

RELEARNING ANCIENT BIBLE STORIES IN A BRAND-NEW WAY

**EPIC TALES**

**TOO**



# ***Epic Tales in the Life of Jesus***

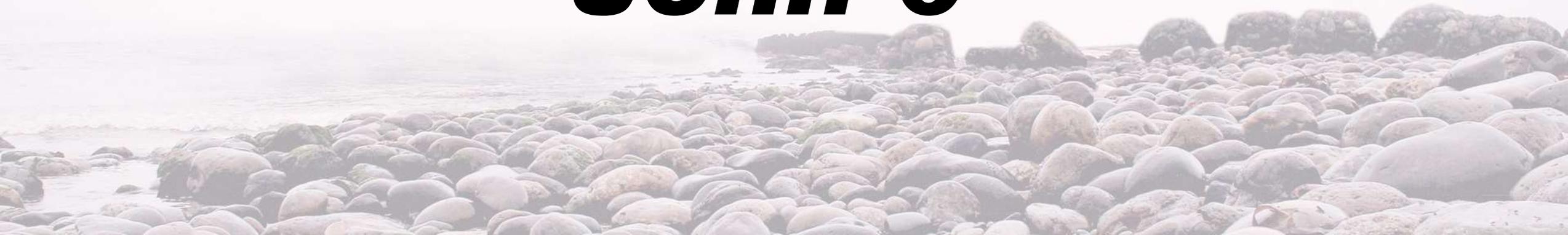
- **Visiting the Temple in Jerusalem during Passover at age 12**
- **His Baptism by John the Baptist**
- **Temptation in the Wilderness**
- **First recorded miracle... turns water into wine**
- **Feeds thousands of people with bread and fish**

# ***Jesus walks on water***

***Matthew 14***

***Mark 6***

***John 6***



**Immediately** [after feeding the 5,000 men + women and children] He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. **Matthew 14:22**

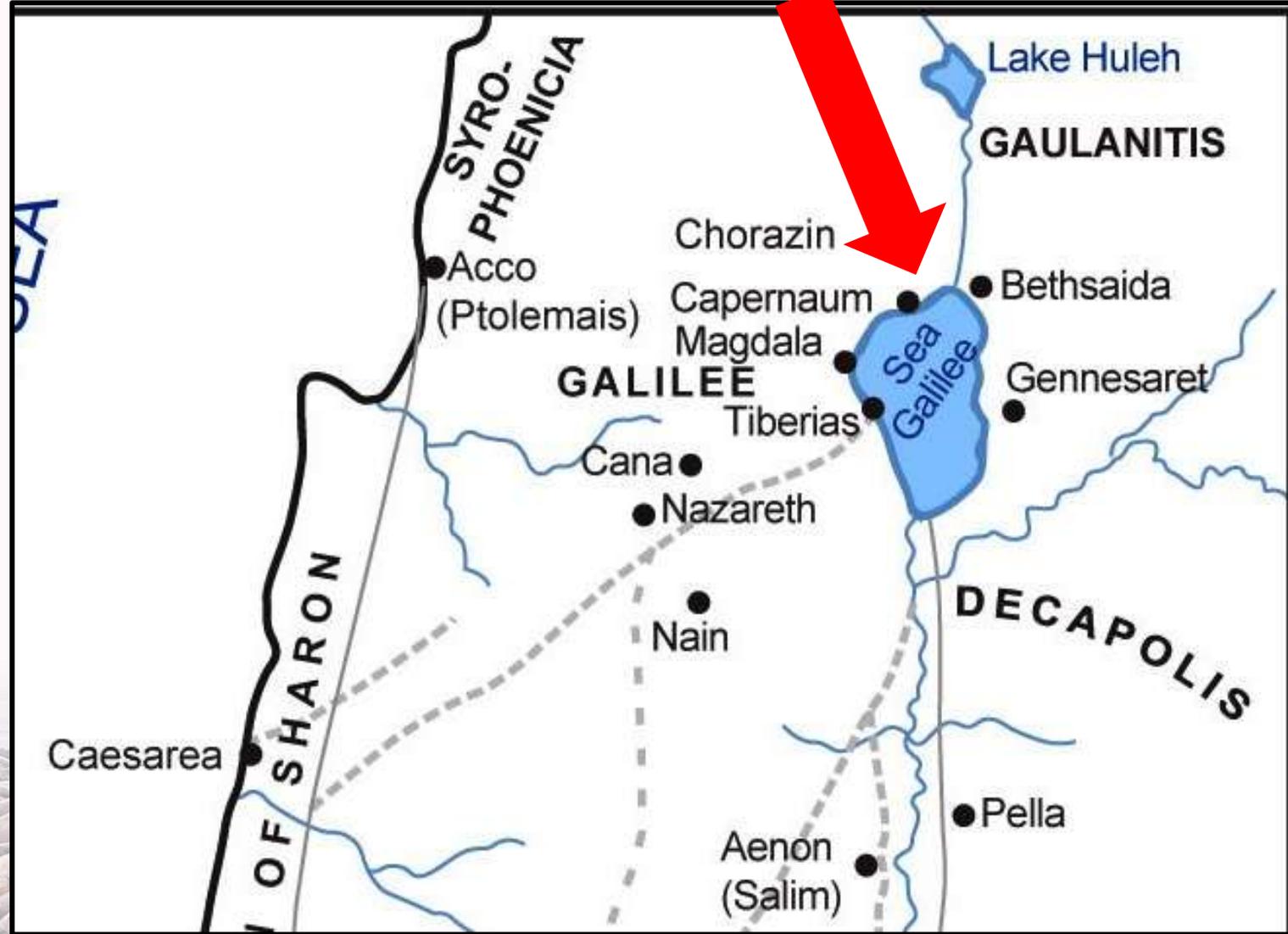
**Sending the disciples into the boat did two things: it got them away from the crowd, and it gave them opportunity to ponder the significance of what had just happened through them.** – Bible Knowledge Commentary

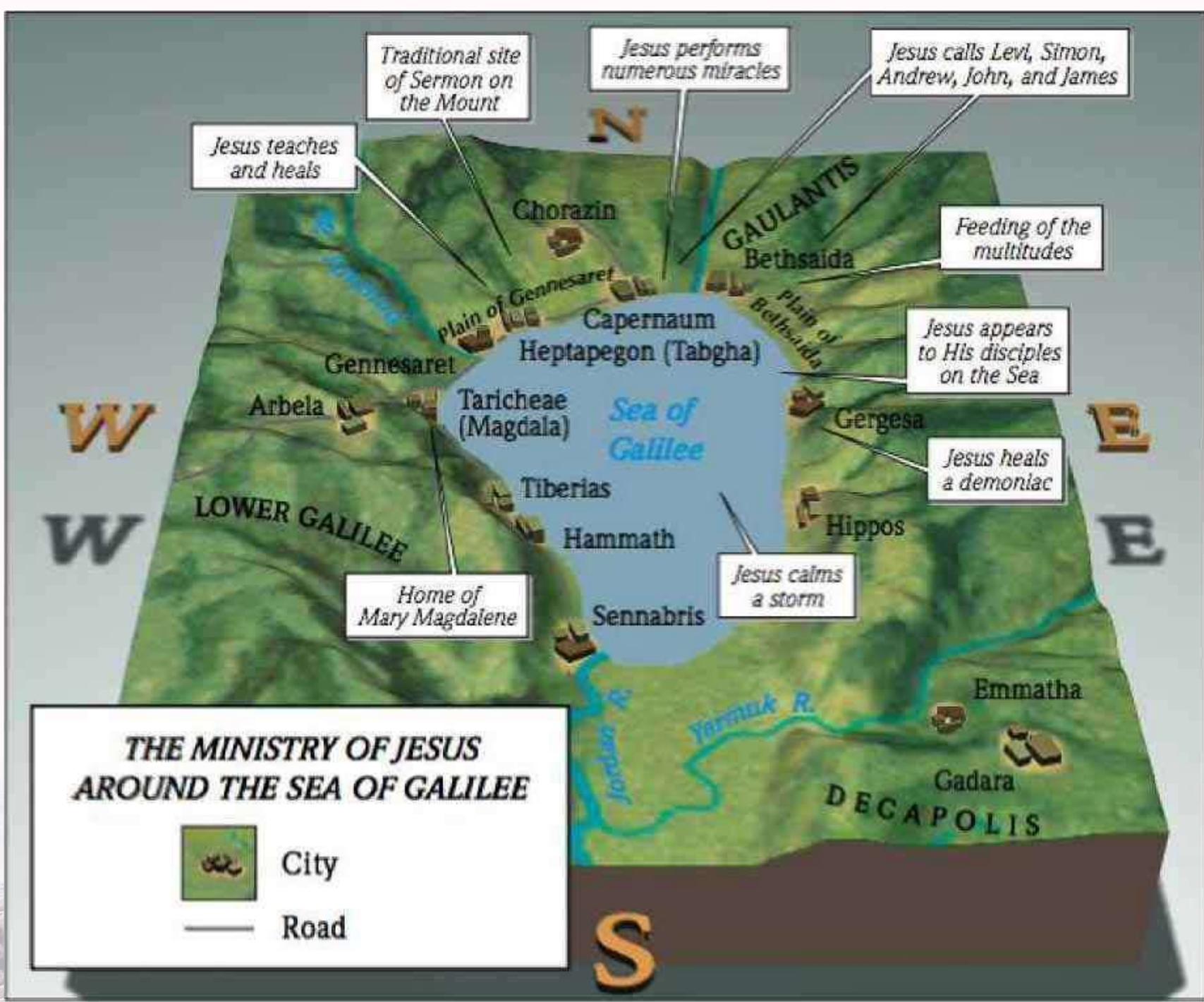
**The public miracle of the loaves was followed by one witnessed only by the disciples, which also showed Jesus' authority over material things. The combined effect was to lead them to a new appreciation of Jesus' more than human power (Matthew 14:33).** – New Bible Commentary

**So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone. John 6:15**

**Seeing this miraculous sign (*semeion* σημεῖον), the people recalled Moses' prediction that a Prophet like him would arise (Deuteronomy 18:15). Moses had fed the people. Moses had led them out of bondage. Jesus had fed the people. Jesus could lead the people out of the hated Roman bondage.** – Bible Knowledge Commentary

# The Land of Israel during the time of Jesus





Traditional site of Sermon on the Mount

Jesus performs numerous miracles

Jesus calls Levi, Simon, Andrew, John, and James

Jesus teaches and heals

Feeding of the multitudes

Jesus appears to His disciples on the Sea

Jesus heals a demoniac

Jesus calms a storm

Home of Mary Magdalene

**THE MINISTRY OF JESUS AROUND THE SEA OF GALILEE**  
City  
Road



**After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain [Golan Heights] by Himself **to pray**; and when it was evening, He was there alone. Matthew 14:23**

### **Why did Jesus pray?**

- **First, Jesus prayed as an example to His followers.**
- **Second, the Incarnation consists of both divine and human natures. From His human nature, it was perfectly natural for a Jewish believer such as Jesus to pray.**
- **Third, the nature of the Trinity allows for communication between its members. As God the Son, Jesus could pray to God the Father.**

# Jesus is shown to pray in Private

- After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain **by Himself to pray**; and when it was evening, He was there alone. Matthew 14:23
- In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and **was praying** there. Mark 1:35
- And it happened that **while He was praying alone**, the disciples were with Him, and He questioned them, saying, “Who do the people say that I am?” Luke 9:18

# Jesus is shown to pray in Public

- (After the resurrection of Lazarus) So they removed the stone. Then **Jesus raised His eyes, and said**, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me.” John 11:41-42
- “Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. **Father, glorify Your name.**” Then a voice came out of heaven: “I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.” So the crowd of people who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, “An angel has spoken to Him.” Jesus answered and said, “This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes. John 12:27-30

# Jesus and Prayer

- **Jesus prayed for others.** In Matthew 19:13, we read, "Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them." Despite the fact that "the disciples rebuked those who brought them," Jesus said the children should not be hindered "for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (v. 14). In John 17:9 we read, "I [Jesus] pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given Me, for they are Yours." This underscores the need for intercessory prayer.
- **Jesus prayed with others.** Luke 9:28 reads, "[Jesus] took Peter, John and James with Him and went up onto a mountain to pray." Jesus prayed alone, as we'll read below, but He also knew the value of praying with others. Acts 1:14 underscores the importance of Christians praying with one another: "They all joined together constantly in prayer..."
- **Jesus prayed alone.** Luke 5:16 reads, "But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." As much as Jesus understood the value of praying with and for others, He also understood the need to pray alone. Psalm 46:10 reads, "Be still, and know that I am God." Sometimes it's important for us to "be still" before God, but the only way to do this, especially in our hectic culture, is to do so alone with God.

# Jesus and Prayer

- **Jesus prayed in nature.** Psalm 19:1 reads, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." What better place to commune with our Creator than among the wonders of nature? Luke 6:12 says, "One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray ..." He could have gone to a home, a synagogue or if He were near Jerusalem he could have gone to the temple to pray. But there were times when Jesus made the decision to pray where He was, which often happened to be in nature. We are surrounded by so much that is "man made" that sometimes it's difficult for us to remember that this is not our world, but God's world (Genesis 1:1, Psalm 24:1) full of wonders for us to enjoy.
- **Jesus could pray as a sprinter or a marathon runner.** The Lord's Prayer is full of wisdom, but it is short enough to be easily memorized. But Jesus also knew how to dedicate long periods of time to prayer. As we read in Luke 6:12, Jesus "spent the night praying to God." We, too, need to be able to offer short prayers, as well dedicate long periods of our lives to prayer. Jesus prayed **regularly**. This insight is gleaned from a passage cited earlier, Luke 5:16: "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." The word "often" is not hidden, but makes it obvious that Jesus prayed regularly. Throughout the Gospels whenever we read of Jesus and prayer, it comes up regularly and naturally. It was simply a part of His worldview, integrated into every aspect of Christ's life.
- **The prayers of Jesus were heartfelt.** Jesus did not pray in a cold, distant manner, but in heartfelt supplication, demonstrating empathy and a genuine love for God. This is demonstrated clearly in John 17, where Jesus prays for Himself, His immediate disciples, as well as for all believers.

# Jesus and Prayer

- **Jesus prayed based on His knowledge of God and His truths.** The prayers of Jesus were based on God's revealed truths and, as such, were in line with a solid biblical worldview. In John 4:24 Jesus said, "God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." He also said, "the truth will set you free" (John 8:32), underscoring the importance of truth in the life of Jesus and, in turn, our lives. Proper prayer requires us to have a truthful understanding of God and what He has revealed to us through His Word.
- **Jesus taught persistence in prayer.** "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up" (Luke 18:1). The parable Jesus shared is not meant to depict a pestering disciple who finally bugs God enough that He chooses to respond, but about persistence in prayer and waiting on God and His timing.
- **Jesus knew that not all His prayers would be answered as expected.** This is a difficult prayer lesson to learn, but the fact is that not all our prayers are answered in ways we expect. Even Jesus knew this hard lesson as He cried out to God the Father from the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-44). Three times Jesus prayed for God to allow an easier path, but Jesus knew, "Yet not as I will, but as You will" (Matthew 26:39).

**[After miraculously feeding 10,000-20,000 people]**

**Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea [of Galilee], and after getting into a boat, they started to cross the sea to Capernaum. It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. John 6:16-17**

**Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side to Bethsaida, while He Himself was sending the crowd away. After bidding them farewell, He left for the mountain to pray. When it was evening, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and He was alone on the land.**

**Mark 6:45-47**

# Sea of Galilee

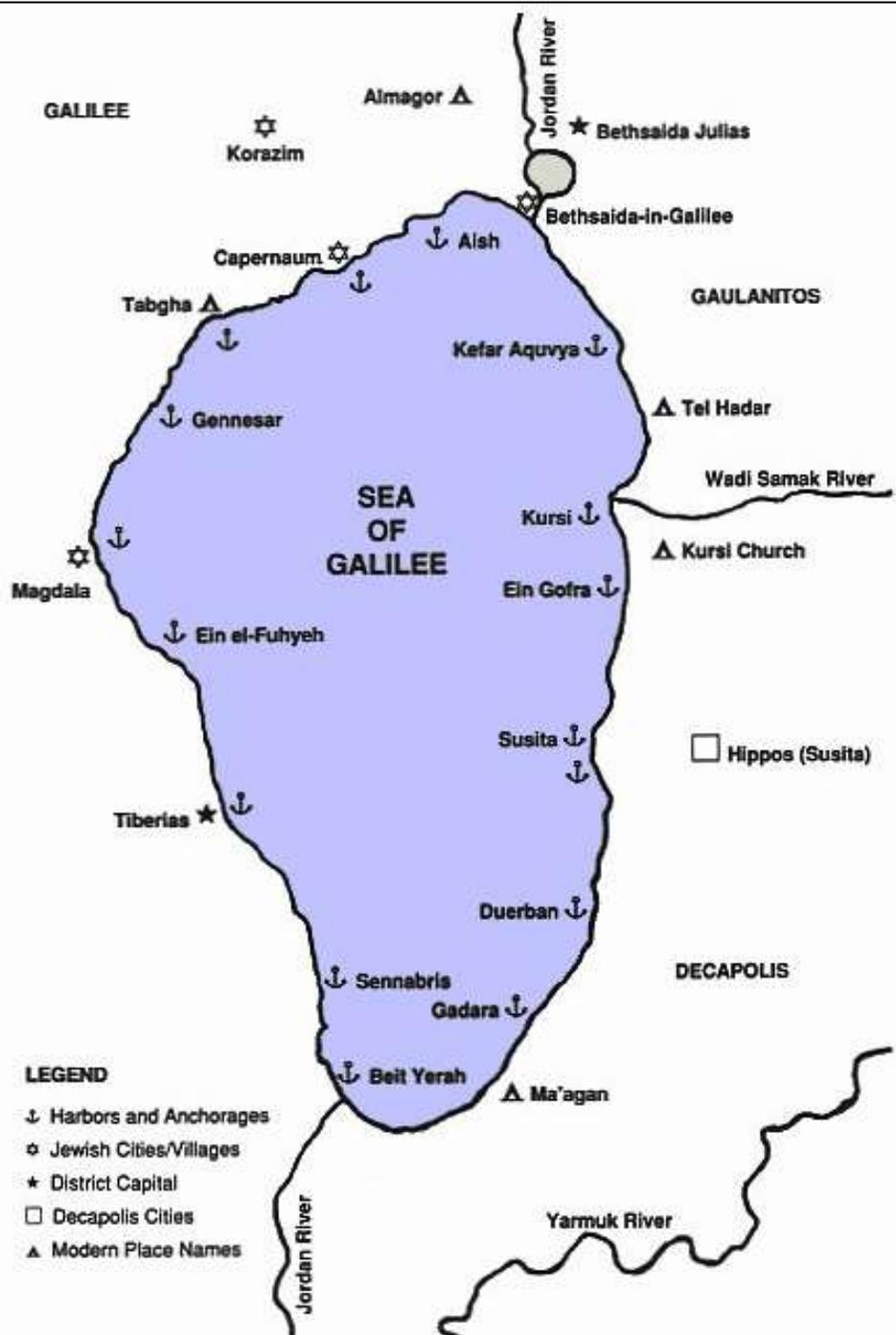
The lowest freshwater lake on earth at approx. 700 feet below sea level.

8 miles wide, 13 miles long, 140 feet deep

Also known as: Kinneret, Lake of Gennesaret, Lake Tiberias

Its main source is the Jordan River which flows through it from north to south.

The majority (70-80%) of Jesus' earthly ministry took place near here.





# Sea of Galilee



# Sea of Galilee



**But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind [out of the west] was contrary. Matthew 14:24**

**The sea began to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing. John 6:18**

**Seeing them straining at the oars, for the wind was against them... Mark 6:48**



## Faith Even In A Storm

**I believe that there was something in the boat that should have comforted the disciples. There were 12 baskets of leftovers which bore mute testimony to the power and the compassion of God. When they looked at those 12 baskets, they should have realized that the God who provided for the needs of the multitudes would not fail to provide for them in the midst of this storm.**

- John Stevenson

**And in the fourth watch of the night [3-6 am]  
He [Jesus] came to them, walking on the sea.  
When the disciples saw Him walking on the  
sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a  
ghost!” [φάντασμα *phantasma*... spirit, an  
appearance, an apparition, spectre] And they  
cried out in fear. Matthew 14:25-26**

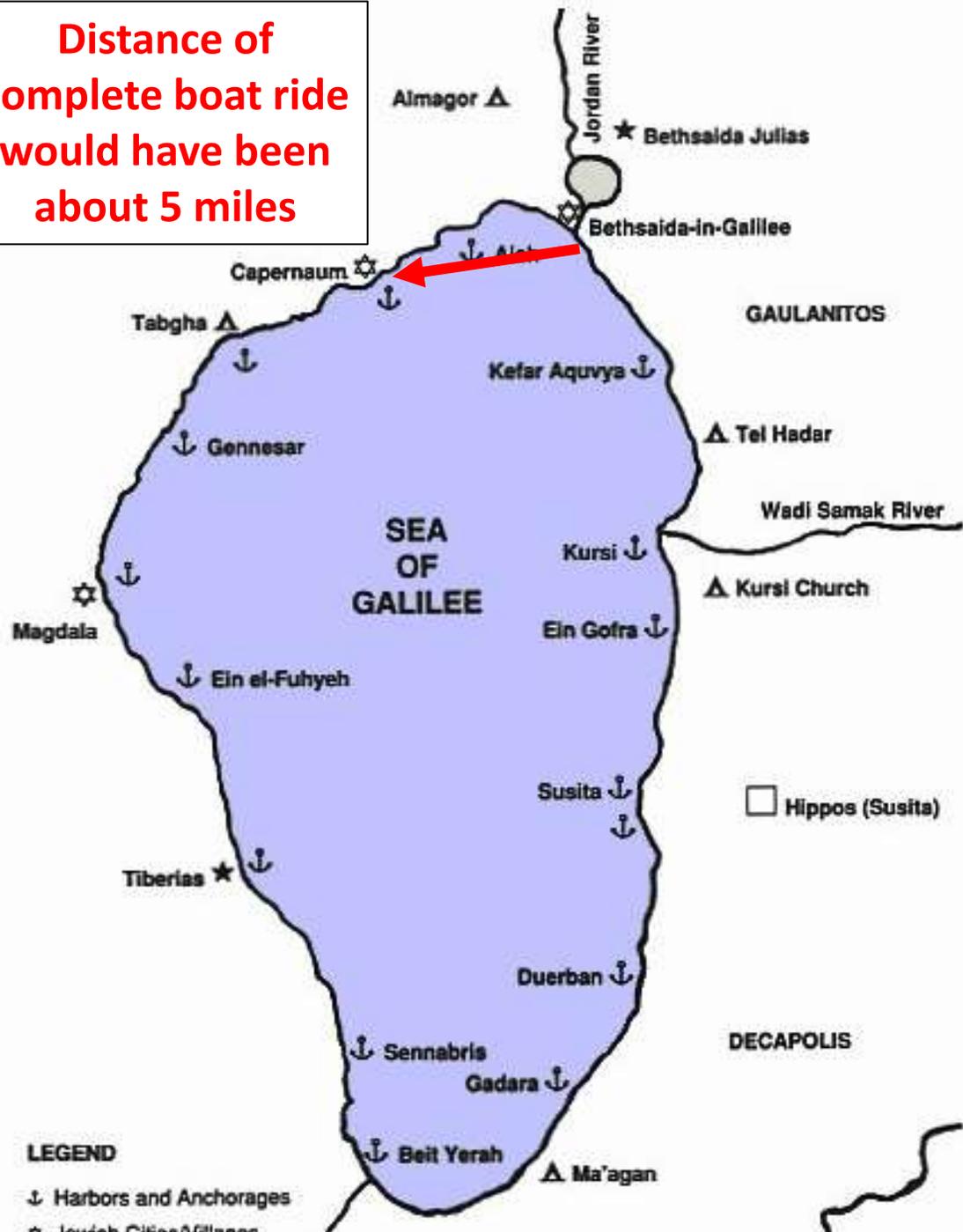


But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed that it was a ghost [φάντασμα *phantasma*], and cried out; for they all saw Him and were terrified. But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, “Take courage; **it is I**, do not be afraid.” Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished, for **they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves**, but their heart was hardened. Mark 6:49-52

**• Faith is only present-tense; it does not build up like a bank account.** – Jewish New Testament Commentary

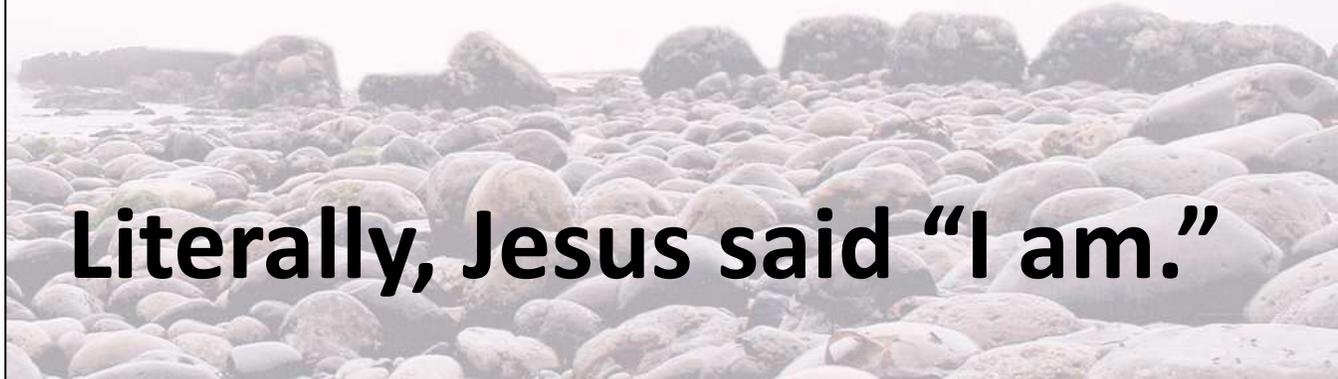
**• But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. James 1:6-8**

Distance of complete boat ride would have been about 5 miles



Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat; and they were frightened. But He said to them, “**It is I**; do not be afraid.” John 6:19-20

Literally, Jesus said “I am.”



**But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take courage, **it is I**; do not be afraid.” Peter said to Him, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” And He said, “Come!” And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came **toward Jesus**.**

## **Matthew 14:27-29**

**NOTE: Only Matthew’s gospel account recorded Peter’s walk on the water**

**Why did Peter ask this? Impetuousness? Curiosity? True faith?**

**“I think Peter knew that was where Jesus was, no matter how dark the night, no matter how high the waves, strong the wind or wet the water... was in fact safer than being in the boat without Him.”**

But **seeing the wind**, he [Peter] became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Matthew 14:30

“Seeing” is the Greek verb βλέπω *blepo* meaning “to see, to take heed, to look at, to turn the eyes to”

Why do we take our eyes off Jesus?

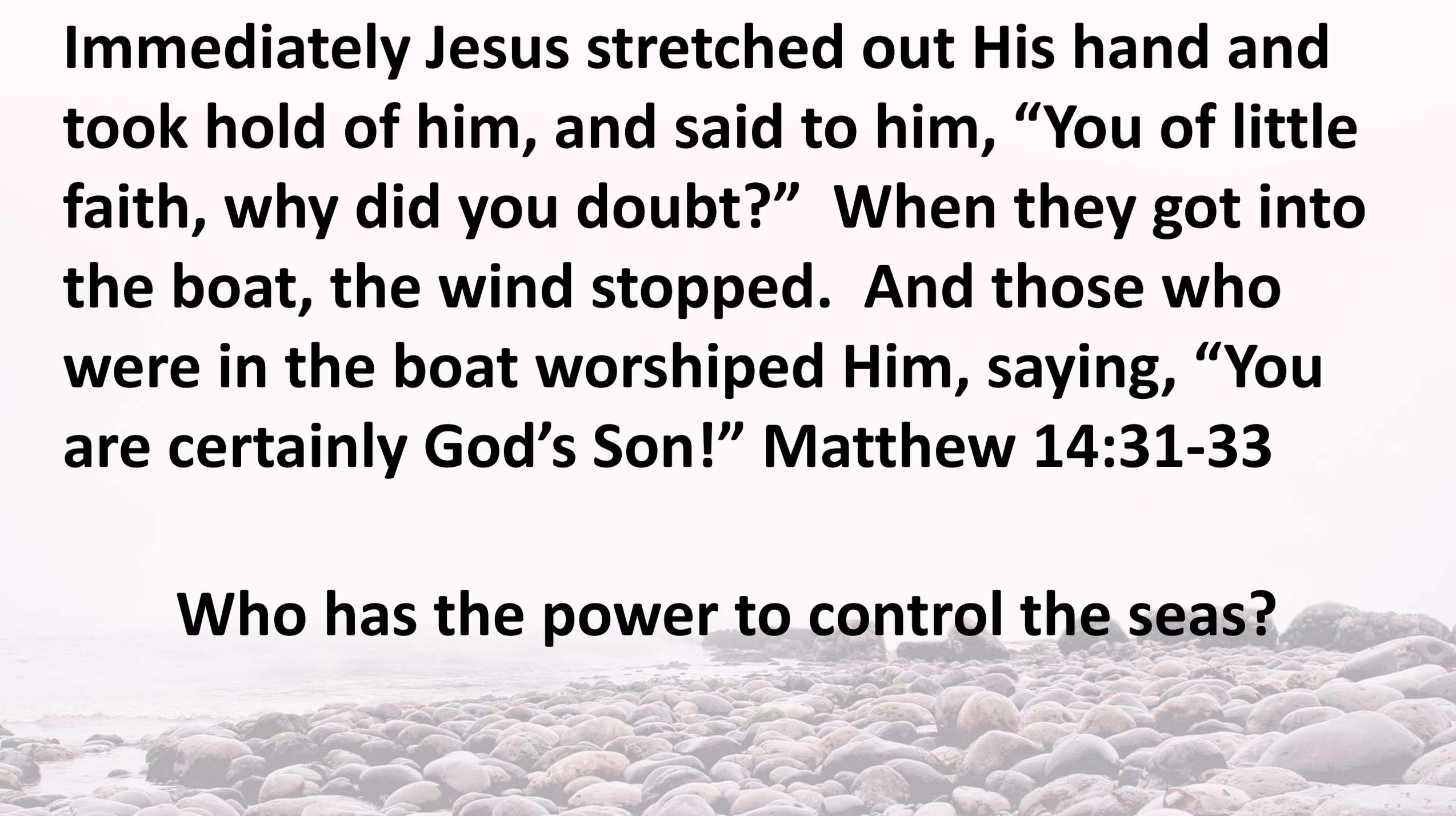
What are the storms so attention-grabbing?

What are we “turning our eyes” to?

**Peter doesn't say to Jesus, "Let me walk on the water," as if he wanted to be part of a miracle; but he asks, "Let me come to you." He wants for Christ's sake to go to Him, no matter how. Here you can see Peter's faith and resolve, because he stepped out on the water when Christ asked Him. He left the safety of the ship, even willing to slip into the depths of the sea, which he had just a few minutes earlier dreaded. He demonstrated a very strong dependence upon the power and word of God. But now we see Peter's cowardice and Christ reproving and then helping him. Jesus didn't ask Peter to come to Him just so he could walk on water, it was because He knew that he could sink; then he would know Christ's power and his own weakness, and his faith would be increased. The cause of his fear was the wind and waves, which he didn't see until he took his eyes off Christ. When he kept his eyes on Jesus, it was easy for him to walk on the water; but when he looked away and saw that he was in danger, he was afraid and he began to sink. And he cried out, "Lord save me." – John Lowe**

**Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “You are certainly God’s Son!” Matthew 14:31-33**

**Who has the power to control the seas?**



# ***Promised Messiah Can Control the Seas***

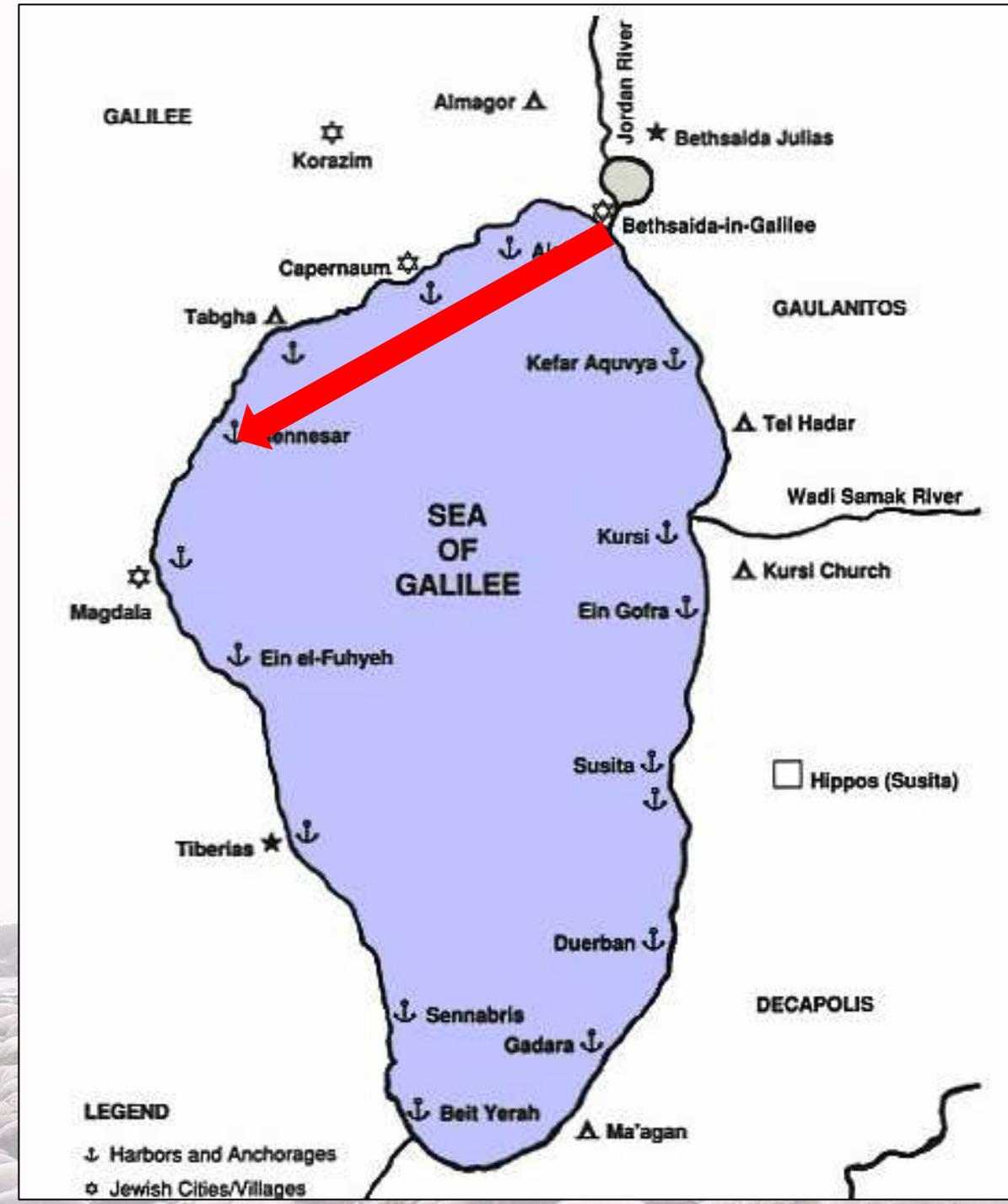
- Who alone stretches out the heavens and tramples down the waves of the **sea** Job 9:8
- Those who go down to the **sea** in ships, who do business on great **waters**; they have seen the works of the Lord, and His wonders in the deep. For He spoke and raised up a stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the **sea**. They rose up to the heavens, they went down to the depths; their soul melted away in their misery. They reeled and staggered like a drunken man, and were at their wits' end. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He brought them out of their distresses. He caused the storm to be still, so that the waves of the **sea** were hushed. Psalm 107:23-29

So they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and **immediately** the boat was at the land to which they were going. John 6:21



# Matthew 14:34-36

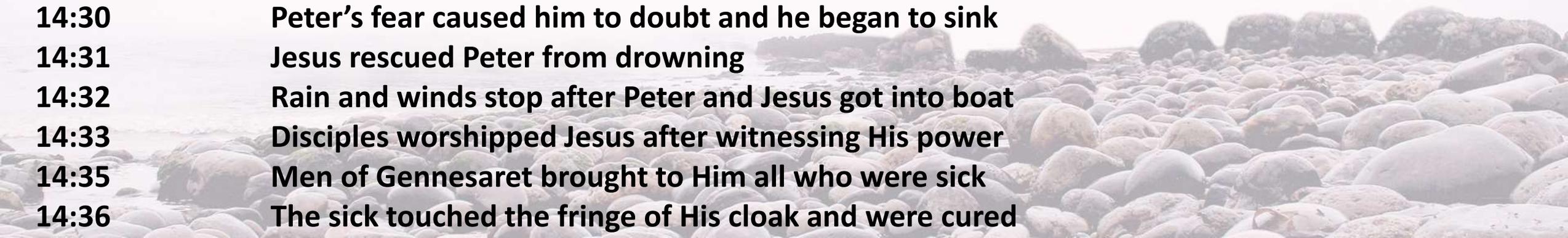
When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent word into all that surrounding district and brought to Him all who were sick; and they implored Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak; and as many as touched it were cured.



14:10 John the Baptist beheaded in prison  
14:13 Jesus withdrew to be alone  
14:14 Jesus felt compassion and healed many sick people  
14:14-15 Great multitude followed after Jesus  
14:16 Jesus told disciples to feed the crowd  
14:17 Disciples lacked faith to feed the crowd  
14:19 Jesus blessed and multiplied the food  
14:20 **15,000+ people ate and had left-overs**  
14:22 Jesus sent disciples into a boat  
14:23 Jesus went up to the mountain to pray alone  
14:24 Major storm arose and rocked the boat  
14:25 **Jesus walked on the stormy water**  
14:26 Disciples were afraid of storm and “ghost”  
14:27 Jesus told them to have courage  
14:28 Peter asked to walk on water  
14:29 Peter walked on water  
14:30 Peter’s fear caused him to doubt and he began to sink  
14:31 Jesus rescued Peter from drowning  
14:32 Rain and winds stop after Peter and Jesus got into boat  
14:33 Disciples worshipped Jesus after witnessing His power  
14:35 Men of Gennesaret brought to Him all who were sick  
14:36 The sick touched the fringe of His cloak and were cured

# ***A day in the life of Jesus of Nazareth***

## ***Matthew 14***



# ***Lessons From The Storms Of Life***

**1. If you follow Jesus, there will be storms in this life. As His disciples, we have the love and care of the One who is able to silence the storms.**

**2. Jesus never denies the reality of the storm. He does not say, "Don't worry, the storm is not that bad." He does not say anything to indicate that the storm is small. What He does is to show that He is bigger and more powerful than the storm.**

**3. The purpose of the storm is to get you to see that the Lord is God and that He alone is the Master of the storm. This is first and foremost a testing of your faith.**

**4. In our storms, His followers often want to head toward Jesus and we soon realize that He is already headed toward us.**

# ***Lessons from Peter walking on the water***

- If I truly want to come to Jesus, there are no obstacles that can stop me
- If I keep my focus and attention on the Savior, the storms and fears cannot defeat me
- If I turn my focus and attention to the storms, I will sink
- When Jesus is my priority and my focus, I cannot sink even if surrounded by storms

# ***What About Our Future?***

- **Jesus walks on the water to prove to the disciples that He can. He can always do the impossible.**
- **Why do the disciples need to know this? Because He is going to send them out to do the impossible, too. He is going to commission these very ordinary men to go out and make disciples of all men in every land. Impossible! They are not natural born leaders. They are not even seminary graduates. But they will accomplish the impossible.**
- **With God, all things are possible (Matthew 19:26).**

**What do we need to hear today?**

**But Jesus said to them,  
“It is I; do not be afraid.”**

**John 6:20**

