

Where Jesus Goes, Peace Follows

As we continue through the Gospel of Mark, we encounter Mark's carefully curated stories. The miracles and events he chooses to retell serve his overarching purpose in writing his gospel: to communicate *who* Jesus is. Mark wants us to take courage as we hear about Jesus' ability to bring peace, life, and abundance from barrenness and chaos. Get to know Jesus as the Great Shepherd and the Son of God by studying the miracles he performs when he feeds a crowd of five thousand and calms a raging storm. Jesus the Messiah does not hesitate to enter into the hard places, and wherever he goes he brings hope and peace to those who recognize him.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Where do you see reminders of human sinfulness in the world?
- How do you define "peace"?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Where Jesus Goes, Peace Follows](#)

READ [Mark 6:14-52](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Hosts Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee observe that "wilderness" is a theme throughout scripture, representing desolation, chaos, and death; as Scott said "a sign of this world's fallenness and death." If we were to tell a modern version of these wilderness stories, what would be examples of fallenness, chaos, and death from our lives?
- Read [Psalm 23](#), what other parallels do you recognize between Psalm 23 and the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand?
- Read [Ezekiel 34](#), then consider, if the religious leaders and Jews of Jesus' time knew Ezekiel's prophecy well, how would [Mark 6:30-44](#) help reveal Jesus' identity as the Messiah to them?
- In N.T. Wright's reflection on [Mark 6:30-44](#), the feeding of the five thousand, he returns our attention to Jesus' relationship with God's kingdom: "What we are seeing here is a sign of new creation. Something was going on, there in Jesus' public career, which was unleashing an explosive force into the world. It wasn't what we (or they) would call magic, the manipulation of the natural world to suit one's own ends. It was the power of a totally obedient life, a life given up to the kingdom of God, to God's sovereign and saving rule breaking in at last to a world for so long under enemy occupation" (*Mark for Everyone*, p. 79). How do the stories in [Mark 6](#) point to Jesus' sovereignty or supreme power over the natural world, and reveal his identity as the Messiah whose mission is to usher in God's kingdom?

- Psalm 23 and Ezekiel 34 both reveal strong resonance and connection with Jesus feeding the five thousand in Mark 6:30-44. When you consider the other stories in Mark 6 (John the Baptist Beheaded, Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand, and Jesus Walks on the Water), are there any other stories or passages that come to your mind from other places in scripture? How does this biblical resonance contribute to your knowledge of Jesus as our Messiah and the peace he brings?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Isaiah 25:4-8](#), [Exodus 24:9-11](#), [Deuteronomy 18:15](#), [Psalm 23](#), [Ezekiel 34](#), [Isaiah 35:1-2](#), [Isaiah 58:11](#), [Psalm 63:1-5](#)

CONCLUSION

Close with a time of reflection and prayer. Consider: where is there barrenness and chaos in your life? How about in the world around you? Praise God for the sovereignty of Jesus Christ over all creation and for the in-breaking of God's kingdom into our world. Pray for Jesus to bring peace, life, and abundance to the places of wilderness you identified in your life.

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