

WALKING IN THE LAND OF THE BIBLE (Paul E. Engle)

Session #9 Walking to the 2 C's: Capernaum and Caesarea Philippi

INTRO.: Favorite and home town: Mt. 9:1; Mk. 2:1

I. VISIT TO CAPERNAUM

A. Location:

[Atlas p.50 8-4]

B. The average American moves _____ times in his/her lifetime.

C. Jesus made a move walking from Nazareth to Capernaum. Why?

1. **REASON #1:** Matthew 4:13-16 *"Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum,, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali -- to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: 'Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles --the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.'"*

a. Are Zebulun and Naphtali two different names for the same region? _____ They are two distinct regions assigned to two different tribes of Israel (cf. Josh 19:10-16) They correspond to the two locations _____

b. Nazareth is located in the tribal territory of _____ -Capernaum is located in the tribal territory of _____. So when Jesus moved from Nazareth to Capernaum he was moving from Zebulun to Naphtali. Why is this important?

c. Look at Isaiah 9:1-2 _____

d. But Isaiah looked ahead with prophetic eyes and saw a new era of light would drawn. Isaiah 60:1 predicts "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you." Generations later Jesus appeared and declared in John 9:5 *"I am the light of the world."*

e. So do you see how significant it is that Jesus spent his early years in Nazareth and then deliberately moved to Capernaum. He moved there _____

2. **REASON #2: But it was also a strategic decision to** _____

3. cf. Robertson 'Understand the Land of the Bible' p.116 *"For Capernaum lay directly in the path of the traveling Gentiles of the world Jesus could have picked no better spot to symbolize the worldwide outreach of his Gospel.... This place of constant interchange between Jew and Gentile --this was the place that most properly could be characterized as 'his'."*

D. Descriptive characteristics of Capernaum:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

E. What did Jesus do in Capernaum?

1. He _____ (Mt. 4:18-22)
 2. He performed at least 9 of 35 his recorded miracles in this town:
 - a. Healed the son of the centurion (Mt. 8:5-13)
 - b. Healed Peter's mother-in-law (Matt 8:14-15) Show ruins of house of Peter with modern church built on top to protect from elements. Uncovered beneath a 4th century Jewish/ Christian meeting place. As early as 2nd century it served as a meeting place. Some inscriptions and reports from early Christian travelers point to it being the house of Peter. demon from man (Mk. 1:22-27)
 - c. Healed the man lowered from the roof (Mk. 2:1-5)
 - d. Healed woman with internal bleeding (Mt. 9:20-22)
 - e. Healed Jairus's daughter (Mt. 9:18-19, 23-25)
 - f. Healed two blind men (Mt. 9:27-31)
 - g. Healed mute demoniac (Mt. 9:32-34)
 - h. Produced four-drachma coin out of mouth of fish (Mt. 17:22-27)
 3. He spent time teaching in this location: in a boat along the shore (Mt. 13:2, Mk. 4:1)) and in the synagogue (cf. Lk. 4:31-37)
- F. With all this exposure to miracles and teaching, what happened to that town?

II. VISIT TO CAESAREA PHILIPPI -**A. LOCATION OF CAESAREA PHILIPPI**

1. Matthew 16:13 "Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi." Near what?
2. There's some backstory to its name:

B. WHAT WAS BUILT IN THIS CITY?**C. WHAT DID JESUS DO HERE?**

* Conversation:

* Jesus then uses a visual from this geographical location of Caesarea Philippi to make the teaching stick. (Mt. 16:17-18)

8. Jesus says this where a huge rock was located.
9. What about the pagan world that worshipped at this cliff?

CONCLUSION

Jesus wants us to answer who we believe he is. Jesus was not afraid to take his disciples to the center of pagan religion and power. All those deities would pass away. Only the eternal kingdom of Christ would endure.

