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Recap

- We continued our look at Jesus' conversation with "the woman at the well."
- We've seen how Jesus broke societal norms by asking her for a drink.
- He focused on her salvation, offering her "living water."
- Once she found the true and unfailing source of living water, she had to share it!

To Do The Father's Will (John 4:28-34)

*28 The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men,
29 "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"
30 Then they went out of the city and came to Him. 31 In the meantime His disciples
urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." 32 But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which
you do not know." 33 Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought
Him anything to eat?" 34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent
Me, and to finish His work."*

- Notice again how Jesus must explain something to the disciples, because they are unable to grasp His point.
- True fulfillment and satisfaction only comes from doing God's Will; enjoyment comes from knowing that we're in His Will.

- He also wants to finish the work the Father gave Him to do. We see very strongly throughout John's Gospel the sense of mission that Jesus possessed.

Already White (John 4:35-38)

35 "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! 36 And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."

- Jesus references an expression that meant we have to wait for the harvest once we plant our crop. However, sometimes we can expect a quicker harvest in spiritual things: the fields are already white!
- Whatever the reference to "white" might mean, the spiritual harvest field of this Samaritan village was already ready to be harvested.
- The reaper is already being paid, almost the same time as the reaper.
- Who are the ones who have labored? Was it Jesus, John the Baptist, or the preaching of the Word in general across the region?
- Christ encourages us both to sow, and to expect a quick harvest, at least on occasion. We should always be ready to sow regardless of whether we will get to reap. We don't know how long it will take, but the harvest will come.
- Our church was built on the belief that the harvest isn't just coming, but there's a harvest that's here now, and by faith we want to bring in that harvest. May God give us eyes of faith to look and see that the fields are already white!

Savior Of The World (John 4:39-42)

39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I ever did.” 40 So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of His own word. 42 Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”

- Both are important in seeing people come to faith: the word of others and our own encounter with Jesus and His words.
- Notice their reception of Jesus and also their confession: they now believe and know that this was the Savior of the World.
- His appeal and His power extend to the whole world! This connects directly to John 3:16-17: God so loved the **world** (not just Israel) that He gave the Son, so that the world through Him might be **saved**. The mission of Jesus is universal!
- In this story we learn important things about worship and about God Himself.
- The Samaritans represent perhaps the first large-scale success for the Gospel.
- *“Jesus came to the fountain as a hunter.... He threw a grain before one pigeon that he might catch the whole flock.... At the beginning of the conversation he did not make himself known to her, but first she caught sight of a thirsty man, then a Jew, then a Rabbi, afterwards a prophet, last of all the Messiah. She tried to get the better of the thirsty man, she showed dislike of the Jew, she heckled the Rabbi, she was swept off her feet by the prophet, and she adored the Christ...”* (Ephraem the Syrian, 306-373 AD)

Into Galilee (John 4:43-45)

43 Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee. 44 For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. 45 So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast.

- Recall, Jesus was heading north because the Pharisees had seen that He was now more popular than John the Baptist.
- Commentators have debated what John means when he says that Jesus went to Galilee because a prophet has no honor in his own country. It may mean that He went to Galilee because He was rejected in Judea and was going there to avoid too much opposition early on in His ministry.
- This was likely the beginning of the period in which much of Jesus' successful ministry happened in the Galilee: the ministry we read about in the other Gospels: *And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.* (Matt. 4:23-25)
- His ministry was spreading throughout Israel and beyond.
 - Syria was a separate province of the Roman Empire to the north
 - The Decapolis was a group of 10 Gentile cities
 - Sadly, even the Galileans would ultimately turn away from Him.

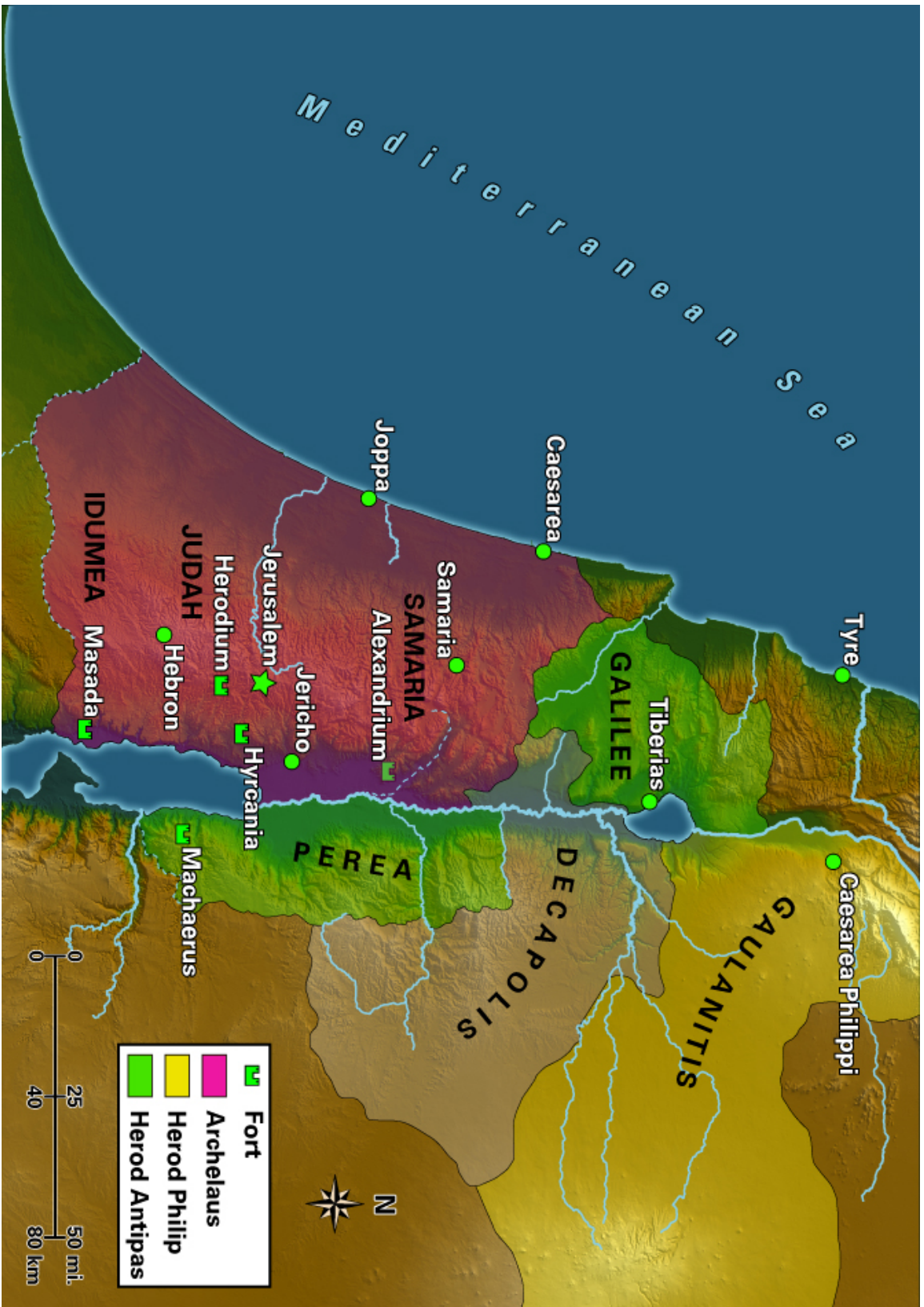
Back To Cana (John 4:46)

So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum.

- This wraps up the portion of John's Gospel which is called "from Cana to Cana."
- This nobleman is a Herodian, perhaps someone from the court of Herod.
- Note that this is not the same person as the Roman centurion with a sick servant.
- This nobleman is not someone for whom the Jewish people might have had a lot of sympathy. The Pharisees disliked the Herodians, although hatred for Jesus could bring together all groups!

The Family Of Herod

- Herod the Great's will left his kingdom to his surviving sons. His territory was split into four pieces, hence the word "tetrarch" (ruler of a one-fourth portion).
- Herod's son Archelaus was the king who was feared by Joseph, the foster father of Jesus. After Archelaus was removed, Samaria, Judea, and Idumea were made into the Roman province of Judaea. Pilate governed Judaea c. 26-36 AD.
- The green portion was ruled by Herod Antipas. He was denounced by John the Baptist for marrying the ex-wife of his own brother.
- The yellow area was ruled by Herod Philip. A fourth area was ruled for just a few years by Herod's sister, named Salome.
- Herod Agrippa was the grandson of Herod the Great, and he was the Herod who had James the Apostle put to death (see Acts 12).



A Nobleman's Incomplete Faith (John 4:47-48)

47 When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. 48 Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."

- Cana was about 16 or so miles away from Capernaum.
- Jesus gives him a light rebuke and rebukes all the people.
- Jesus never says that it's wrong to believe in Him because of signs. But believing in Jesus only because of signs is an inferior kind of faith.
- The Samaritans actually had better faith than this Jewish man. Jesus is much more than a folk healer. His will and His words are not affected by distance.

Your Son Lives! (John 4:49-54)

49 The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!" 50 Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. 51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, "Your son lives!" 52 Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." 53 So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives." And he himself believed, and his whole household. 54 This again is the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

- The nobleman continues to implore Jesus for mercy for his little boy.
- Notice that the man grows in faith. He comes to Jesus with **some** faith, then gets to the point that he believes in Jesus' word. He had to decide to step out in faith!
- His servants are so excited that they themselves head off for Cana.
- The seventh hour is most likely about 1 PM.
- We see something we will see again in the New Testament: household salvation.
- This is Jesus' second sign, and He has showed, as He will also with the next sign, that He has power over disease and sickness.

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