A HOMETOWN BOY DISAPPOINTS HIS HOMETOWN
THE JESUS WAY

Luke 4:14-30

12 March 2023

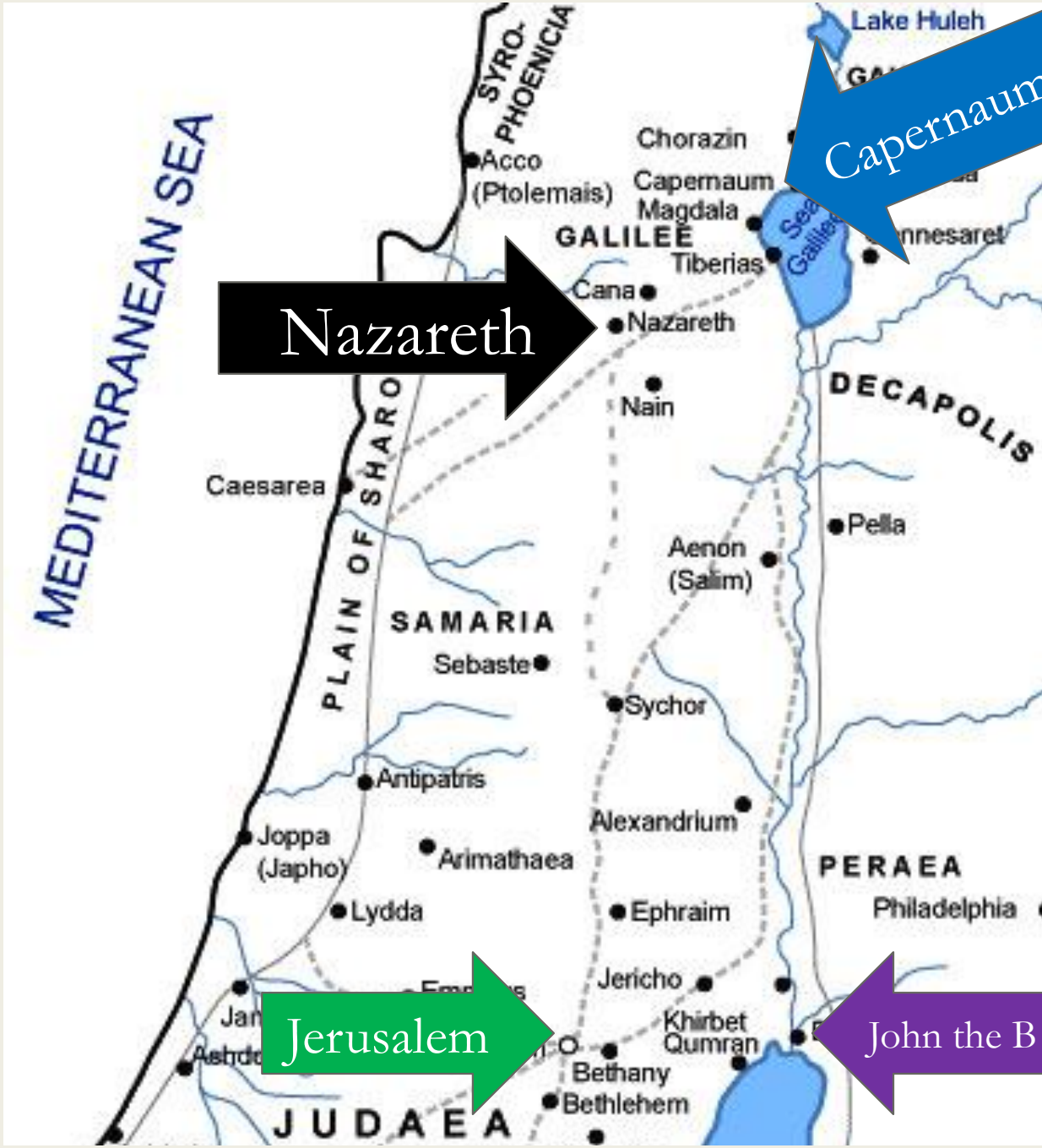
Christies Beach Baptist Church

Stephen Spence

Jesus leaves Nazareth as a respected local boy and returns as a **Religious Star!!!**

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and **a report about him spread through all the surrounding country.** He began to teach in their synagogues and was **praised by everyone**. 'Do here…the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum."

Luke 4:14-15, 23



Jesus' message for the crowds in Galilee

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because

he has anointed me to bring **good news to the poor**.

He has sent me to proclaim **release to the captives** and recovery of **sight to the blind**, to set **free those who are oppressed**,

and to proclaim the **year of the Lord's favour**.

Luke 4:18-19

Jesus draws an enthusiastic home crowd

When Jesus came to Nazareth, **where he had been brought up**, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, **as was his custom**.

He stood up to read… Then he began to say to them, "**Today** this scripture has been fulfilled *in your hearing*."

All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"

Luke 4:16-22

The home crowd grows very ugly very fast

[just 5 verses later]

…When they heard this, all in the synagogue were **filled with rage**! They got up, **drove him out of the town**, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, **so that they might hurl him off the cliff**.

But Jesus passed through the midst of them and **went on his way**.

Luke 4:28-30

Is this not Joseph's son!

Of course, Jesus is Joseph's son! This is not a question about Jesus' identity. It is **a claim to relational privilege**.

Luke 4:22

Jesus rebukes his hometown

Doubtless…you will say, "Doctor, cure yourself!... Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum." …

But the truth is…Elijah was sent to a widow in Sidon (not to an Israelite widow)...the prophet Elisha healed Naaman the Syrian (not to a Jewish leper)

Charity Begins at Home. Us first! is **NOT the Jesus Way.**

Luke 4:23-27

The Jesus Way #NOTMEFIRST

God loves the foreigner
the outsider
the sinner

The arrogance of privilege is Not the Jesus way.
Repent. Believe.

Luke 4:23-

We are the Chosen.
BUT we are Chosen to Service, not Privilege

The Jesus Way: #NOTMEFIRST

The LORD said to Abram, "…I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, **so that** you will be a blessing." (Genesis 12:1-2)

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And **the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling** and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." (Luke 15:1-2)

The Face of our God *

* according to 511 US Christians

Many people believe that God looks more like themselves, a phenomenon that researchers describe as "egocentricity." For instance, people who rated themselves as looking more attractive chose more attractive images to represent God. African Americans thought of God as darker-skinned, and white Americans thought of God as light-skinned. People also chose images of God that more closely matched their own age.

Newsweek, 6/12/2018

The Jesus Way:

God's Love is **un**limited and **out**ward looking

Jesus went **from local hero to local villain**

because he would **NOT** keep his eyes focused on their needs when there was a world who needed him.

Are we walking the Jesus Way?

"Isn't this Joseph's son?" has become,
"Isn't Jesus the Christian's God?"