

# The Gospel of John

## The Gospel of John

### Lesson #44

### The Journey

Jim Hoffman

1

# The Gospel of John

Now let's revisit these verses in light of our current discussion - John 6:57 And they took offense at him because he said, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home." 58 And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

**Oh, the kindness of the Lord!**

2

2

## The Gospel of John

John 2:23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. 24 But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people 25 and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

3

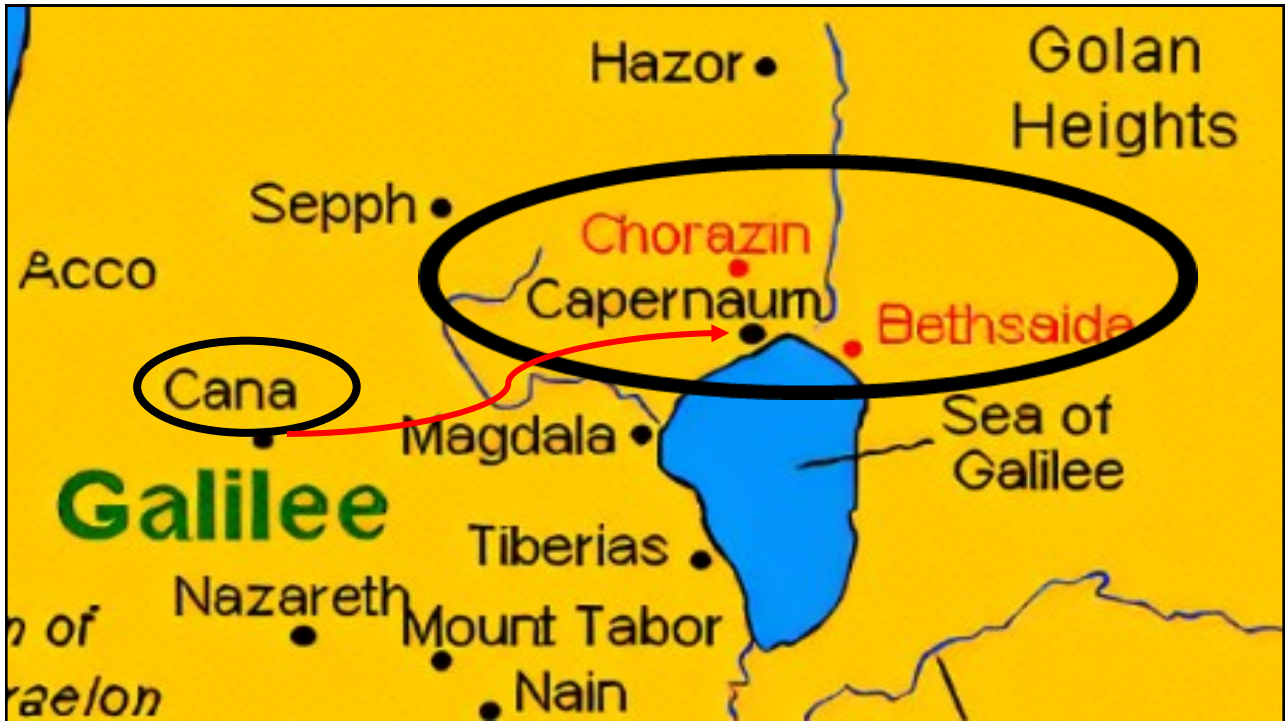
3

## The Gospel of John

- John 4:46 Therefore He came again to Cana of Galilee, where He had made the water into wine. And there was a royal official whose son was sick at Capernaum. 47 When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and began asking 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 simply will not believe.” 49 The royal official said to Him, “Sir, come down before my child dies.” 50 Jesus said to him, “Go; your son is alive.” The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and went home.

4

4



5

## The Gospel of John

- The area around Capernaum was epicenter for Jesus' ministry of miracles and you could argue that as a plus for the area as much good was done for the people of Capernaum.
- But, if the people of Capernaum do not see beyond the immediate good of the miracles, then it becomes a huge negative as the residents there were now more accountable.
- The Roman official lives right where most of Jesus' miracles happened – he is either in the best of all possible places on the planet or the worst!

6

6

## The Gospel of John

The city of Capernaum represents many who have been exposed to the gospel, may enjoy going to church, and consider themselves Christians by association. The familiarity with Jesus and His Word gives them a false sense of assurance that they are right with God when in reality Jesus will one day say to them, “Away from me, you evildoers! I never knew you” – gotquestions.org

7

## The Gospel of John

- Matthew 11:21 “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 have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. 23 And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24 But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.”

8

8

## The Gospel of John

- Jesus is pointing out that the cities where he did many of his miracles are more accountable for their unbelief than are the wicked Gentile cities of Tyre and Sidon.
- Evidently the one who knows the results of all possible combinations of events knows that one area of the region would have responded better than another.
- Tyre and Sidon were not filled with believers in Christ, but neither was Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum where he did the majority of his recorded miracles.

9

9

## The Gospel of John

Unbelief is the sin that damns,  
but there are degrees of  
accountability for unbelief.

10

## The Gospel of John

- We have looked at “degrees of punishment” before and it quite easy to see that the Hitlers of the world should be punished more than the average unbeliever.
- When I look at the words Jesus spoke in Matthew 11 it is obvious to me that while unbelief is the sin that lands you in front of the Judge, it matters how you got there.
- This is where the whole “are the heathen lost?” discussion comes to bear – all without Christ are lost, but how much light you were given matters.

11

11

## The Gospel of John

All at the Great White Throne judgment are there because they are guilty of unbelief and will be sentenced according to their works. However, it is apparent to me that part of the assignment of eternal punishment is rooted in how much light each had while they lived. It a courtroom of our day both aggravating and mitigating factors are considered when sentencing because they play a role in our pursuit of having a punishment that fits the crime. God is just and his justice must consider both the offense (unbelief) and the circumstances around their unbelief.

12

Questions?

13