

## WHERE JESUS GOES, PEACE FOLLOWS

Mark 6:14-52

### Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

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

Mark is careful and intentional about the stories he includes in his gospel. He crafts a narrative that displays the strong connections between Old Testament messianic prophecies and the person of Jesus Christ. Yet he also makes clear that the religious leaders of Jesus’ day and even his own disciples didn’t understand exactly who Jesus was. Do we? Study the miracles Jesus performs in Mark 6 and discover how his acts of feeding a crowd of five thousand and calming a raging storm help us recognize Jesus’ true identity. And take heart that Jesus brings hope and peace to those who truly recognize him.

**Listen:** [Where Jesus Goes, Peace Follows](#)

### Reflection

After listening, consider:

- 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

- **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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