

Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry

I. Jesus' Third Tour of Galilee and its Aftermath

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #113

6. Jesus' Healing Ministry in Gennesaret (and throughout Galilee)

MK 6.53-56 (Parallel Text: MT 14.34-35)

53 ^MWhen they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. 54 As soon as they got out of the boat, the people ^{MT}of that area ^Mrecognized Jesus. 55 They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to where they heard he was.

56 For wherever he went--into villages, towns or countryside--they placed the sick in the marketplace. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

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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, *the words of Jesus are italicized in red*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Gennesaret, on the Western Shore of Lake Galilee
Timeline	Early April (Month 26)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IV: The Great Galilean Ministry
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COMMENT:

Jesus had ministered all day and then prayed all night, until he walked on water to his disciples in a furious storm around 3:00 AM. The disciples had rowed into roaring wind and waves for nine hours on their night crossing of the Sea of Galilee before Jesus arrived. No doubt they scrambled out of the boat on the shore of the plain of Gennesaret as the sun rose behind them physically exhausted, but with high spirits. It was to be another day of miraculous healing ministry for Jesus.

Northwest shore of Lake Galilee. The plain was blessed with rich, fertile soil and abundant harvests. It was the gateway to the more populated area of Galilee.

Today's reading is the 8th description so far of the mass healing ministry of Jesus. It described the way Jesus healed many in Gennesaret on the day after he fed the 5000. In addition, Mark included a statement (5.56) informing us that what occurred in Gennesaret was typical for what happened in all the towns and villages Jesus entered on his tours of Galilee.

The sick and handicapped would be laid on pallets in the market place of each town, and people would be healed as they merely touched the hem of Jesus' cloak as he walked by! This means that Jesus actually performed many hundreds, if not thousands of miraculous healings on each tour. It was standard operating procedure for him--in every town or village.

Unfortunately for the many hurting people of the region, Jesus' healing ministry in Galilee was drawing to a close at the end of this third tour. The King was going to withdraw to other regions in just a few days.

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Once again, the extravagant grace and compassion of Jesus were displayed in this outpouring of healing. The people Jesus ministered to did not follow him as committed disciples. They were sheep without a shepherd, desperate for healing and deliverance for themselves, and their loved ones. But that was the extent of it.

When they learned that Jesus was close by, they ran all over the region gathering up the lame and sick on pallets, and bore them to Jesus. Evidently the story of the woman who was healed of her hemorrhage by touching the lower hem of Jesus' cloak (DAILY JESUS NEWS #96) in Capernaum, just up the road from Gennesaret had circulated widely, for many people were healed in the same manner in Gennesaret—just by touching Jesus' clothes.

Mark pointed out that this outburst of healing began when the people "*recognized him*." They realized that this was the same Jesus who had visited them before, preaching in their synagogue and in the market place, casting out demons, and healing many. They knew it was the same Jesus whom they continued to hear about as he traveled throughout Galilee ministering in every place.

Sadly, they recognized just enough about Jesus to receive healing, but not enough to follow him faithfully as his disciples. Yet he still reached out with his unconditional love and met their physical needs in a power-packed day of ministry. "Grace" means "unmerited favor;" receiving what we do not deserve and can never earn as a free gift, just because of the goodness and generosity of the giver. Jesus was the greatest giver who ever lived. This day in Gennesaret proves it.

APPLICATION:

Jesus longs for our recognition of him to lead us into following him in intimate fellowship. Rather than merely experiencing temporary miraculous power in our bodies, or circumstances, what we need most is non-stop communion with Jesus because we follow him wherever he leads. The very fellowship of the Trinity is Jesus' free gift to everyone who truly believes in him.

Has God's power led you into His sustained presence?

Fellowship with Jesus is the greatest treasure of recognizing him, or knowing him.

How will you pursue greater intimacy with Jesus today?