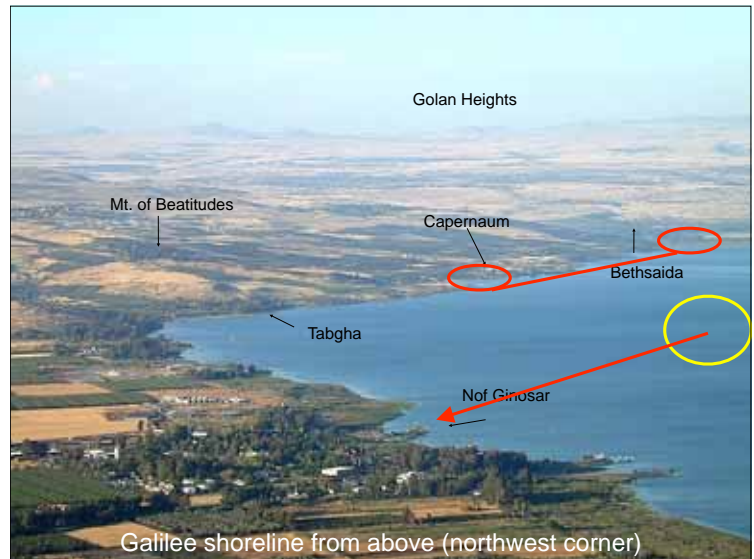


Pursuing Jesus for All the Wrong Reasons

Mark 6:53-56



I. Personal Advancement (John 6:14-15)

- John 6:14-15
- Why did these 5000 Galileans want to throw off Rome's yoke?
 - 1) Pride
 - 2) Self-rule
 - 3) Lower taxes
 - 4) Opportunity to hold positions of leadership and power.
- Matt. 20:20-28; Luke 9:46; 22:24ff
- 3 John 9 – I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say.



II. Physical Circumstances (Mark 6:53-56)

- About 6 pm, Jesus had sent the disciples away in a boat.
- And He had gone up into the nearby hills to pray.
- 9-12 hours later, between 3-6 AM, Jesus came to them walking on the surface of the water.
- Jesus performed three miracles that night...
 - A) Walking on the water (48)
 - B) Calming the wind (51)
 - C) Transporting the boat and its passengers to land.
 - John 6:21 - So they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.
- It's now somewhere between 3 AM and 6 AM – probably near 6 and daybreak.
- **53** - When they had crossed over they came to land at Gennesaret, and moored to the shore.

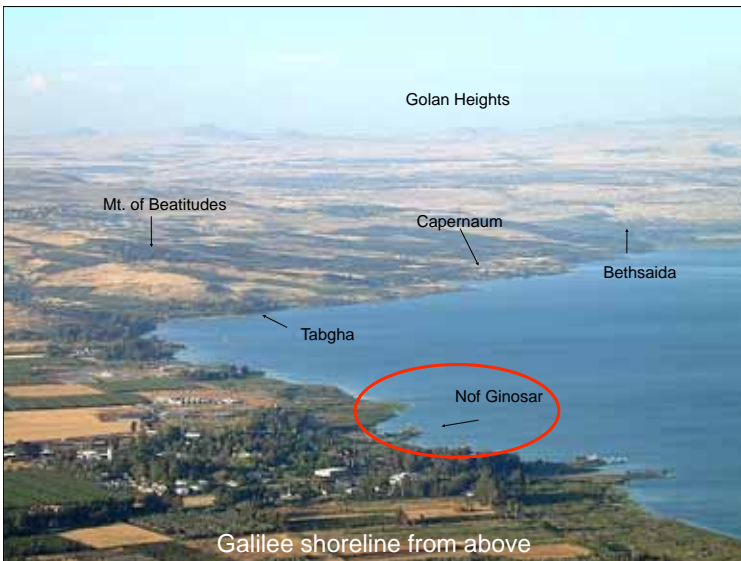




Plain of Gennesaret from Arbel



Nof Ginosar museum and harbor aerial



Galilee shoreline from above

II. Physical Circumstances (Mark 6:53-56)

- **53** - When they had crossed over they came to land at Gennesaret, and moored to the shore.
- **54** - When they got out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him,
- **55** - and ran about that whole country and began to carry here and there on their pallets those who were sick, to the place they heard He was.
- **56** - Wherever He entered villages, or cities, or countryside, they were laying the sick in the market places, and imploring Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak; and as many as touched it were being cured.



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Earlier Miracles in Capernaum

- 1:33-34 - And the whole city had gathered at the door. 34 And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.
 - Cf. Matt. 11:23-24 - "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. 24 "Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you."



III. Material Prosperity (John 6:16ff)

- **22** – The next day the crowd that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other small boat there, except one, and that Jesus had not entered with His disciples into the boat, but that His disciples had gone away alone.
- **23** – There came other small boats from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks.
- **24** – So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats, and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus.
- **25** - When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You get here?"
- **26** - Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.
- John 6:27-34.
- **35** - Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to



A Test of our Motives...

- **1)** Are we pursuing Jesus for external prosperity or internal prosperity?
- **2)** Are we pursuing Jesus to enjoy our best human life now or are we after eternal life?
- **3)** Are we pursuing Christ Himself or what He might provide for us in this life?