

Forerunner: *prepare the way of the Lord*

Preparing Yourself for Fulfillment

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Mark 6:21-44

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Introduction: When someone special is coming for a visit, you get ready. That might mean getting ahead on your homework or cleaning up your place or cooking some good food. You prepare. All the biographies of Jesus tell us that before the Christ child was born, God sent a quirky forerunner to help us prepare. What would it mean for you to prepare for the coming Savior? Worth having a look at that forerunner and his unsettling refrain: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord"?

Review: How did remembering that John's joy was complete when he became less help you this week?

Read: Mark 6:21-44

Prayer: Father open our eyes to your truth as we continue to prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth. Amen.

Discussion:

1. What do the various people in this first story (John 6:21-29) want? (See Mark 6:17-20 for more of the backstory.) Who gets what they wanted and are they satisfied?
2. In the next passage (Mark 6:30-44) there are also many people with many needs. Who are they and what do they want and need?
3. How does Jesus meet the needs of the various groups? How is this different than they might have expected?
4. What needs and wants do you have? How has Jesus met your needs in the past? Did your needs get met in ways that you wanted or expected?
5. Has God ever given you things that you didn't know you needed? How did receiving what you did not expect impact your relationship with God?

Application: Bring your needs before God in prayer but be ready for the unexpected answers.

Prayer: Father, help us to seek our fulfillment in you even when it comes with answers we do not expect. Amen