

Episode 8: Sustenance

This episode picks up at the Decapolis where Jesus is trying to bring unity to the different leaders who are fighting about their religious concerns. Jesus starts by telling the parable of the mustard seed. Read the parable below and circle what is causing the tree to move.

- **Luke 17:6 (ESV)** – *And the Lord said, “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and be planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.”*

Jesus is then approached by a man with an infected, broken leg. Jesus heals him in front of all of them. As Jesus is talking, crowds are starting to form. Jesus tells a few more parables to the crowd.

- **Matthew 13:1-9 (ESV)**.... ³*And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear.”*

Using the chart below and the explanation of the parable in Matthew 13:18-23, fill in the blanks below:

Type of Soil	What happened?	What does this mean?
Footpath		<i>Hear the message only to have Satan come and take it away</i>
Shallow soil with underlying rock	<i>Plant wilted under the sun since it didn't have deep roots</i>	
	<i>Thorns choked out the tender plants and produced no grain</i>	<i>Hear the message but too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of life, lure of wealth, no fruit is produced.</i>
Fertile soil		<i>Hear God's message, follow it and produce a harvest of much more than has been planted.</i>

What do you think each soil looks like practically?

Type of Soil	What does this look like in today's world?	What should they do instead?
Footpath		
Shallow soil with underlying rock		
Soil with thorns		
Fertile soil		

As you can see from the parable above, the soil in which the plant is in will cultivate different outcomes. We need to have good, fertile soil. The other types of ground will not create a foundation in which a thriving plant can grow.

The crowds are getting tired and hungry. Many of them sleep in the field overnight, but it is not lost on the disciples that there is a lack of food to feed this many people. The next morning Jesus continues to teach and talked about the parable of the two sons. Read it below and underline each son's response and circle what he actually did.

- Matthew 21:28-32 (ESV)** – ²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ And he answered, ‘I will not.’ But afterwards he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go sir’ but did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

Read the parable of the hidden treasure and the pearl of great value below. Circle the two things each man does upon finding the treasure and the pearl.

- Matthew 13:44-46 (ESV)n-** ⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” ⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

The treasure and pearl are the kingdom of heaven. These men are all in. They sell everything and buy the kingdom of heaven. Do you feel like you are all in? What do you need to do to be all in?

Next Jesus tells another parable about the mustard seed. As he is telling this parable, the disciples are gathering food but only come up with 5 barley loaves and 2 fish. Read the parable below and underline what happens to the mustard seed.

- **Matthew 13:31-32 (ESV)** ³¹ He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. ³² It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

As you can see, the small seed, which represents faith, grew to be so large! Not only was the plant large, but it provided for the birds and their future babies in the nests. Can you imagine the impact your faith is going to have on the people around you? You can impact not only yourself, but others and future generations. Write a prayer below asking God to bless your legacy and the impact you can have on others.

What can you do today to use that mustard seed amount of faith to impact others?

The disciples bring the 5 barley loaves and 2 fish to Jesus. He tells them to organize the people into groups of 50/100 and give them food from the baskets. Read the account of this from Matthew below and circle the number of loaves and fish they started with, put a star next to how many people they fed.

- **Matthew 14:13-21 (ESV)**¹⁵ Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶ But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷ They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” ¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

There is another account of Jesus feeding crowds, the 4,000. (Matthew 15:32-39, Mark 8:1-10) The feeding of 5,000 took place near Bethsaida, close to the sea of Galilee. The feeding of the 4,000 took place in the region around the Decapolis. The creators combined the accounts.

This is same account recorded in the other gospels as well. Look up the scripture references below:

- Mark 6:32-44 – references there were twelve baskets full of broken pieces of the fish/ bread
- Luke 9:10-17
- John 6:1-15 - references a boy giving them five barley loaves and two fish

After the miraculous feeding of the 5,000, Jesus decides to stay back, and the disciples decide to take a boat across the river as it would be faster than walking. Circle what Jesus decided to do below:

- **Matthew 14:22-23 (ESV)** – ²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone.

A storm started and the disciples were having a terrible time in the boat battling the storm. Then something came upon them. Circle what they thought it was.

- **Matthew 14:24-26 (ESV)** – ²⁴ but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear.

Underline below what Simon Peter did after Jesus said “Come”.

- **Matthew 14:27-29 (ESV)** – ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” ²⁸ And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.

Circle what caused Simon Peter to sink in the verses below:

- **Matthew 14:30-31 (ESV)** – ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why do you doubt?”

How many times have you let fear stop you? Has fear held you back in your faith? Reflect below on what fears you have and how you can overcome them to grow in your spiritual journey.

Jesus displayed his power in the following verses. Circle what stopped and underline the disciple’s response.

- **Matthew 14:32-33 (ESV)** – ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

While Simon is away with Jesus at the area outside of the Decapolis, Eden is approached by Mary, Zebedee and his wife to find out what is going on between her and Simon. Zebedee and his wife ask her if they are having marriage problems. An important support system to have in your marriage is fellow believers who support you and your spouse. Do you have marriage mentors or other believers who support your marriage? If so, list them below. If not, consider seeking out a couple who can be this for you.

Eden decides to go to the synagogue and go through the purification steps with Rabbi Yussif. As she goes through these steps she is praying for Simon. They are praying through Psalm 77. In the appendix are a couple reflection questions as you read through Psalm 77.

At the end of the episode, we see scenes of John the Baptist, Ramah, Thomas, Giaus and his son while Psalm 77 is being read. The episode ends with Simon returning to Eden and embracing her. It seems they are finally in a good spot, and Simon has worked through his anger.

That's a wrap on the season! It was so good, and there is only more of Jesus' story to come in the next one. I hope you enjoyed seeing scripture come to life and look forward to diving into Season 4 next!

The account of Jesus walking on water is also recorded in Mark 6:45-52 and John 6:16-21, but both Mark and John do not mention Peter walking on the water.

Appendix - Bonus Psalm Reflection

The episode started and ended with a Psalm being read to King David. This Psalm was written by Asaph. The Psalm is quoted throughout the episode. Read Psalm 77 below:

Psalm 77:1-8 (ESV) - ¹ I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, and he will hear me. ² In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted. ³ When I remember God, I moan; when I meditate, my spirit faints.

Selah

⁴ You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak. ⁵ I consider the days of old, the years long ago. ⁶ I said, "Let me remember my song in the night; let me meditate in my heart." Then my spirit made a diligent search: ⁷ "Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable? ⁸ Has his steadfast love forever ceased? Are his promises at an end for all time? ⁸ Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?"

Selah

The Psalmist is very angry and upset with God. This is exactly how Peter felt in the show. Have you felt upset with God, disappointed, angry? If you are feeling that way now, present your frustrations to the Lord and let him know. He cares when you are happy, he cares when you are angry.

Psalm 77:10-20 (ESV) - ¹⁰ Then I said, "I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High." ¹¹ I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. ¹² I wonder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. ¹³ Your way, O God is holy. What god is great like our God? ¹⁴ You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples. ¹⁵ You with your arm redeemed your people, the children of Jacob and Joseph.

Selah

¹⁶ When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; indeed, the deep trembled. ¹⁷ The clouds poured out water, the skies gave forth thunder; your arrows flashed on every side. ¹⁸ The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lighted up the world, the earth trembled and shook. ¹⁹ Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters; yet your footprints were unseen. ²⁰ You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

When you are feeling angry, frustrated, upset, remember all God has done for you. Reflect below on the blessings God has given you and how he has always provided for you.

Appendix - References

This study is based on The Chosen show. Quotes and material from the show are included in this study.

The Chosen Season 3. Directed by Dallas Jenkins, 5&2 Studios, 2022.

Bible verses are referenced from the (ESV) English Standard Version of the bible.

The ESV Bible. (2001). English Standard Version [Online Version]. Crossway.

Other commentary was taken from the below source:

1. Got questions.org "What does selah mean in the bible?" January 4, 2022.

For additional commentary on this study and many others visit **BiblicalRewind.org**