

# **DOES GOD CARE ABOUT ME?**

**John 2:1-11**

**Theme: Jesus is the answer to life's hard issues**

**Purpose:**

- **To provide biblical insight on questions that are hard and universal to every culture.**
- **To point the listener to Jesus as the ultimate answer to these questions.**

**Episode 2 of 7  
HARD QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD SERIES  
(15 MIN. FORMAT)  
CHRISTIAN RADIO DRAMA  
"THE STORY WITHIN"**

**002**



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**Hard Questions About God Series**  
**Episode 2 of 7: Does God Care About**  
**Me?**  
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## **DIRECTORIAL INFORMATION**

**CAST OF CHARACTERS:** (note voice quality required)

- **Each voice should be recognizably different from any other character.**
- **Some characters appear in multiple episodes of this series. Use the same voice for the same character.**

**Thomas:**            **Narrator, a disciple of Jesus** (voice of a mature man)  
**Philip:**           **Disciple of Jesus** (voice of a mature man)  
**Jesus:**            **The Son of God** (warm voice of a mature man)

**Director's notes to all readers:**

- These are radio **dramas**. The action and emotions are in the words. Take your time in reading the story; remember that the listener will hear these words only once; speak distinctly with appropriate emotion; carefully observe all punctuation (i.e., pause at commas, stop at periods, intensify at exclamation points, and give special emphasis to words in **bold** type).
- Observe all **music** cues (bold/small print) throughout the script.
- Observe **sound effects** directions (bold print) throughout the script.
- Observe all **voice** instructions (bold print) in parentheses throughout the script.

**Note to translators:** When Scripture is used, the print is in italics, and it is the NIV (1984). Scripture references are given to aid the translators and should not be read as part of the script.

**DOES GOD CARE ABOUT ME?**

## **Scripture reference: John 2:1-11**

**(Music: Theme music begins, then gradually fades to underscoring during comments by Program Host)**

### **Program Host**

Welcome to “The Story Within.”

Unless you are one of the rare few who live in a castle, surrounded by everything your heart could desire and attended by servants who shelter you from anything unpleasant, you have probably observed that the world is filled with men and women who live in difficult circumstances, struggling every day just to survive and to provide food and shelter for their families. The question they ask is not, “What shall I eat tonight?” but “Shall I ever eat again?”

To the many that daily face such basic questions of survival, talk about God and His wonderful plan for our lives falls on deaf ears; experience seems to teach them that if He is in fact there, God is either unaware or unconcerned about their plight. The valid question they ask is this: Does God care about me?

Dear friend, if you have ever asked a question like this, I have good news for you: God not only knows who you are, He knows exactly what you are going through. Join us now as we listen to the second episode in our series on Hard Questions About God, based on events and people found in God’s Word.

**(Music: swells to indicate scene change; then fades to soft underscoring)**

Notice that scene changes are depicted with music.

### **Scene 1**

**INSERT: (Sound effects: nighttime; a soft breeze and crickets chirping in the background)**

**Thomas: (narrating)** When I first met Jesus of Nazareth, I was not what you would call good disciple material. I had no religious training, no friends or relatives among His disciples, no special talents or gifts that would be helpful in such a position, and most of all, I had no desire whatsoever to **be** a disciple. In fact, looking back, the notion that I agreed to become a disciple of Jesus seems so laughable to me now, for one main reason: He was a religious Teacher, a Rabbi, and I did not even believe in God.

**INSERT: (Sound effects: add a softly crackling campfire)**

**Thomas: (narrating, sighs)** But I did agree to it, and so I became a follower of the Rabbi Jesus. And as it turned out . . . I was not the only one among His disciples who had questions and reservations.

**INSERT: (Sound effects: add soft, murmuring voices)**

**Philip:** Thomas! Over here!

**INSERT: (Sound effects: footsteps approach, and then stop)**

**Philip:** Here; sit down.

**Thomas:** Thank you, Philip.

**INSERT: (Sound effects: Thomas sits down on the ground by the fire)**

**Philip:** Now then – ask Jesus your question.

**Thomas: (surprised)** What?

**Philip:** You had a question for Jesus . . . remember?

**Thomas:** I have no idea what you are talking about, Philip.

**Philip:** Sure you do. **(prompting)** Yesterday . . .? When we were in the city?

**Thomas:** I . . .

**Philip:** After Jesus healed the old man beside the pool at Bethesda?

**Thomas: (embarrassed)** Oh. That.

**Philip:** Go ahead; ask Him.

**Thomas:** Philip, I really do not want to . . .

**Jesus: (softly chuckling)** Philip . . . if he has a question, he will ask it. You do not need to push so hard.

**Philip:** But Jesus, Thomas has a question about the miracles.

**Thomas:** Philip, I really did not want to trouble Jesus with . . .

**Jesus:** You wonder how I was able to cause a man to walk who had been crippled for years. It was hard for you to believe what your eyes saw, and you wonder if it was not in fact some sort of trick.

**INSERT: (Sound effects: an owl hoots in the distance)**

**Thomas:** Well . . . I would not have put it exactly that way . . .

**Jesus:** Do not worry, My friend; I am not offended in the least. In fact, you would not be the first in this little group of men to express such doubts. Would he, Philip?

**Philip: (laughing)** Ah, I knew You would do this to me, Jesus.

**Jesus:** Did you have something you wish to tell our new friend, Philip?

**Philip:** I believe that Jesus is referring to a little incident that happened a few months ago up in Galilee, in a little town called Cana.

**Thomas:** I have never heard of it.

**Philip:** Neither had I. We had just met Jesus, and there were only three of us at the time. We had just found Nathaniel, here, when Jesus told us we had all been invited to a wedding in Cana.

**Jesus: (chuckling)** No, no, Philip; I said that **I** had been invited.

**Philip:** Well, anyway, we all went to the wedding with Jesus. That was when the trouble began.

**INSERT: (Sound effects: the owl hoots again)**

**Thomas:** Trouble?

**Philip:** Yes – too many guests – too little wine.

**Thomas:** What do you mean? They actually ran out of wine?

**Philip:** Yes.

**Thomas: (laughing)** And . . . it was your fault?

**Philip:** No! No, the master of the banquet had not ordered enough wine.

**Thomas:** What did he do?

**Philip:** There was nothing he could do. There was no more wine to be found anywhere on the premises.

**Thomas:** So . . . what is the point of this story?

**Philip:** Jesus fixed the problem.

**Thomas: (skeptically)** He fixed the problem? Just what did He do?

**Philip:** He um . . . He turned water into wine.

**Thomas:** I see.

**Philip:** There were six large stone jars filled with ordinary water nearby.

**Thomas:** Filled with water.

**Philip:** Yes.

**INSERT: (Sound effects: the owl hoots again)**

**Thomas:** I do not mean to be rude, but . . . how do you know it was water?

**Jesus: (chuckling)** Because Philip did not believe I had changed the water.

When the servants carried the jars past him on the way to the front of the wedding, Philip sneaked a taste.

**Thomas:** And . . .?

**Philip:** And . . . it was just water. I was so disappointed.

**Thomas:** But . . . I do not understand. It was just water? How is that fixing the problem?

**Philip:** That is exactly what I thought. And as I stood there watching in horror, the master of the banquet drew some of the water out . . . and tasted it for himself.

**(Music: swells to indicate scene change; then fades to soft underscoring)**

## **INTERMISSION**

**Program Host:** Thank you for tuning in. You are listening to "The Story Within." Today we are following a series called, "Hard Questions About God," based on events and people found in God's Word. Previously in our story, Thomas had responded to a call from Jesus to follow Him, and found himself among His disciples as they gathered around a campfire at the end of a long day. But Thomas was quietly skeptical about Jesus, and all of the talk about God and miracles. For Thomas, you see, was not sure that he believed in God, and even if God **did** exist, Thomas did not believe that God cared anything about him. Listen now, as we continue our story.

**(Music: underscoring fades out as sound effects return)**

## **Scene 2**

**INSERT: (Sound effects: nighttime; a soft breeze and crickets chirping in the background, and a soft, crackling fire)**

**Thomas:** So . . . the master of the banquet tasted the water and . . .?



**Philip:** He just stood there for a moment, with a puzzled look on his face. I held my breath the whole time. But then the man smiled, and said, “*Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink*” (John 2:10).

**Thomas:** So?

**Philip:** Then he turned to the bridegroom and said, “*But you have saved the best till now*” (John 2:10). It was not only wine, Thomas; it was the best wine the man had ever tasted.

**Thomas: (pauses)** You know what?

**Philip:** What?

**INSERT: (Sound effects: Thomas abruptly rises to his feet)**

**Thomas:** I have had enough of this.

**INSERT: (Sound effects: rapid footsteps retreating as Thomas walks away; murmuring voices among the surprised disciples)**

**Philip: (voice trailing away as Thomas retreats)** Thomas! What is the matter? Where are you going?

**INSERT: (Sound effects: the sounds of the camp fire and voices fade away as Thomas continues to walk briskly)**

**Thomas: (murmuring to himself)** What nonsense is this? Water into wine . . .

**INSERT: (Sound effects: distant running footsteps, approaching; Thomas continues to walk)**

**Philip: (from a distance)** Thomas! Thomas, wait!

**INSERT: (Sound effects: running footsteps grow louder)**

**Philip: (much closer) Thomas! Stop!**

**INSERT: (Sound effects: Thomas stops, and Philip races up)**

**Thomas:** What do you want?

**INSERT: (Sound effects: Philip stops, out of breath)**

**Philip: (out of breath)** Why . . . why did you run off like that?

**Thomas:** Listen, Philip – I do not belong back there. I do not . . .

**Philip: (waits a moment for him to continue)** You do not . . . what?

**Thomas:** I am sorry, but I do not believe that stuff.

**Philip:** But I saw it with my own eyes. I tasted the water, and then I tasted the wine from the very same jar. It was a miracle.

**Thomas:** Fine. You believe that. I did not see it, and I do not believe it.

**Philip:** But you did see Jesus heal the lame man in Jerusalem.

**Thomas:** I am not sure what I saw.

**INSERT: (Sound effects: silence between the two for a moment; we still hear the sounds of the night)**

**Philip: (softly)** What is the matter, Thomas? What is bothering you?

**Thomas:** I . . .

**Philip: (softly)** What is it?

**Thomas:** Why does any of this matter, Philip?

**Philip:** What do you mean?

**Thomas:** So what if He performs miracles? So what if Jesus can change water into wine? What does any of that prove?

**Philip:** Well, it proves that Jesus was sent from God, does it not?

**Thomas: (raising his voice slightly)** Does it? Well, if that is so, then why did God send Him?

**Philip:** To show us that God cares about us.

**Thomas: (raising his voice higher)** To show us He cares? He cares? How does changing water into wine show He cares anything about us?

**Philip:** Now, now, Thomas, if you would just calm down . . .

**Thomas: (nearly shouting)** What did the wine prove, Philip? So everyone got a taste of miracle wine! In the end, how did it help anyone? Now Jesus is a celebrity! Good for Him!

**Philip: (softly)** No one knew about the miracle, Thomas.

**Thomas: (startled)** What? What do you mean? Surely the master of the banquet knew about . . .

**Philip:** Nope.

**Thomas:** What about the guests?

**Philip:** No. None of them knew.

**Thomas:** I do not understand. **(pause)** What about the bridegroom?

**Philip:** I think he knew that something had happened, but . . . we never told him, either.

**Thomas: (softly)** But . . . why then did Jesus perform the miracle, if He was not going to take credit for it?

**Philip:** Jesus did not perform the miracle to draw attention to Himself. He had another purpose.

**Thomas:** For the benefit of the thirsty wedding guests, I suppose?

**Philip:** No, although everyone at the wedding benefitted from the miracle, it was not really for them.

**Thomas:** Who was it for, then?

**Philip:** It was for us, His disciples; it was for me, Thomas. Jesus performed the miracle for me.

**Thomas:** What? Why would He do that?

**Philip:** Let me ask you a question, Thomas: why did you agree to follow Jesus?

**Thomas:** I . . . I do not know why.

**Philip:** Let me suggest something to you. **(pause)** I suspect that like me, you have grown weary of the false piety and empty promises of our religious leaders; you have been looking for something to believe in, but until now, you have found nothing. Until now.

**Thomas:** Go on . . .

**Philip:** Following Jesus just because He asked you to required a step of faith.

**Thomas:** I did not say that I believe in . . .

**Philip:** Ah, but Thomas, you followed Him! You do not want to admit it, but this says something about you: it says you are searching for something more.

**Thomas:** This is all very interesting, but what does this have to do with these supposed miracles of His?

**Philip:** I too have been searching, Thomas; and I believe that in Jesus, I have found what I have been searching for: someone to place my faith in.

**Thomas:** So you have faith in Him. I still do not see the connection.

**Philip:** The miracle of the water into wine, the miracle of the lame man walking, both had the same purpose: to **validate the faith** of those who place it in Jesus.

**Thomas:** So . . . the wine was for you to taste . . . are you saying that the healing of that old man was not for his benefit, but simply for me to witness?

**Philip:** No, no, not exactly. The healing was genuine, and the lame man clearly benefitted from it; but Thomas, God was glorified, not only in the miracle itself, but also in the hearts of those who follow Jesus. The miracle was intended to validate our faith.

**Thomas:** You are asking me to believe that God cares about me . . . because Jesus healed an old man.

**(Music: underscoring music begins softly)**

**Philip:** Oh, yes, He cares, Thomas; He cares about the old man who sat all those years by the pool, and He cares about the young groom and his bride who had run out of wine. And Thomas, God cares about you enough to send Jesus to you. Do you not see? Jesus Himself is proof that God cares about us.

**(Music: underscoring music swells; then begins reprise of Theme music; softly underscoring comments of Program Host during Our Response to God's Word)**

## **OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD**

### **Program Host**

It seems that Philip is not going to allow Thomas to walk away. Having placed his faith in Jesus, Philip recognized that God was similarly at work in the heart of his new friend. And he was right: God indeed cared about Thomas, just like He cares about you and me.

Why, you ask? Because God made us. He made you and me. Because He created us, we are very special to God. He loves us with an eternal love.

God called Abraham "*my friend*" (Isa. 41:8). The Lord spoke to Moses "*as a man speaks with his friend*" (Ex. 33:11). And God is our Friend. We can talk to Him as a friend.

I'm going to pray a brief prayer from my heart to God. Listen to my prayer, and then when I have prayed I will lead you to pray the same prayer.

**Dear God, I thank You that You made me, and because of that, I am special to You. Thank You for Your great love for me. Thank You that I am Your friend. I love You. Amen.**

Now repeat the prayer aloud after me. We will pray it a portion at a time. Make the prayer your very own to God. Mean it with all your heart as you pray.

**Dear God,** (pause for person to repeat)

**I thank You that You made me,** (pause for person to repeat)

**and because of that, I am special to You.** (pause for person to repeat)

**Thank You for Your great love for me.** (pause for person to repeat)

**Thank You that I am Your friend.** (pause for person to repeat)

**I love You. Amen.** (pause for person to repeat)

Thank you for praying that prayer. We will learn more about God and His love for us in the next program.

**(Music: Theme music swells dramatically and fades as broadcast ends)**

### **Note to Broadcaster, Program Host, and Director**

If this drama is to be broadcast as a part of the “Hard Questions About God” series, there should be a “listener tag” at the end of the broadcast, indicating that the next episode will be another drama on a hard question about God.

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