



The DAILY JESUS NEWS #052

Jesus' Great Galilean Ministry

Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee
Jesus sets Up His Headquarters in Capernaum
MT 4.13-16

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13 Leaving Nazareth, Jesus went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

15 "The land of Zebulun and the 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;
16 On those living in the shadow of death, a light has dawned." (Isaiah 9.1-2)

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus.*

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Capernaum in Galilee
Time	August, when Jesus was 31 (Month 8)
Stage of Jesus' Life	Stage IV: His Great Galilean Ministry
Chapter 10	Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee
Section #052	Jesus Sets Up His Headquarters in Capernaum

Jesus' rejection by the people of Nazareth confirmed his decision to set up his Galilean ministry headquarters in the city of Capernaum. He went straight from Nazareth to Capernaum to establish his base of operations there. As Matthew said, **"he lived in Capernaum."** Jesus departed from Capernaum on his three great tours of Galilee, made brief visits back to Capernaum on each tour and returned there at their conclusion. Many of his most important teachings occurred in, or near this town. What was so strategic about Capernaum?

Jesus knew that he had a budding disciple network there, and several homes to work from, notably the brothers Peter and Andrew, and likewise the "sons of Zebedee" - James and John. He moved to Capernaum with the plan to call these four into following him on a full-time basis.

The two sets of brothers were already friends, and cooperated in their fishing businesses on the sea of Galilee. Three of them-- Peter, James and John-- were to become his closest three associates, with whom he would spend the most time in personal discipleship training. In addition, James and John came from a wealthy family, with the resources to hire laborers in their family business. The relationship network and communication connections centered in Capernaum made it ideal for ministry purposes.

Furthermore, Capernaum enjoyed a strategic location. It offered access to all of Galilee to the north, west and southwest, along with Syria and Phoenicia further north, on the international trade routes that ran through Capernaum. As one of the major fishing ports on the sea of Galilee, Capernaum was connected by trade with all the small towns and villages in the region. Everything that happened there was known throughout the whole area. Capernaum was also blessed with one of the largest synagogues in Galilee, which Jesus lit up with many hours of crucial preaching, teaching and healing.

We can see that Jesus wisely chose the most enabling, efficient location in all of Galilee when he selected Capernaum as his ministry base. He never made mistakes. In addition to all of this, Matthew points out that Jesus was fulfilling the Scriptures when he located his ministry in Capernaum of Galilee.

Jesus had a strong sense of calling to minister there because his life was already written in the Scriptures, and he was following his Father's plan. It was a region mixed with Jews and Gentiles, a **"land of darkness, living in the shadow of death."** As Jesus said later: **"It is not the healthy who need a physician, but the sick."**

Jesus came to be the light of the entire world. The best place to BE that light and reveal the unconditional love, and free grace of God in the region of Palestine was in the sin-sick, needy, and despised region of Galilee. Capernaum was the best place in all of Galilee to base his ministry.

APPLICATION:

Since Jesus chose to minister in Galilee, everybody in the world can be confident that he will also minister to us where we are, no matter how far away from him we may find ourselves.

He has already entered our world, and understands it perfectly. He offers the eternal light, love and life of HIS kingdom to us, right where we find ourselves, just as we are. He knows that he will make all things new August when his kingdom comes with great power into our hearts.

Has Jesus set up his headquarters in your heart?

His plan is to use each of us as his strategic location for extending his kingdom into the darkness around us.

How does he want to use you as his servant today?