

FOLLOWING JESUS INTO THE UNEXPECTED

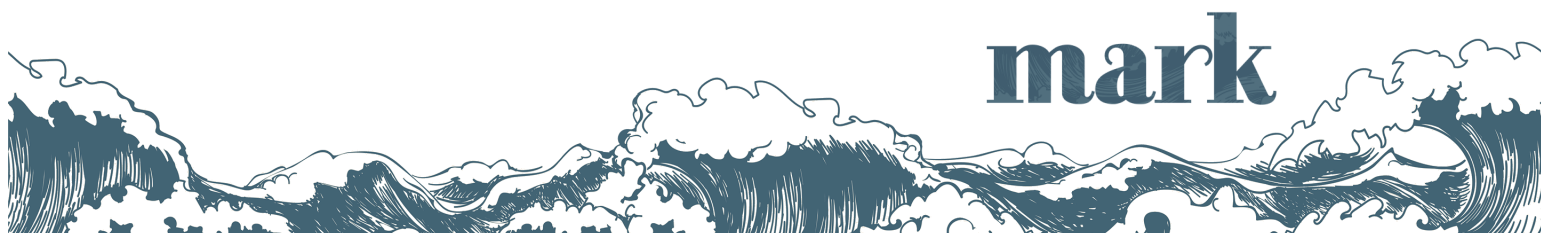
MARK 6:7-7:23

And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while."

Jesus wants us to navigate the unexpected...

1. with _____ of his provision. (Mk 6:7-13)
2. with _____ to his greater purpose. (Mk 6:14-29)
3. with _____ like his for the lost. (Mk 6:33-34)
4. with _____ on his unlimited resources. (Mk 6:37-43)
5. with _____ in his watchful care. (Mk 6:45-49)
6. with _____ in his divine presence. (6:50-52)
7. with _____ on his glory. (Mk 7:1-23)

(NOT a _____ on your ability)



Following Jesus into the Unexpected

January 30, 2022



Open: Share an example of a time when your plans did not go as expected. How did you react?

Read & Discuss: Mark 6:30-42

1. Based on what Jesus says to his disciples in verses 30-31, they would have been expecting an opportunity to rest from ministry. Why are those expectations derailed once they arrive at their destination? What lessons might we learn about the dynamic relationship between rest, work, the needs of people, and the sovereign plans of God?
2. Jesus responds to the disciples request to send the people away so they might get something to eat by instructing them to "give them something to eat" (vv. 35-37). What do you think the disciples are meant to learn from the way Jesus goes about providing food for the crowd of thousands? How might those lessons be relevant in our present circumstances?

Read & Discuss: Mark 6:45-52

3. As the disciples struggle to cross the sea once more, Jesus intends to walk by them (v. 48). How do the disciples react when they see Jesus come to them walking on water? Why?
4. Verse 52 indicates they reacted as they did because they had failed to grasp something in the feeding of the great crowd. How should what they observed *then* have impacted their perspective *in their current situation*?

Read & Discuss: Mark 7:1-23

5. The Pharisees, and most Jews more generally, had many traditions and rules about how to avoid becoming "defiled" or unclean by things they touched or ate (vv. 1-4). How does Jesus' teaching on what defiles a person differ from this? (vv. 14-22)
6. What characterizes vain or worthless worship as described in verses 6-8? The Pharisees were very devoted religious people, but Jesus said their worship was in vain. What can we focus on and do to ensure we don't also drift into practicing empty religion?

Apply: When things don't go as expected, what does your response reveal about the disposition of your heart? What might Jesus be calling you to do in light of what he taught the disciples in these passages?

Pray: Ask God to help us respond in God-honoring ways when things don't go as planned.

Mark 6:30-42

³⁰ The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹ And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³² And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things. ³⁵ And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. ³⁶ Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." ³⁷ But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" ³⁸ And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." ³⁹ Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. ⁴¹ And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² And they all ate and were satisfied.

Mark 6:45-52

⁴⁵ Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶ And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷ And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. ⁴⁸ And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, ⁴⁹ but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, ⁵⁰ for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." ⁵¹ And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded. ⁵² for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

Mark 7:1-23

¹ Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, ² they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³ (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, ⁴ and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) ⁵ And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶ And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me;

⁷ in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

⁸ You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men."

⁹ And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! ¹⁰ For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' ¹¹ But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, "Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban"' (that is, given to God)—¹² then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, ¹³ thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."

¹⁴ And he called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." ¹⁷ And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸ And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰ And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person." (ESV)