

Jesus Goes Fishing

... Peter's Perspective

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Fishermen: Jesus' First Disciples?

One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living.

Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” And they left their nets at once and followed him.

A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And he called them to come, too. They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind. (Matt 4:18-22)

Matthew Outlines the Early Days (Matt 3 & 4)

1. John the Baptist prepares the way (3: 1-12)
2. Jesus is baptized by John (3: 13-17)
3. 40 days of Fasting, then Temptation (4: 1-11)
4. Jesus returns to Galilee, filled with the Spirit, and begins His ministry. (4: 12-25)
 - From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.” (Matt 4:17)
 - **Jesus calls the fishermen**
 - Jesus teaches and heals throughout Galilee, and His fame spreads to the whole of Syria

Jesus Builds a Relationship

Insight from John chapter 1

- Two fishermen: John and Andrew were apparently disciples of John the Baptist, when Jesus came to be baptized.

The following day John was again standing with two of his disciples. As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, “Look! There is the Lamb of God!” When John’s two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus. Jesus looked around and saw them following. “What do you want?” he asked them. They replied, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?” “Come and see,” he said. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon when they went with him to the place where he was staying, and they remained with him the rest of the day. (John 1:35-39)

Jesus Builds a Relationship

Insight from John chapter 1

- Continuing the story...

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of these men who heard what John said and then followed Jesus. Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means "Christ"). Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, "Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas" (which means "Peter"). (John 1:40-42)

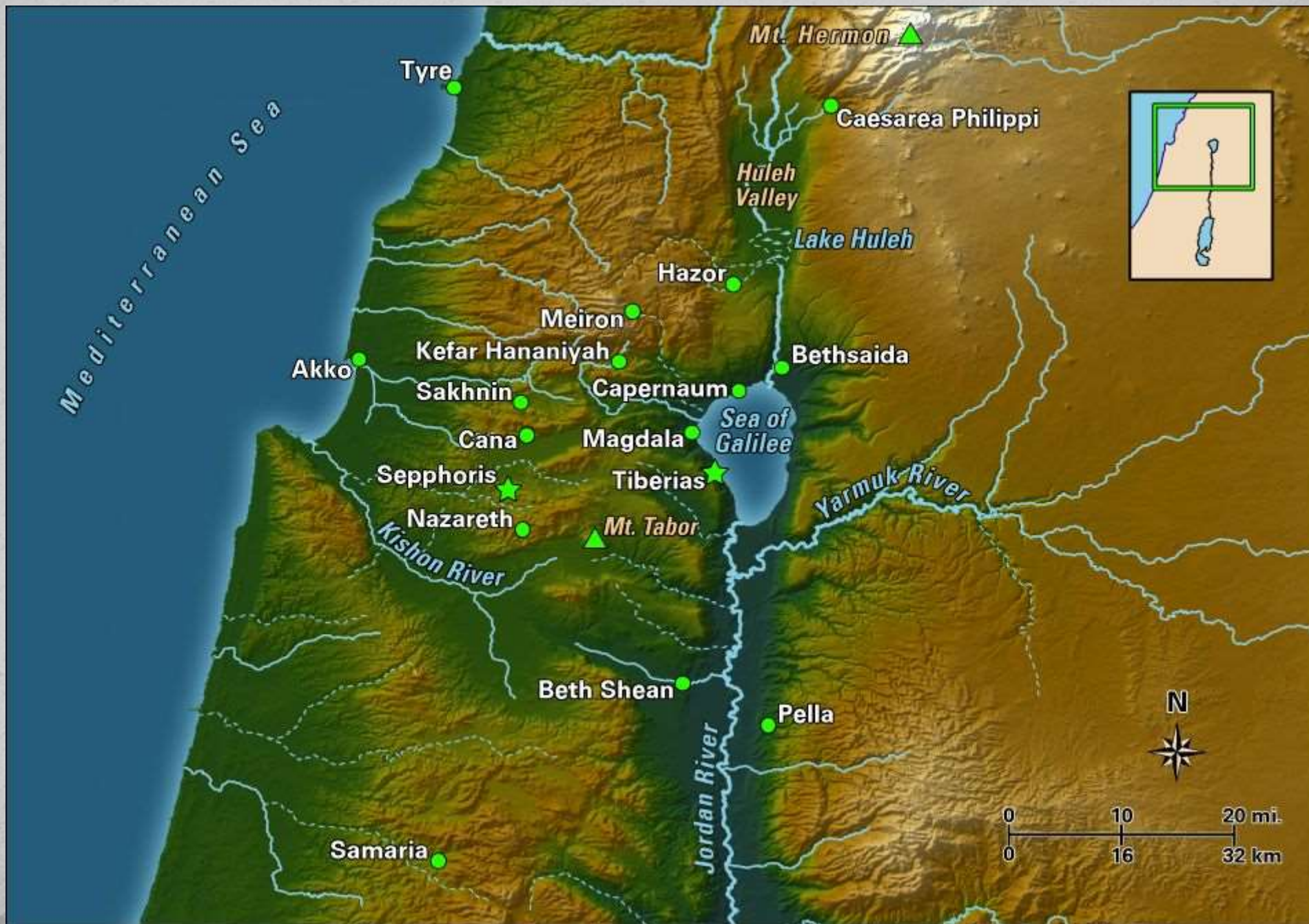
Jesus Builds a Relationship

Insight from John chapter 1

- Continuing the story...

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Come, follow me." Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter's hometown. Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, "We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth." "Nazareth!" exclaimed Nathanael. "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" "Come and see for yourself," Philip replied. (John 1:43-46)

Region of Galilee



Jesus Builds a Relationship

John chapter 2

- Arrival in Galilee: a wedding to remember!

The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine." (John 2:1-3)

This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him. (John 2:11)

Jesus Builds a Relationship

Let's check out Dr Luke's account

- After being rejected in his home town (Nazareth) Jesus goes to Capernaum, the home town of the four fishermen

Then Jesus went to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and taught there in the synagogue every Sabbath day. There, too, the people were amazed at his teaching, for he spoke with authority. Once when he was in the synagogue, a man possessed by a demon—an evil spirit—cried out, shouting, (Luke 4:31-33)

(Jesus cast the demon out and it left the man!)

Jesus Builds a Relationship

Dr Luke's account, cont'd

- After Jesus casts out the demon at the synagogue, things get crazy

After leaving the synagogue that day, Jesus went to Simon's home, where he found Simon's mother-in-law very sick with a high fever. "Please heal her," everyone begged. Standing at her bedside, he rebuked the fever, and it left her. And she got up at once and prepared a meal for them. As the sun went down that evening, people throughout the village brought sick family members to Jesus. No matter what their diseases were, the touch of his hand healed every one. (Luke 4:38-40)

- Then Jesus left Capernaum (and the fishermen?) behind and preached in other towns

Jesus Goes Fishing

The Itinerant Preacher Again Meets the Fishermen

One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there. (Luke 5:1-3)

Fishing: Jesus' Style!

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish." "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again." And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking. (Luke 5:4-7)

Fishing for Men

When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m such a sinful man.” For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. Jesus replied to Simon, “Don’t be afraid! From now on you’ll be fishing for people!” **And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.**

(Luke 5:8-11)

How Did it Work Out for Peter?

Peter Had Much to Learn

- **Peter watched as Jesus changed peoples lives**
- **Then Peter got to change people's lives**

And he called his twelve disciples together and began sending them out two by two, giving them authority to cast out evil spirits. He told them to take nothing for their journey except a walking stick—no food, no traveler's bag, no money. He allowed them to wear sandals but not to take a change of clothes. (Mark 6:7-9)

So the disciples went out, telling everyone they met to repent of their sins and turn to God. And they cast out many demons and healed many sick people, anointing them with olive oil. (Mark 6:12-13)

Ups and Downs

- **Jesus: “Who do you say that I am?” (Matt 16: 13-20)**

Peter: “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.”

Jesus: “Blessed are you Simon son of Jonah... on this rock I will build my church... and I will give you the keys of the Kingdom!”

- **Jesus: began to tell them plainly that He would suffer and be killed (Matt 16: 21-28)**

Peter: “Heaven forbid it Lord. This will never happen to you!”

Jesus: “Get away from me Satan! You are a dangerous trap..”

Ups and Downs

- **Authorities finally arrest Jesus (Mark 14)**

Then all his disciples deserted him and ran away... but Peter followed at a distance.

- **At the Trial: Peter accused by a servant**

Meanwhile, Peter was in the courtyard below. One of the servant girls who worked for the high priest came by and noticed Peter warming himself at the fire. She looked at him closely and said, “You were one of those with Jesus of Nazareth.” But Peter denied it. ... Just then, a rooster crowed. (Mar 14:66-68)

... A little later some of the other bystanders confronted Peter and said, “You must be one of them, because you are a Galilean.” Peter swore, “A curse on me if I’m lying—I don’t know this man you’re talking about!” And immediately the rooster crowed the second time.

Suddenly, Jesus’ words flashed through Peter’s mind: “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me.” And he broke down and wept. (Mar 14:70-72)

Back to the Fishing...

- **The Resurrected Jesus appeared to the disciples several times, but this time it was all about Peter**

Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. This is how it happened. Several of the disciples were there—Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples. Simon Peter said, “I’m going fishing.” “We’ll come, too,” they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night. At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn’t see who he was. He called out, “Fellows, have you caught any fish?” “No,” they replied. (John 21:1-5)

Back to the Fishing...

- **Another fish story ...**

Then he said, “Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you’ll get some!” So they did, and they couldn’t haul in the net because there were so many fish in it. Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, “It’s the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore. The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore, for they were only about a hundred yards from shore. When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them—fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread. (John 21:6-9)

Back to the Fishing...

- **Jesus Restores His Call to Peter...**

After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you." "Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him. Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you." "Then take care of my sheep," Jesus said. A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep. (Joh 21:15-17)

Day of Pentecost

- **Peter and the Others were waiting per Jesus command:...**

God sent the Holy Spirit with the sound of a mighty wind, flames of fire, and got the whole city's attention.

- **Peter Preached... (His first sermon?)**

Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!" Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. (Act 2:40-41)

Early Church Days

- **The Apostles, and Peter particularly are mighty in the Kingdom...**

The apostles were performing many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers were meeting regularly at the Temple in the area known as Solomon's Colonnade...

As a result of the apostles' work, sick people were brought out into the streets on beds and mats **so that Peter's shadow might fall across some of them as he went by**. Crowds came from the villages around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those possessed by evil spirits, and they were all healed. (Acts 5:12-16)

What About the Long Term?

- **Decades later, an imprisoned Peter reaches the end of the road...**

Therefore, I will always remind you about these things—even though you already know them and are standing firm in the truth you have been taught. And it is only right that I should keep on reminding you as long as I live. **For our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me that I must soon leave this earthly life**, so I will work hard to make sure you always remember these things after I am gone. (2Peter 1:12-15)

Jesus Is Still ~~Fishing~~ Calling

How will we respond?