze as something silent and powerful
passes between them. Jesus smiles slightly.

(CONTINUED)

527 CONTINUED: (3)

To the others, but never breaking eye contact with Jesus --

The Chosen-Media Valet

MARY MOTHER (CONT'D)
Do whatever he tells you.

Thomas and Ramah are deer in headlights.

FADE OUT:

END ACT THREE

The Chosen-Media Valet

ACT FOUR

528 INT. STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

528

A shaft of light from the door opening falls across the six stone water jars as Jesus, Thomas, and Ramah enter. Female Servant and Male Servant 1 and 2 wait at the threshold.

JESUS

Fill these jars with water.

THOMAS

I'm not sure if you heard her clearly -- we've run out of wine, not water.

JESUS

(inspecting the jars)

These are similar in size to your amphorae?

THOMAS

At the prudent marks, yes. Equal if filled all the way to the brim.

JESUS

You are a very responsible person, aren't you?

THOMAS

We are in a crisis, and I was led to understand you have a solution.

JESUS

Do you know why jars for purification rites are stone?

THOMAS

What?

JESUS

You heard me.

THOMAS

Because the stone is pure, less likely to stain or break, and it can't be made unclean.

JESUS

Yes. Fill these jars with water, all the way to the brim.

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

Why?

RAMAH

(to servants)

You heard him, start drawing water.
Quickly! Tell anyone you find to
stop what they're doing and help.

The group springs into action -- all except Thomas who is
left alone with Jesus.

THOMAS

From the directions you have
provided, I see no logical solution
to the problem.

JESUS

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

THOMAS

(thrown)

What did you say?

JESUS

I do not rebuke you. It is good to
ask questions. To seek
understanding.

THOMAS

There's not time for this.

JESUS

(smiles)

I know of a man like you in
Capernaum. Always counting, always
measuring.

THOMAS

That's my job -- one that people
will think I have not done well
tonight.

JESUS

Join me, and I'll show you a new
way to count and measure. A
different way to see time.

THOMAS

Go with you where?

(CONTINUED)

528 CONTINUED: (2)

Male Servant 1 BURSTS in with a bucket of water. He POURS it into a jar. Others follow.

The Chosen-Media Valet

(CONTINUED)

528 CONTINUED: (3)

THOMAS (CONT'D)
I don't understand.

JESUS
Keep watching.

529 EXT. CANA SYNAGOGUE - CONTINUOUS

529

Abner is finishing his plate. He goes to wash it down with wine -- but the cup is empty. He looks around. No servers. He spots Dinah.

ABNER
Dinah!

He motions her over with his empty cup.

DINAH
Abner! I do hope you're enjoying yourself.

ABNER
Where are the servers?

From nearby the Master of the Banquet approaches.

DINAH
I don't know, but I'll fi--

MASTER OF THE BANQUET
It's far past time for another round of wine. The last one was nearly an hour ago.

DINAH
Yes...Well, you see...

ON MARY, SEES the confrontation from across the courtyard.

ABNER
Surely there is more coming, Dinah?

Dinah looks around for help. Her worst fears. Abner sours.

MASTER OF THE BANQUET
(to Abner)
I am sorry, this will be --

Mary Mother swoops in, taking Dinah by the shoulders.

(CONTINUED)

529 CONTINUED:

MARY MOTHER

The next round of wine right away.
Thank you for reminding us. It's
all under control.

Dinah gives Mary a shocked look as she shuffles her away from
the befuddled Master of Banquet and a stewing Abner.

530 EXT. CANA SYNAGOGUE WALL - CONTINUOUS

530

Mary Magdalene and Thad, oblivious to events in the store
room, sit against a wall on pillows, their faces lit by fire
cauldrons, watching the dancing in the main courtyard.

MARY

Was your father a stonemason as
well?

Thad shakes his head.

THADDEUS

A smith. I think it broke his
heart, but I apprenticed under a
stonecutter when I was nine
and...every man must leave his
father.

MARY

Masonry seems like harder work.

THADDEUS

It isn't harder, its just
more...final.

As Thad speaks --

SEE Female Servant, Male Servants, GUESTS pouring water into
the large jars, nearing completion.

THADDEUS (V.O.)

If the smith wants to change the
horseshoe or the plowshare or the
pot hook, he has only to put the
iron back into the fire and reshape
it to fit his designs.

RAMAH

They're full.

JESUS

Everyone please step outside.

(CONTINUED)

530 CONTINUED:

Servants move toward the exit. Thomas pauses, suspicious.

The Chosen-Media Valet

(CONTINUED)

JESUS (CONT'D)
 (without looking back)
 Just for a moment, Thomas.

He closes the door, leaving Jesus alone with the six jars.
 Jesus turns slowly to face the jars.

THADDEUS (V.O.)
 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.

Jesus leans over the mouth of the vessel, looking at his
 reflection.

A heaviness gathers at the corners of his eyes as if sensing
 the chain of events this miracle will set in motion...

He closes his eyes and breathes.

JESUS
 I am ready, Father.

He places his left hand against the side of the vessel and
 TILTS.

Red wine spills over the edge into his open right palm.

Jesus closes his fist around the redness.

531 INT. PREPARATION AREA - CONTINUOUS

531

Jesus enters and smiles.

*

JESUS
 Draw some out and serve it to the
 Master of the Banquet.

As Ramah hustles out with a goblet, Jesus walks away.

*

Thomas watches him go. Male Servants stare, then dash into
 the storage room, and then we hear them all yell.

532 EXT. CANA SYNAGOGUE - COURTYARD - MOMENTS LATER

532

Ramah approaches the Master of the Banquet with the goblet.
 Abner stands watch.

(CONTINUED)

ABNER
It's about time.

RAMAH
(trance-like)
The latter vintage, sir.

MASTER OF THE BANQUET
Good, good. Let's have a taste.

He takes the drink and immediately hinges forward, as though he were about to spit it out. His eyes pop open, startled.

Master of the Banquet waves his hand wildly at the musicians--

MASTER OF THE BANQUET (CONT'D)
Stop the music! Stop the music!

MUSICIANS stop mid-measure. A hush falls over the feast.

MASTER OF THE BANQUET (CONT'D)
Everyone listen! I have something
I'd like to say.

Dinah is terrified. Mary Mother holds her.

MASTER OF THE BANQUET (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I'd like to address the bridegroom
and the bride.

Jesus passes by Dinah and Mary and kisses his mother on the cheek.

MASTER OF THE BANQUET (CONT'D)
At every wedding I've ever
overseen, they serve the best wine
first.

Sarah and Asher listen, intrigued. No idea what's happened.

MASTER OF THE BANQUET (CONT'D)
And then when the people have drunk
freely, much later in the feast
they serve the poorer wine, the
cheap stuff, because by then, who's
going to notice, am I right?

Scattered LAUGHTER.

MASTER OF THE BANQUET (CONT'D)
But you --

Dinah WINCES as though poked with a needle.

(CONTINUED)

MASTER OF THE BANQUET (CONT'D)

You have saved the best wine I have
ever tasted until now!

DINAH'S eyes go wide as she SEES --

A stream of servants filing out in rapid succession, each
with a tray containing full goblets of wine.

She practically melts into Mary Mother's arms.

MASTER OF THE BANQUET (CONT'D)

Let's thank them for this
unnecessary but honorable gesture!

A CHEER goes up.

SARAH AND ASHER try to look normal and gracious.

Rafi gives Abner a chuckle and a "Isn't this great, had it
all the way!" look, then turns away and finally exhales.

ABNER gets his hand on a glass. Tilts and tastes. He shakes
his head.

HELAH

Is something wrong?

Words slow to form --

ABNER

Yes...I was.

MASTER OF THE BANQUET raises a glass --

MASTER OF THE BANQUET

May the wedding of Asher, son of
Rafi and Dinah, to Sarah, daughter
of Abner and Helah, be as pure and
fruitful as this wine. Blessed are
you, Lord our God, King of the
universe, who brings forth the
fruit of the vine. To Asher and
Sarah!

ALL raise their goblets (if they have them) or fists and
cheers:

GUESTS

Asher and Sarah!

DINAH openly weeps sobs of relief in Mary Mother's arms.

(CONTINUED)

532 CONTINUED: (3)

MUSICIANS strike back up and music fills the courtyard.

The Chosen-Media Valet

532 CONTINUED: (4)

MARY MOTHER meets and holds Jesus' gaze across the way.

MARY MOTHER

Thank you.

He smiles.

533 INT. STORAGE ROOM - CONTINUOUS 533

As music plays OFF, Thomas stands still as a statue, staring at the vessels full of wine.

534 EXT. CANA SYNAGOGUE - COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS 534

Simon comes close to Jesus, fixating on his eyes with wonder.

SIMON

Fish. Wine. What will be next?

JESUS

Do you have any suggestions?

SIMON

Anything and everything! Let's do this! I'll go with you to the ends of the earth.

Jesus regards him with a twinge of sorrow in his eyes.

JESUS

I hope you will, Simon. But I seem to remember there was a problem. Something about Andrew's feet.

Simon is snapped out of his reverie.

SIMON

Yes! Andrew's feet!

Nearby, Andrew realizes he is being talked about. The other disciples gather around.

JESUS

We must evaluate first, no?

ANDREW

No, no. I can't!

The disciples SHOVE him forward as he resists.

(CONTINUED)

534 CONTINUED: (2)

SIMON

You've got it, Andrew!

ANDREW is thrust onto the men's dance floor, arms linked with Jesus and Simon and the other disciples, footwork flying.

DINAH dances on the women's side with Mary Mother, and Sarah.

RAFI AND ABNER face-off on the dance floor, their economic and ethnic differences invisible and forgotten.

As Andrew, Simon, and Jesus dance...

SIMON (CONT'D)

So will you help him?!

JESUS

Some things even I cannot do.

CUT TO:

535 EXT. CANA SYNAGOGUE - COURTYARD - LATE AT NIGHT 535

Clunk. Ramah sets down a crate of supplies on the cart.

RAMAH

That should it for the night.

Thomas stares across the town square, where Jesus walks with Mary Mother and the disciples. Ramah notices.

RAMAH (CONT'D)

I don't know who he is, but I can't pretend I didn't see a miracle. He gave us even more than we need.

Thomas and Ramah WATCH Jesus and the others cross the square.

STAY ON Thomas -- a mix of confusion and inspiration.

THOMAS

He invited me to join him.

She turns. *Really?*

THOMAS (CONT'D)

To meet him in Samaria in twelve days.

RAMAH

Samaria?

(CONTINUED)

THOMAS

I don't know what to think.

RAMAH

So, don't? Maybe, for once, don't think.

She moves closer to him. Their eyes and minds remain stuck on the receding figure of Jesus.

As we PULLBACK from the town square --

END EPISODE

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