

Capernaum:

The small city of Capernaum on the Northwestern shores of the Sea of Galilee. It was from here that most of Jesus' earthly ministry based from —"his city." It was the hometown of Peter and Andrew as well as other disciples.

Galilee:

The region of Galilee is on the Northwestern shores of the "Sea of Galilee" which is formally called, "Gennesaret" or "Tiberias" Galilee was the traditionally held region in which Jesus preached, taught, and healed most often.

The Early Ministry:

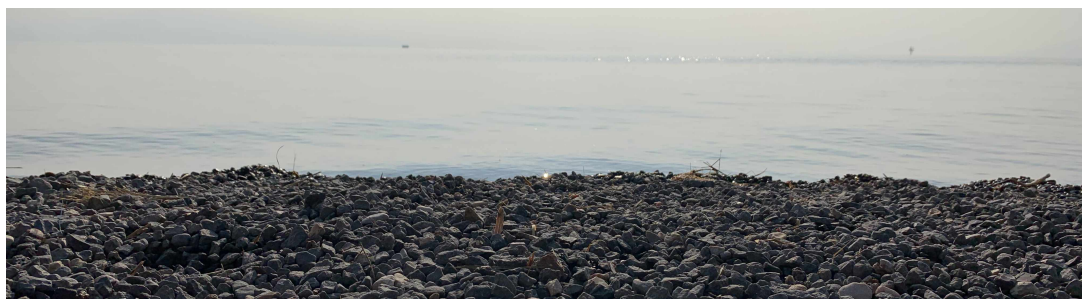
²¹ They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²² They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴ and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³² That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸ He answered,

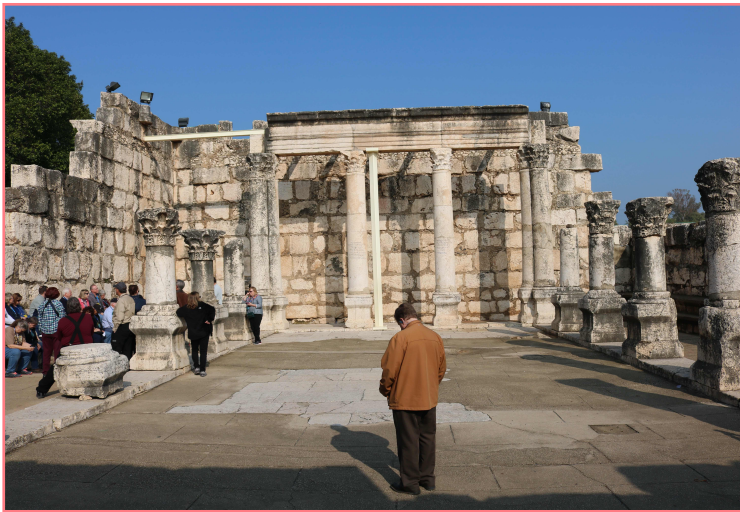
"Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons. — NRSV (Mark 1:21-39)



Follow Jesus

"They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority.."





Discovering Jesus:

The people were first impressed by what about Jesus?

After his teaching, what kind of authority did Jesus show in the synagogue?

What aspects of Jesus' authority are relevant in your life?

Is Jesus Lord in your home?

After Jesus left the synagogue he went to the home of Simon Peter. During his time there, he healed many people. How is your home available as a part of Jesus' ministry?

Who do you bring to Jesus?

The disciples and others brought friends and family to experience healing by Jesus? Who in your life needs to be "brought" to Jesus?

In the morning he prayed:

Jesus woke up early to pray before leaving Capernaum this day. Where did he go to pray? Why?

Let's go!

Jesus began reaching out to new communities immediately. Why do you think it was important to do so early in his ministry?

Let us go!

Jesus didn't go it alone. He brought his disciples with him? Why?



Early Capernaum: A Microcosm of Faithlife.

Jesus as the disciples example of faith.

The earliest ministry of Jesus that took place immediately following his calling of disciples presents itself as a microcosm of the life of faith. Let's take a quick look:

- 1) Jesus went to the local faith community. He went to the synagogue as was his custom as a faithful Jew. Our life of faith often begins in the community of faith, even if we are not yet ready to accept or receive it.
- 2) Jesus taught the disciples and others in the synagogue. He healed people. One of the next steps in approaching the faith of a disciple is to experience the teachings of Jesus as well as the healing he brings.
- 3) Jesus went to Simon Peter's home. Perhaps one of the most important parts of the disciple's faith is bringing it home. Our life and faith cannot simply be seen when we are in the company of others but while we are alone as well.
- 4) Jesus prayed. Not only did Jesus pray, he did so in private. It wasn't an exercise in spiritual showing-off.

5) Jesus didn't stay in one place. He moved from village to village preaching the message that God had given him. It would have been difficult for the disciples to understand that they had to go out to proclaim the message if Jesus had allowed them to simply be a community in Capernaum.

6) The disciples brought people to Jesus. Perhaps one of the most difficult aspects of the life of modern disciples of Jesus is bringing others into his presence.

How do we do so?

This microcosm of the life of a disciple based on the early ministry of Jesus reminds us of a few basic and vital parts of our faith: Jesus words, healing, prayer, movement, and evangelism.

What area of Jesus' ministry do you feel you are most capable in?

What area of Jesus' ministry that you feel a sense of calling for do you feel least capable in?



Sometimes a bed,

Sometimes an elbow...

Over 85% of people are brought to church and faith through the invitation and introduction of friends. Sometimes this happens as they find encouragement through others in times of difficulty. Other times it's just a simple invitation to join someone at an event.

Name three people that you can introduce to Jesus...

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)