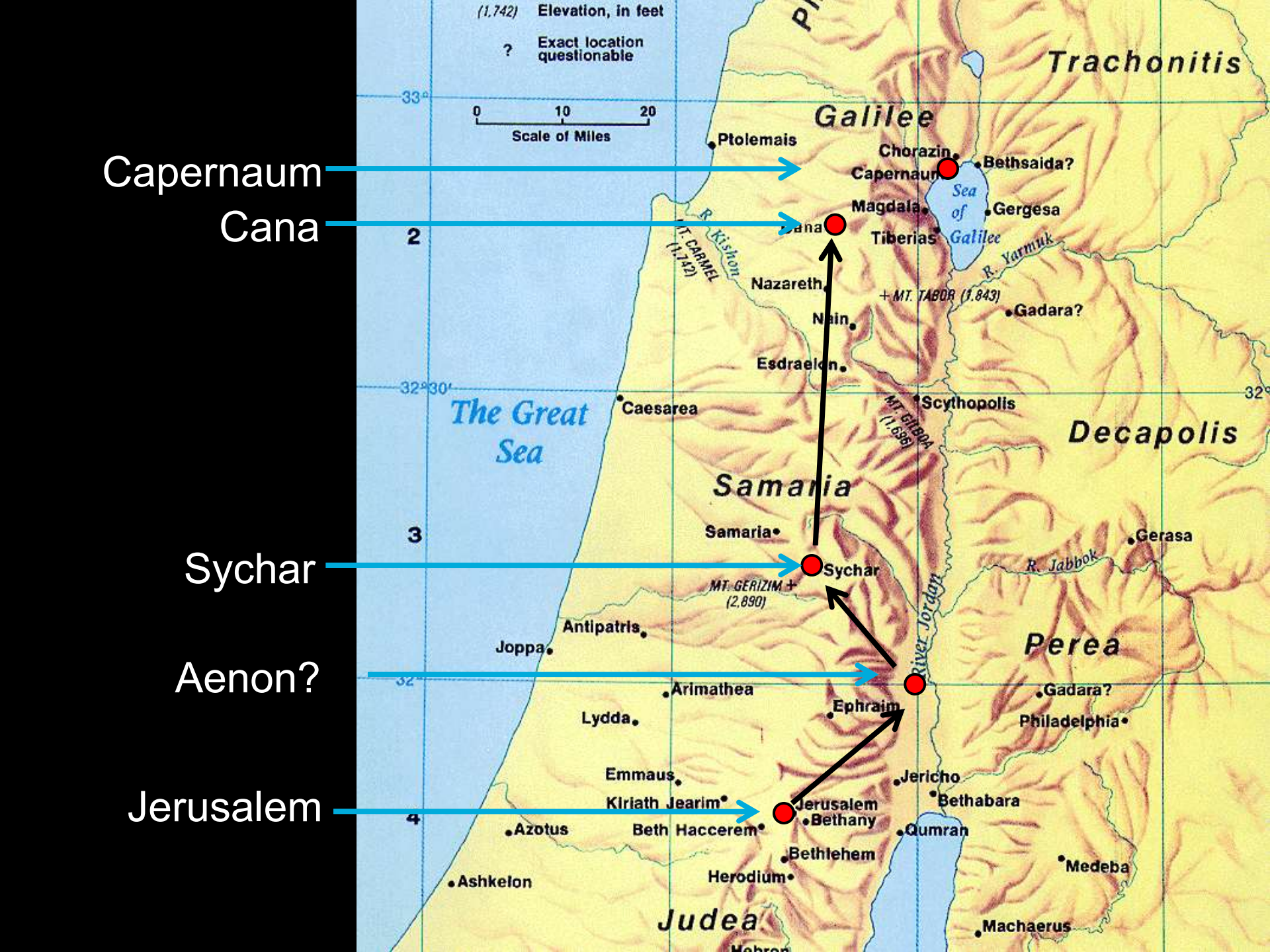
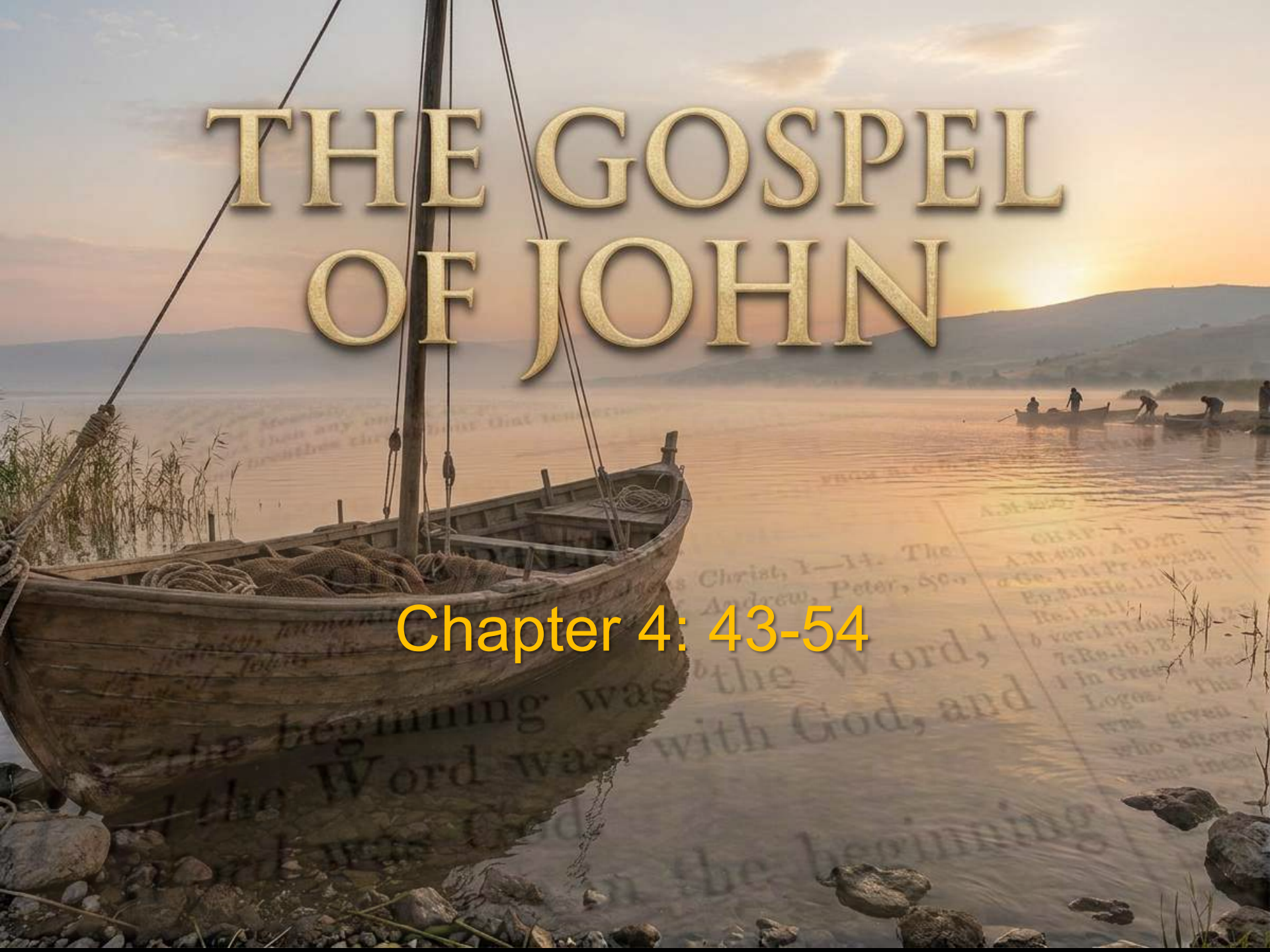

THE GOSPEL
OF JOHN

Introduction

- Jesus is now heading back to Galilee from Jerusalem…
- But having made a detour through Sameria
- Capernaum had become His ‘hometown’ throughout his ministry, but this time He heads to Cana…


Capernaum
Cana
Sychar
Aenon?
Jerusalem
(1,742) Elevation, in feet
? Exact location questionable
0 10 20
Scale of Miles
Trachonitis
Galilee
Ptolemais
Chorazin
Bethsaida?
Capernaum
Sea of Galilee
Magdala
Gergesa
Cana
Tiberias
R. Kishon
MT. CARMEL (1,742)
R. Yarmuk
Nazareth
+ MT. TABOR (1,843)
Gadara?
Nain
Esdraelon
32°30'
The Great Sea
Caesarea
Scythopolis
MT. GILBOA (1,696)
Decapolis
Samaria
Samaria
Gerasa
Sychar
R. Jabbok
MT. GERIZIM + (2,890)
River Jordan
Antipatris
Joppa
Perea
Arimathea
Gadara?
Ephraim
Lydda
Philadelphia
Emmaus
Jericho
Kiriath Jearim
Jerusalem
Bethabara
Bethany
Azotus
Beth Haccerem
Qumran
Bethlehem
Medeba
Herodium
Ashkelon
Judea
Machaerus
Hebron
33°
32°
2
3
4


THE GOSPEL
OF JOHN
Chapter 4: 43-54

43 Now after two days he departed thence, and went into Galilee.

44 For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honour in his own country.

John 4:43-44

The Galilee Conundrum?

- Jesus goes to Galilee, yet testified that a prophet has no honour ‘in his own country’.
- Why would He go to Galilee if a prophet receives no honor there?
- We need to make the important distinction that Galilee is a region, not a single location.
- When Jesus states that *"a prophet hath no honour in his own country",* He is not referring to the region of Galilee as a whole, but specifically to Nazareth—His hometown (cf. Matt 13:57, Mark 6:4, Luke 4:24).

The Galilee Conundrum?

- Adam Clarke Notes: "*Jesus spent most of His public ministry in Galilee, performed the majority of His miracles there, and gained most of His followers there. The rejection was localised to Nazareth".*

  - Adam Clarke

The Galilee Conundrum?

- J. Vernon McGee makes a sharp distinction between fame and spiritual honor.
- He points out that the Galileans welcomed Him (v. 45) largely because of the "show"—they had seen the spectacular miracles He performed in Jerusalem during the Passover.
- However, true prophetic honor—receiving Him for who He was, as the Samaritans just had—was absent in His home town.
- They wanted a miracle-worker, not a Prophet calling them to repentance.

The Galilee Conundrum?

- David Guzik highlights the tragic irony contrasting the Samaritans (vv. 39–42) and the Galileans/Nazarenes.
- The Samaritans believed Him simply because of His word *"we have heard Him ourselves"*
- The Nazarenes rejected Him because of familiarity *"Is not this the carpenter's son?"*.

45 Then when he was come into Galilee, the Galilaeans received him, having seen all the things that he did at Jerusalem at the feast: for they also went unto the feast.

John 4:45

- Back in John 2 we were told *"Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men"* (John 2:23-24)
  - Evidently, some of those who had been impressed with Jesus signs' in Jerusalem had been from the area of Galilee.

Celebrity or Saviour?

- David Guzik points out that *"the Galileans welcomed Jesus as a celebrity, not a Saviour".*
- They were proud that 'one of their own' had made such a splash down in Jerusalem.
  - It was a regional pride, not a spiritual awakening!
- The people were keen to see Jesus do some more miracles & were quite happy to 'receive Him' Jesus, on the other hand, 'knew all men', and knew their hearts.

Psychedelic Super Jesus!

- *“Psychedelic Super Jesus, that's the way you see him…you've got him swinging from a chain”*
- J Vernon McGee: *"They received Him because of the miracles He did, not because of who He was. There is a vast difference between accepting Jesus as a miracle-worker and yielding to Him as Lord."*
- If we make church entertaining people will come!
- If we preach repentance, sanctification, a holy lifestyle, watch the numbers fall!
- Spurgeon frequently preached on the difference between "sight-faith" and "word-faith."
- He noted that sight-faith demands continuous entertainment, while word-faith rests quietly on the authority of Christ’s Word.

46 So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.

John 4:46

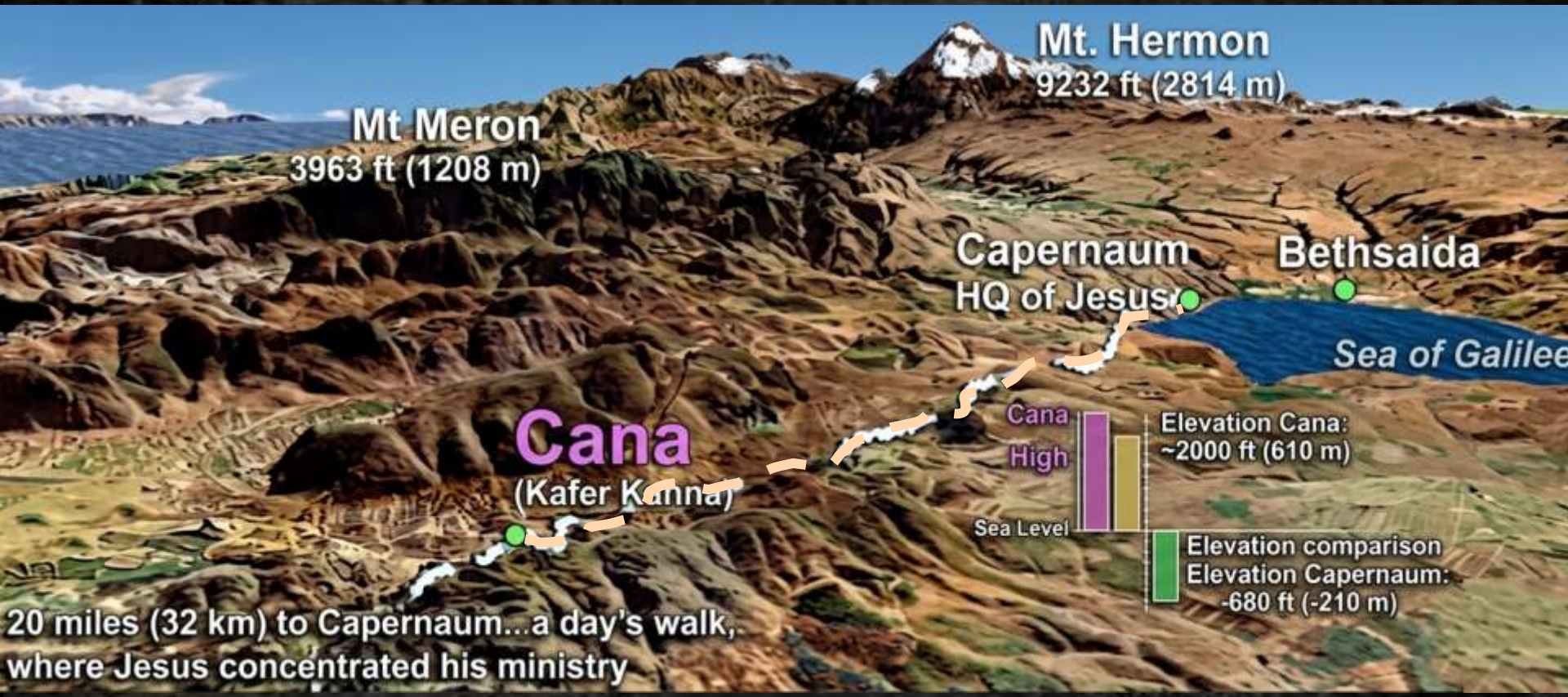
- This nobleman would have been an officer, and possibly of Herod Antipus' household, who was at that time the Tetrarch (ruler) of Galilee.
  - NB: John is the only gospel to record this miracle
  - There are no meaningless details in the Bible, so we should expect there to be a reason that John chooses to include this account in his gospel.

47 When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.

John 4:47

- News of Jesus was spreading…
  - Capernaum lies on the Sea of Galilee, roughly 20 miles northeast of Cana, with a steep drop in elevation of around 1,400 feet.
  - Walking uphill from Capernaum to Cana was a grueling 7 to 8-hour trek.
- He had no guarantee of an audiencee with Jesus, but he makes the journey anyway.
- Rank, wealth, and political standing mean nothing when faced with death.

Capernaum to Cana



The Journey of the Desperate

- Presumably, this father had tried the usual physicians to no avail, so now he abandons all natural solutions and seeks Jesus.
- God sometimes allows things in our lives to come close to death (or even to actually die), whether a hobby, a passion or even a ministry, in order to get us to abandon the natural and seek Jesus alone.
- The biggest issue in our lives is our spiritual condition.
- There is only One who can deal with that, and His name is Jesus.
- Are we prepared to humble ourselves and meet Him at the place the empty stone water pots were filled with new wine?

48 Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

John 4:48

- Jesus' statement uses the plural "ye" in the Greek (idēte / pisteusēte).
- He was not rebuking the desperate father personally; He was diagnosing the national disease of the Galilean crowds surrounding them.

48 Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

John 4:48

- In 2000 years little has changed.
- So many in ‘the church’ today base their faith on signs and wonders, to the extent that churches that don’t experience signs and wonders are often considered ‘dead’.

The Signs & Wonders Problem

- 'Signs & wonders' are taken as evidence the Holy Spirit is present and moving in a church
- Is this understanding biblical?
- In John 16:7-8 we are told by Jesus Himself that the Holy Spirit will *"reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment"*
- When the Holy Spirit is working in our midst, there should be conviction of sin, producing godly sorrow.
  - …an understanding of the need to live righteously,
  - …the reality of the coming judgment where all men will give an account of themselves before God.
- There is no mention of 'holy laughter' etc. just contrition as we are confronted by the Holy Spirit in regard to our sinful nature.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

- In John 16:13 Jesus adds: *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come"*
- The Holy Spirit will therefore reveal to us, and give us understanding, concerning God's Word.
- A church where the Holy Spirit is present and working (based on what we are told in scripture) will be a church where the Word is taught, and as a result (see Heb 4:12) people are convicted of Sin and seek after righteousness, knowing the urgency of the hour and the reality of the coming judgment!
- Miracles are the fruit of God's sovereignty, never the fuel of biblical devotion!

49 The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.

John 4:49

- He believed Jesus could heal his son…
- …if He physically traveled to Capernaum.
  - He thought Jesus needed to be locally present.
- Don’t put a limit on what God can do!

50 Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth.
And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken
unto him, and he went his way.

51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him,
and told him, saying, Thy son liveth.

John 4:50-51

52 Then inquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.

53 So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.

John 4:52-53

- Note the transforming power of believing the Word of God!

Faith…evidence of things not seen!

- Incredibly, so confident was this nobleman of Jesus' word, he did not bother to make the journey home that day!
- His son was healed at 1pm, it was around a 20+ mile journey home,
  - So, he could have made it home by 8pm-9pm if he had wanted to (or earlier on horseback).
- This is the kind of faith the LORD would have of all of us:
  - God said it,
  - I believe it,
  - That settles it!

Faith…evidence of things not seen!

- *"Suppose God is the God you know Him to be when you are nearest to Him, what an impertinence worry is!"*

  – Oswald Chambers, My Utmost For His Highest

- The love this nobleman had for his son was obvious, but his faith in Jesus equally so.
- There was no point in worrying once Jesus had spoken!

54 This is again the second miracle that Jesus did, when he was come out of Judaea into Galilee.

John 4:54

- As we have already noted, John specifically selected seven miracles to include in his Gospel.
- The first miracle typologically sees us as empty stone vessels, transformed and filled with new life.
- Here we see that, once we have come to Jesus at our Cana, we simply need to trust His Word to save the life that was dying.
- His Word is sufficient; His Word is living and powerful; His Word is truth.

Faith…evidence of things not seen!

- *"The man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way. He did not ask for a sign; he did not request a messenger to go with him to confirm it. Christ's word was enough for him. That is the true noble faith—resting upon the bare word of the Lord Jesus Christ.""*

– C H Spurgeon

The Sufficiency of the Word

- William Still, the great Scottish pastor and author of 'The Work of the Pastor,' argued that the only way to build a healthy church is through the systematic teaching of the Bible.
- He warned that when churches seek experiences, entertainment, or signs and wonders as a substitute for the all-sufficient Word of God, they end up spiritually immature.
- True spiritual fire and a moving of the Holy Spirit must be rooted in Christ's sacrifice and revealed by the Spirit of Truth through God's Word

The Sufficiency of the Word

- *"There is not a greater task a man can perform in the whole world than this, that he is being used to release the all-searching Word of God upon a company of needy souls. It is the most amazing thing. It works! God works. His Word works. Prayer works. The Spirit works."*

The Sufficiency of the Word

- *"We need a recovery of belief in the converting and sanctifying power of the living Word of God in the teaching of the pulpit, and its ability to transform the lives of men and produce in them the lineaments and fruits of mature Christian character"*

The Sufficiency of the Word

- *"There is nothing so sorely needed in the world today as the Word of God hammered home to people's minds, hearts, and wills.“*

- *"There is no greater or better way to make an impact than by sounding forth the Word of God and bringing people under its life-changing and character-transforming power."*

The Sufficiency of the Word

- *"The pastor is called to feed the sheep, even if the sheep do not want to be fed. He is certainly not to become an entertainer of goats. Let goats entertain goats, and let them do it out in goatland. You will certainly not turn goats into sheep by pandering to their goatishness. Do we really believe that the Word of God, by His Spirit, changes, as well as maddens men? If we do, to be evangelists and pastors, feeders of sheep, we must be men of the Word of God."*

The Sufficiency of the Word

- *"...remember, it is not syntheses of the Word of God, not doctrinal presentations of the Word, but the very Word of God itself, read, commented upon, expounded, and its parts vitally and intelligently related, that does the work in men's hearts."*

- *"All this, the healing as well as the feeding, flows from the ministry of the Word of God in the power of the Spirit. If only I could make you believe that!"*


THE GOSPEL
OF JOHN
To be continued…

Calvary Chapel Portsmouth

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