



WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS

BETHSAIDA AND GALILEE! LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES TODAY!

ARE YOU A BETHSAIDA?

Bethsaida was one of several major towns on the north and north-western edge of the Lake of Galilee, that existed in the time of Jesus Christ, our Messiah and Saviour!

There are seven references to the name Bethsaida in the New Testament, I will quote a few. Here are two almost identical ones which will focus our minds immediately and makes us ask questions already! Praise the Lord.

Matthew 11:21 (Jesus is speaking)
Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, **Bethsaida!** For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented in sackcloth and ashes [and their hearts would have been changed].

Luke 10:13
Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, **Bethsaida!** For if the mighty miracles performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

Bethsaida, yielded (at least) five of the original great eleven apostles; Simon Peter, and Andrew (brothers), James and John (brothers) and Phillip! Which goes to prove that where iniquity does abound, grace does much more abound! Romans 5:20 and even **a wicked city or town or village produced fruit to God!** That is great.



Many other signs and miracles were done inside the town's perimeters, until Jesus got more than fed up with it and he eventually healed his last human there and took him out of Bethsaida to do so, and **also told him not to go back into Bethsaida** because it had now passed the point of no return, and deserved no further miracles or signs from the Son of God, nor any human testifying of the same.

Please read Mark 8:22-26

I am going to return to Bethsaida later in this article.

Galilee.

Jesus was around Galilee a great deal; he visited many or all the villages and towns in Galilee. That was his mission, to bring the gospel to the Jews in these places and also in Judaea, and even IN ONE INSTANCE, in Samaria. (See John chapter 4)

He was severely rejected in his home town of Nazareth and here in both Bethsaida and Chorazin. These are all Galilee towns.

Jesus' ministry started in Galilee, that's where he healed so many people, cast out so many demons and preached and taught so many messages. He preached at the side of the lake of Galilee to huge crowds, once at least from a boat. He crossed over and criss-crossed the lake several times, he did miracles on the lake in calming a storm, appeared,

looking like a ghost walking on the water to his disciples. He encouraged Peter to step out of the boat and have a stroll across the lake with him! Peter lasted a few seconds before it all went wrong for him! Matthew 14:22-33

The Sea of Galilee (or Lake Kinneret) is about **21 kilometres (13 miles) long** from north to south and roughly 13 kilometres (8 miles) wide, making it Israel's largest freshwater lake, known for its biblical significance and as a major water source, despite being a lake, not a sea.

Galilee, as we will remember is the province where Jesus grew up. Some of the other towns he visited (i.e ministered in) in Galilee or just outside were: Tiberias, Magdala, Nazareth (in his ministry), Cana, Nain, Capernaum, Gadara, Bethabara (beyond Jordan). The disciple Nathanael and possibly Simon the Zealot (according to tradition) came from Cana in Galilee. So that makes at least seven of the 'good eleven apostles' were Galileans!

Consider this portion of scripture in Luke chapter 1 about Jesus' goals and ministry in Galilee:

³⁷ And the fame of him went out into every place of the country round about. (In Galilee and Bethsaida, Capernaum etc).

³⁸ And he arose out of the synagogue,

(Capernaum), and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her.

³⁹ And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.

⁴⁰ Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers (many different) diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.

⁴¹ And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.

⁴² And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him that he should not depart from them.

⁴³ And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.

⁴⁴ And he preached in the synagogues of Galilee.

Why am I writing this article? For two reasons! It's because I learn (now) something very important: that a person or town, city or nation that rejects (i) the message of God, (spoken, on radio, or printed etc) and (ii) **also rejects the clear signs and miracles** of a man or woman of God, has 'no leg left to stand on'! They can only await the judgments of God, which will be severe.

This principle is clearly explained in these excellent verses Jesus spoke;

John 15 ²¹ But they will do all this to you [inflict all this suffering on you] because of [your bearing] My name *and* on My account, for they do not know *or* understand the One Who sent Me.

But [the fact is] now they have both seen [these works] and have hated both Me and My Father.

²⁵ But [this is so] that the word written in their Law might be fulfilled, They hated Me without a cause.

Jesus made it crystal clear that there were two things the Jews (or anyone else in the future) rejected Him for which were: 'the Words I spoke to them and the signs which no else did or could do.'

The Mercy of God:

God in His great mercy and goodness sends to the earth's populations many prophets, pastors, teachers and evangelists, and many others; we are the human embodiment of Christ on earth, even though we are frail humans! Even though frail, we become anointed by God and the Spirit to preach the Gospel. Acts 1:8

MESSAGE POINT ONE:

What people do with us and our true messages, determines their eternal fates. How they react to our words of Jesus Christ, our preaching our true gospel messages, our preaching and our other forms of 'witnessing' this is how they will be treated by the Lord for good or ill at the day of Judgement. **

Obviously we can see that Jesus Christ was the greatest example of this ever!

Just as importantly, some great pastors or missionaries utilise their God-given gifts of healing, raising the dead and performing miracles, exactly like some of the apostles in the book of Acts and throughout church history. Again how human beings react to all this 'proof' determines their eternal future.

These people who fully and continuously reject the Gospel become exactly like Bethsaida, the people who saw incredible miracles and powerful messages from their Messiah, yet even rejected them all, except for those great disciples

²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin [would be blameless]; but now they have no excuse for their sin.

²³ Whoever hates Me also hates My Father.

²⁴ If I had not done (accomplished) among them the works (miracles and signs) which no one else ever did, they would not be guilty of sin.

11. The Holy Land in New Testament Times



whom Jesus pulled out of it!

How is your city town or village doing?

But have **you** even set before them the great miracles and messages? That is your first step. It's not enough for you to think 'people should come to church'. **You** have to set before **them** the message and the miracles and signs so that, that way, they have the opportunity to believe. This is what is so completely messed up with at least modern churches.

But eventually, it is not a light thing to turn yourself into a 'Bethsaida'.

MESSAGE POINT TWO:

The second reason that speaks to me about this study of both Bethsaida and Galilee is hugely important.

Jesus began here in Galilee. He was called by His Father to preach to the Jewish people first, and he preached in their synagogues and also out in the open and on the streets and highways and the lake. This was his beginning, probably I think for more than a year at least. **The most important verse to consider here is when Jesus said that;**

'a prophet is not without honour, except in his own country'.

Matthew 13: 54 And when he was come into his own country (Nazareth), he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

⁵⁵ Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

⁵⁶ And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?

⁵⁷ **And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.**

⁵⁸ **And he did not many mighty**

works there because of their unbelief.

How can we apply this message:

⁵⁷ **And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.** ⁵⁸ **And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief. ?**

HERE IS WHAT THE Lord is showing me for those of who truly love Jesus, including my own family! Here are some questions to begin with, that I have often asked myself:

- Are you trying to preach a Gospel/Christian message, in any form, in your own birth and growing up country among your own people?
- How is it going for you?
- Are you like Jesus, experiencing tremendous lack of hunger and disinterest in your message in your country from your own countrymen and women?
- **Do you feel disrespected as a person by people in your own country as they sense your (good) spirit?**
- Do you feel you have sincerely tried your best to represent Jesus?
- Are you frustrated?
- Do you feel accepted and received by your church or any church?

If the answer to these questions makes you feel sad, then there could be a solution for you!

Please consider these options. The New Year of 2026, or whenever you are reading this in the far flung future, (!) is about to dawn. To those of you who seek to serve the Lord more fully consider these points:

- Pray about moving to another country, a new country, where you can start again, and (you) as a foreigner, it is actually possible that people will listen to you more than your 'native' population, where you are now. (There are more than 190 countries in the world!)
- **Think about the advice Jesus has given us in the Bible about these verses above.**
- Pray deeply about this.
- If some or parts of this message strike a chord with you, then pray to take some action, under God's leading, of course.
- Go **you** into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.
- Make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28 and Mark 16)
- In some countries, but not all, let me tell you, that you will be respected and revered, as we were for ten plus years in China, (although I certainly cannot always promise this!)
- But it is likely that the very fact you are a 'foreigner' telling them about Jesus Christ will give you some grace and favour, and also, most importantly, the favour of God. (Psalm 84)
- Finally, I understand this may be a lot to take in at once; you may need time to seek the Lord while He is near and cast your cares upon Him. **God knows your heart. This message is for those people who physically, and health and age-wise, can MOVE to another gospel hungry nation. (God knows exactly**

where that is for YOU.)

- **God is able to use even you, dear brother or sister (or both as a couple).**
- Now as the Christmas season begins/or ends, and the New Year starts, old things are being swept away, the Lord will forgive all your sins and if you sincerely ask, Him, whatever the seemingly impossibilities, He will guide you into new paths. This is entirely scriptural as you will sense in the Spirit.
- If all else fails, and you are older like Daniel in the Bible, who could not return to Jerusalem during the great return of the Jewish people being given another chance to obey God. You can consider supporting genuine missionaries. The criteria, I humbly believe, and which we have operated upon for decades are these: are these Missionaries/Pastors/or Individuals (i) winning souls to Christ?, and (ii) making disciples of those souls? If you support **these** people, you can be fully confident that your efforts will bear fruit.
- **But you should not be confused with 'social work only' type of ministries, but rather with those Godly men and women who win souls for Jesus, as that is where the lasting and ETERNAL fruit will be found. Those**

souls who are won through missionaries, that is you or any foreign pastor(s), will themselves start work among their own nations initially, and some of them will become missionaries. That is the plan of the Gospel. (John 15:8, 16, 2 Timothy 2:2-4)

God bless you. There is so much more to say about this whole topic of Bethsaida! BY God's grace we will explore this at a later date.

Don't be a Bethsaida; be a Missionary yourself, or a supporter of true disciples of Jesus Christ.

Please contact us for any questions, burdens or thoughts about this.

Email us at wcf@nym.hush.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR. THE LORD LOVES YOU. HE KNOWS THE THOUGHTS OF GOOD HE HAS TOWARDS YOU, DEAR BROTHER AND SISTER AND MARRIED COUPLE. AMEN.

Love in Jesus

Jerry for the WCF TEAM.

Mark 6:4

But Jesus, said unto

, **A prophet is not without honour,** but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.

[OnePage Bible Summary](#) an absolute brilliant article with a lot of maps and photos. Please read!

Bethsaida means 'house of the fishermen'

[list of towns in galilee jesus visited - Google Search](#)

[Bethsaida's warning](#) 4-5 minute video worth watching for some valuable details.

[History - The Phenomenal Prophecy of Tyre](#)

[Bing Videos](#) a history of Tyre, worth watching. ('control and click' this link)

[Bible Map: Sea of Tiberias \(Sea of Galilee\)](#)
[how many kilometres did Jesus walk in Galilee - Google Search](#)
[The Biblical Cities Of Tyre & Sidon](#)

Visit us at: www.weeklychristianfocus.org



If you enjoyed this week's edition and are not a premium subscriber or if you just wish to help these messages go further, use this link below to donate by either PayPal or debit/credit card Thank you. God bless you.



Get 6 editions of the Weekly Christian Focus completely free, by visiting our web site. You can also become a Premium member. See details on the site.