

TEN MINUTES IN THE BIBLE SERIES

THE PARTY WITHOUT WINE

REFLECTION:

Sometimes the greatest miracles happen when our carefully made plans fall apart. The question is whether we recognize the miracle – or take credit for it.

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THE PARTY WITHOUT WINE

By J.S. Jacklin

10-minute play inspired by John 2: 1-11

A highly successful wedding planner faces her worst nightmare when the wine runs out – and a miracle performed by Jesus gives her the opportunity to take credit for something she didn't do.

CHARACTERS: 3 (2m, 1f)

CHLOE	Female (wearing tunic and pearls - <i>arrogant, controlling, theatrical and utterly convinced of her own brilliance.</i>)
TIRZAH	Male (wearing tunic and a white waiter's jacket - <i>foreign servant, cheerful, practical and endlessly patient.</i>)
GROOM'S FATHER	Male (wearing tunic and black tuxedo jacket - <i>affluent, boisterous.</i>)

SETTING:

Caná of lower Galilee. A wedding. A room adjacent to where the wedding festivities are happening. A table with files.

CHLOE is in a side prep room, admiring the wedding in the room offstage.

CHLOE (*Pleased with herself.*) Ah, good! The bride appears to be thrilled with my choice of centrepieces. Coral breeze. A combination of warm peach and cool teal. Absolutely perfect. Just as I planned.

TIRZAH *rushes in.*

TIRZAH Miss Chloe! Miss Chloe!

CHLOE Tirzah!

TIRZAH Yes?

CHLOE I've told you never to interrupt me.

TIRZAH What are you doing?

CHLOE I'm observing.

TIRZAH It be very important what I have to say.

CHLOE Everything is important at a wedding, Tirzah. That is why people hire me.

TIRZAH Yes. Of course. But we have a problem.

CHLOE Look in this room. (*Points off stage.*) Do you see any problems?

TIRZAH Well—

CHLOE Do you see any bridesmaid fights?

TIRZAH No.

CHLOE Do you see any family snubs?

TIRZAH No

CHLOE That's because of my adeptness in family seating arrangements?

TIRZAH You good, but—

CHLOE There are no problems in that room, whatsoever. I have everything under control.

TIRZAH The problem is not room.

CHLOE Then we do not have a problem.

TIRZAH No. What we do not have... is wine.

SILENCE

CHLOE I beg your pardon?

TIRZAH No need to beg.

CHLOE Of course there is wine.

TIRZAH There is no wine.

CHLOE I calculated the amount of wine required - by the number of guests attending.

TIRZAH Yes.

CHLOE And from that, we ordered the correct number of bottles for this wedding.

TIRZAH Yes.

CHLOE And, how many bottles did you count when they were delivered this morning?

TIRZAH All of them.

CHLOE (*Rolls her eyes. Second guessing herself.*) Let me check my notes. (*Grab notes from table.*)

TIRZAH All bottles arrive. And... now.... all are empty.

CHLOE Here it is. (*Reading. Redoing math in her head.*) Number of... give or take.... I could not have possibly miscalculated.

TIRZAH No.

CHLOE Perhaps I underestimated the number of luses.

TIRZAH Yes.

CHLOE Well, that is hardly my fault.

TIRZAH No. But still we have no wine.

GROOM'S FATHER ENTERS BLUSTERING.

GROOM'S FATHER Miss Chloe. It appears we are out of wine.

CHLOE We are not out of wine, sir.

GROOM'S FATHER I assure you, we are out of wine.

TIRZAH I tell her.

GROOM'S FATHER Is this a ploy to extort more money from me?

CHLOE No! No! It's nothing like that.

TIRZAH Money not the problem. Wine—

CHLOE ... is on its way!

GROOM'S FATHER I would have thought, Miss Chloe, someone of your calibre in the wedding planning business, and your exceptional reputation, you would be on top of this...

CHLOE I am!