

- Videos available on our YouTube channel: www.htchurch.tv
 - All notes, etc. available at: www.htchurch.com/john
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Recap

Last week we saw Jesus calling his first five disciples.

- We saw John the Baptist identifying Jesus again as the Lamb of God
- Jesus asked Andrew and John, “What do you seek?”
- He invited them to “Come and see.”

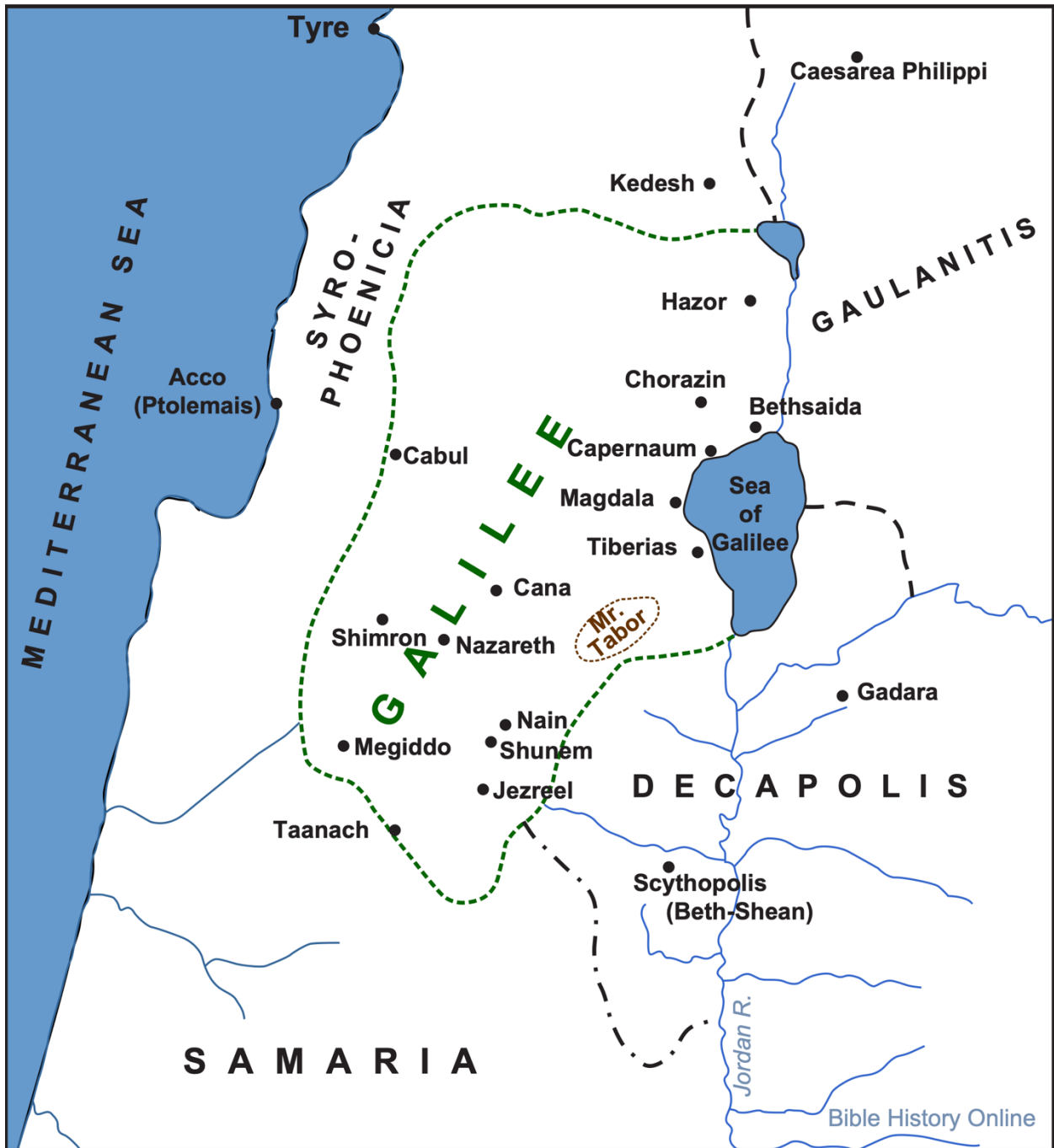
Evangelism begins!

- Andrew brought Simon to Jesus
- Jesus reaches out directly to Philip
- Philip connects Nathanael to Jesus

Nathanael (a/k/a Batholomew) has a dramatic encounter with Jesus. He is ready to proclaim Jesus as the Son of God.

Jesus tells the men that they will see even more amazing things than this, and see the angelic activity centered upon Him, as the Son of Man. Jesus claims to be the One who had come from Heaven and who will rule the world for God with the saints.

MAP OF THE GALILEE REGION IN NORTHERN ISRAEL



Let's Take a Trip!

The Galilee is a region in northern Israel.

- A main feature of the region is the Sea of Galilee, Earth's lowest freshwater lake.
- It's also called the Sea of Tiberias.
- Hebrew = *Kinneret*, a harp
- A fishing region
- Modern tourist center
- *Galilee* comes from the Hebrew word *galil*, which means a circle or a circuit.

Invited To A Wedding (John 2:1-3)

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. 3 And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

- We're not sure exactly why Jesus went to Galilee after finding his first disciples.
- Recall his controversial ministry in Nazareth (Luke 4)
- Presumably this was the third day after his encounter with Nathaniel.
- The entire story starting from John 1 shows us that John was an eyewitness.
- Cana was extremely close to Nazareth and it was very likely that Jesus and his mother were acquaintances, business associates, or relatives of the couple.
- Nathaniel was also from Cana and might also have been connected.
- Was Mary in some way responsible for the event?
- It would not be unusual for the disciples to have been invited.

The Wine Crisis

- In the Mediterranean world, wedding celebrations were a very big deal.
- All were expected to drink, although not to get drunk.
- Was this wine alcoholic?
- In Jewish culture, drunkenness was looked down upon. In Jesus' day, wine would have been cut by water very strongly, perhaps as much as 90%.

But to throw a party and especially to throw a wedding party and run out of wine or food was a tremendous shame in that culture.

- This would have been remembered for years.
- There might even have been legal action taken.
- The master of the feast might also face embarrassment. He was not necessarily a family member but could be chosen to manage the event for various reasons.
- Regardless, this wedding is about to be ruined.

Whatever Jesus Says (John 2:4-5)

4 Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

- Jesus' response has troubled people for centuries: *What is that to you and me?*
- His remark wasn't rude, although it was firm.
- He says his hour has not yet come, meaning the hour Jesus would be glorified. Jesus knew that once he began to reveal his glory, he was on the way to the Cross.
- Was it rude to call Mary "Woman?"

- Mary no doubt had a difficult adjustment to dealing with Jesus’ public ministry. Perhaps her adjustment was the most difficult of anyone’s!
- Notice that John doesn’t *name* Mary.
- Mary here is a model disciples for us, like other model disciples in the Gospels. She models faith and obedience: “*Whatever He says to you, do it.*”

Fill Them Up! (John 2:6-8)

6 Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. 7 Jesus said to them, “Fill the waterpots with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And He said to them, “Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast.” And they took it.

- Each water pot could hold about two or three *metretés* of about nine gallons. This was roughly 150 gallons of water.
- The purpose of these jars was to hold water for ceremonial washings. It was absolutely vital to set water apart for ritual purity.
- Jesus performed an incredible miracle using water that was special and reserved for religious purposes. That would have been seen as shocking, but He was more concerned with the welfare of this young newlywed couple.
- Showing a kind of high level of faith themselves, the servants actually obey Jesus’ instructions.

The Best For Last (John 2:9-12)

9 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. 10 And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" 11 This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. 12 After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.

Here we see Jesus' glory, and His disciples believe, if others do not.

Takeaways?

1. Jesus cares about people and their needs more than religious rules.
2. Jesus protects people from shame.
3. Jesus enjoys human celebrations and family celebrations.
4. Jesus cares for people's practical needs, too.
5. Cana is a picture of the Kingdom of God to come. Wine is a symbol of joy and gladness, a symbol of new birth, and of new things that God is doing. The wedding at Cana is a foreshadowing of the Messianic Age and Banquet!
