

Jesus at Capernaum

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NOTES

Witnessing Difficulties

- † Do you find it difficult to witness?
- † Have you seen any results?
- † Where is it hard or easy to witness?
 - Work? Home? Strangers? Church?
- † Did Jesus have any witnessing difficulties & challenges?

Jesus Fully Empathizes With Our Efforts

NOTES

Jesus' Lifetime Travel Itinerary

- ✓ Born in Bethlehem
- ✓ Migrated to Egypt as a toddler
- ✓ Grew up in **Nazareth** (Hometown)
- ✓ Moved to **Capernaum** with his Mom & half-brothers early in His ministry
- ✓ Died/Resurrected in Jerusalem

NOTES

Challenges 2,000+ Years Ago

- † Jesus called His own generation
“Unbelieving & Perverted” **Mt 17:17**
- † Jesus called the religious/political
leaders of His day:
 - “Vipers & Hypocrites” **Mt 3:7**
 - “Evil and Adulterous” **Mt 12:39**
 - “Fools & Blind Men” **Mt 23:17**

Did Jesus Speak the Truth in Love?

NOTES

Principles for Us to Live By

- A. **Principle #1.** Know when to fight, resist, acquiesce, or flee
- B. **Principle #2.** Know when to leave a township, a job, a church, a family, or a marriage due to hostility **1Cor 7:15**
- C. **Principle #3.** Yet, we are still responsible to witness & warn

NOTES

1Cor 7:15 Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace.

Jesus' Challenges in Capernaum

Society Challenges He dealt with

- † Israel was under Roman control
- † Israel was a “perverted generation”

Family Challenges He dealt with

- “He has lost his senses” **Mk 3:21**
- “No honor at home” **Mk 6:4**

Jesus had limited results – Just like us

NOTES

Who does He think He is?

We watched Him grow up amongst us! There's nothing special about Him.

Little Known Facts About Capernaum

**(16 direct NT references,
10 inferred references)**

**A. After leaving Nazareth, Jesus
settled in Capernaum, in the region
of Zebulun and Naphtali**

Mat 4:12–17 & Isa 9:1

NOTES

Mat 4:12-17

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee;

13 and leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali.

14 This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:

15 "THE LAND OF ZEBULUN AND THE LAND OF NAPHTALI, BY THE WAY OF THE SEA, BEYOND THE JORDAN, GALILEE OF THE GENTILES—

16 "THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SITTING IN DARKNESS SAW A GREAT LIGHT, AND THOSE WHO WERE SITTING IN THE LAND AND SHADOW OF DEATH, UPON THEM A LIGHT DAWNED."

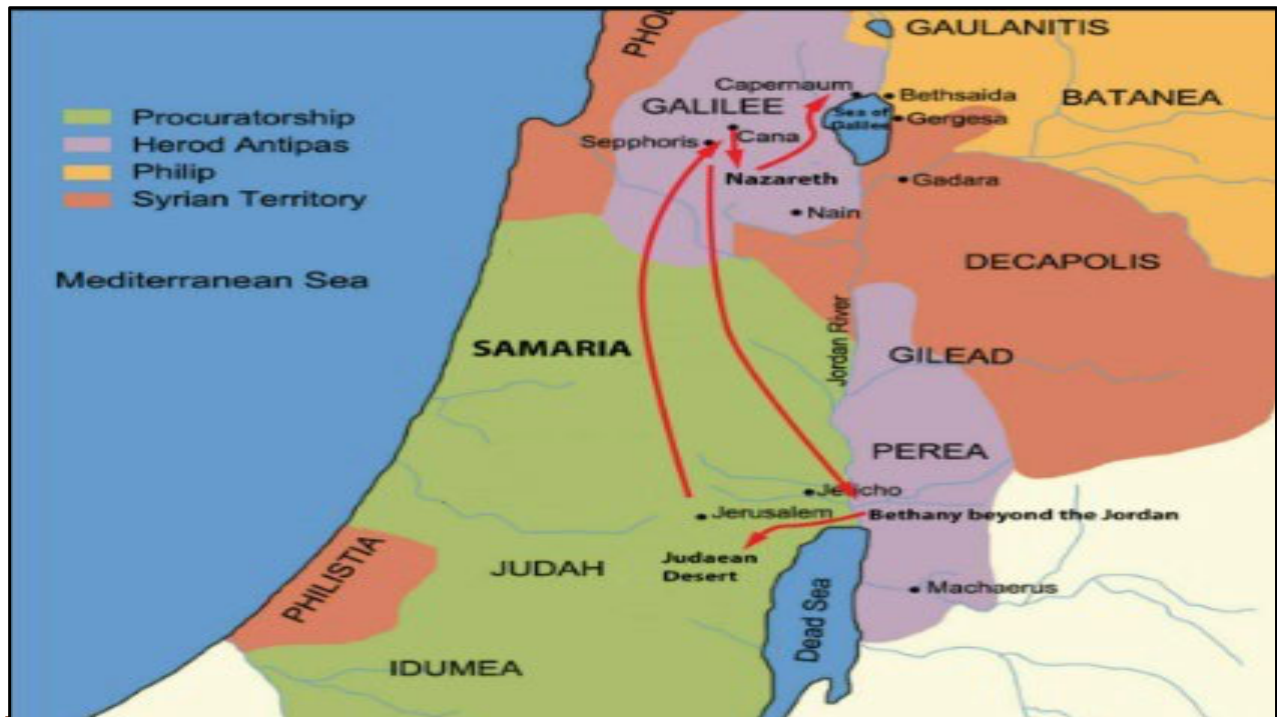
17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

**B. Capernaum was a relatively small fishing village. Hometown of Peter & Andrew, James & John, & Matthew
~85 miles north of Jerusalem,
~20 miles north of Nazareth,**

Mary and her sons joined Jesus in Capernaum

Jn 2:12

NOTES



NOTES

Capernaum was a relatively small fishing village
~85 miles north of Jerusalem, ~20 miles north of
Nazareth,

Healings in Capernaum (9)

- 1) Jesus healed the Centurion's faithful servant **Mt 8:5**
- 2) On the Sabbath Jesus healed a demon-possessed person while in church **Mk 1**
- 3) Later that day, Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law **Mk 1**

NOTES

Healings in Capernaum (cont)

- 4) That evening, Jesus healed
Everyone of Everything **Mk 1**
- 5) Jesus' house roof was demolished
for a crippled man to be lowered
through it **Mk 2:1-12**
- 6) He also raised Jairus' daughter.
Jarius was a synagogue official **Mt 9**

NOTES

More Healings in Capernaum (Mt 9)

- 7) He healed a woman suffering from a hemorrhage for 12 yrs**
- 8) He healed 2 blind men**
- 9) ...and He also healed a demon-possessed mute**

NOTES

The Fun Stuff Begins at Home

A. Nazareth. Jesus' church peeps tried to push Him off a cliff after they asked Him to perform the same miracles He did in Capernaum **Lk 4:16-31**

- Jesus essentially told them they were not worthy of His time
- So, He slipped out of their grasp and moved on to another fellowship (**P#1**)

NOTES

Luke 4:24 And He said, "Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown. 25 "But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; 26 and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 "And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian."

28 And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; 29 and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff.

- B. Capernaum.** Jesus couldn't impact Capernaum hearts either
- C.** Even His own family thought He was off His rocker **Mk 3:21**
- D. BUT, BUT, BUT** – Jesus was the Son of God, led by Holy Spirit
- E. ...AND** Jesus prayed long and hard and frequently!

NOTES

Mk 3:21 When His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, "He has lost His senses."

Why Wasn't Jesus Effective in His Hometowns and with His Family?

- † Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit, was prayed up, was a miracle worker, was pleasing to God...
- † Yet He was fruitless with changing many hearts in both Nazareth and Capernaum and with His own family

NOTES

Just prefers to use reason to change people's minds...

WHY WASN'T HE EFFECTIVE IN HIS HOMETOWNS AND WITH HIS FAMILY?

- 1) Simple Answer: People believe what they want to believe
- 2) Tough Answer: It takes time to demolish false teachings, assumptions, and biases people have (the old wineskins) **Lk 5:37-39**

NOTES

Luke 5:37-39 "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled out, and the skins will be ruined.

38 "But new wine (**NEW TEACHINGS**) must be put into fresh wineskins.

39 "And no one, after drinking old *wine* wishes for new; for he says, 'The old is good *enough*.'"

Jesus Called the Baby Ugly

- A. No honor in His hometowns of Nazareth & Capernaum**
- B. Sodom & Gomorrah will fare better than those 2 cities**
- C. In fact, Scripture says Sodom would still be around TODAY if the same miracles occurred in it as they had in Capernaum**

Mat 11:23

NOTES

Jesus Called the Baby Ugly (cont)

D. Jesus eventually cursed Capernaum, along with Bethsaida & Chorazin, because of their lack of faith in him
"...you will be thrown down to Hell"

Mat 11:23

NOTES

Mt 11:23 "And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day."

Our Challenges

- A. As adult men and women, we will always be faced with making tough decisions whether to stay or leave a bad situation**
- B. Like Jesus, we also could be hard-pressed to change hearts**

NOTES

Challenges (cont)

c. Peace and safety have priority

1Cor 7:15

d. **BUT** know when to suffer for
Christ and for one another
– even to death!

John 15:13; 1John 3:16

NOTES

1Cor 7:15 Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace.

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

1John 3:16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

Challenges (cont)

E. And like the men of Issachar, we should know how God is working in our day & age to be most effective **1Chron 12:32**

NOTES

1Chron 12:32 Of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do...

CONCLUSION

- **2Timothy 3:1-5** *In the last days difficult times will come. Men will be selfish, greedy, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God*

NOTES

CONCLUSION (cont)

- **1Timothy 4:1** *In later times some will fall away from the faith*
- **Titus 2:12** *We are to live sensibly, righteously, and godly in this present age*



NOTES