

Which is More Important?

- God's agenda or mine?
- God's agenda or my comfort?
- God's agenda or my wants?
- God's agenda or my needs?
- God's agenda or my safety?
- God's agenda or my life?



M A R K

The Gift of God





Building Faith in Jesus

Mark 4:35-5:20



- What is the big question that Mark is working toward?

“Who do you say that I am?”
(8:27-30)



- Mark 4:35–8:26 → the disciples' faith
 - Challenges, illustrations of His power (over nature, demons, sickness, death), examples, tests
 - Note how people react to Jesus
 - Look for repeated words or ideas

Mark 4:35-5:20



- Building faith in Jesus:

1. His Authority over the Natural

2. His Authority over the Supernatural



Authority over the Natural

- On that day
 - Back to 3:20?: dealing with the large crowd; the scribes; His family
 - To 4:1?: teaching parables by the sea; explain the parables to his followers
 - Jesus was exhausted! (4:38)



Authority over the Natural

- Jesus had been teaching from a boat (4:1)
- He tells His disciples to go across the sea
- He falls asleep
- A fierce wind storm threatens the boat
- The disciples freak out



Authority over the Natural

- The disciples rebuke Jesus (38)
 - “Do you not care that we are perishing?”
- Jesus rebukes the wind and waves (39)
- Jesus rebukes the disciples (40)
 - “Why are you afraid?”
 - “Do you still have no faith?” (challenge)



Authority over the Natural

- Response: they *feared a great fear* (41a)
 - No longer afraid of the storm!
 - This *fear* brings no rebuke from Jesus
- Was this storm a surprise to God?
 - Why did He have them go through this?
 - To expose their true beliefs



Authority over the Natural

- They ask: “Who then is this...?” (41b)
 - How long had they been with Jesus?
 - *Then* -> logical implications
 - Challenge to their faith (40)
 - Refining their understanding of who He is

So What?

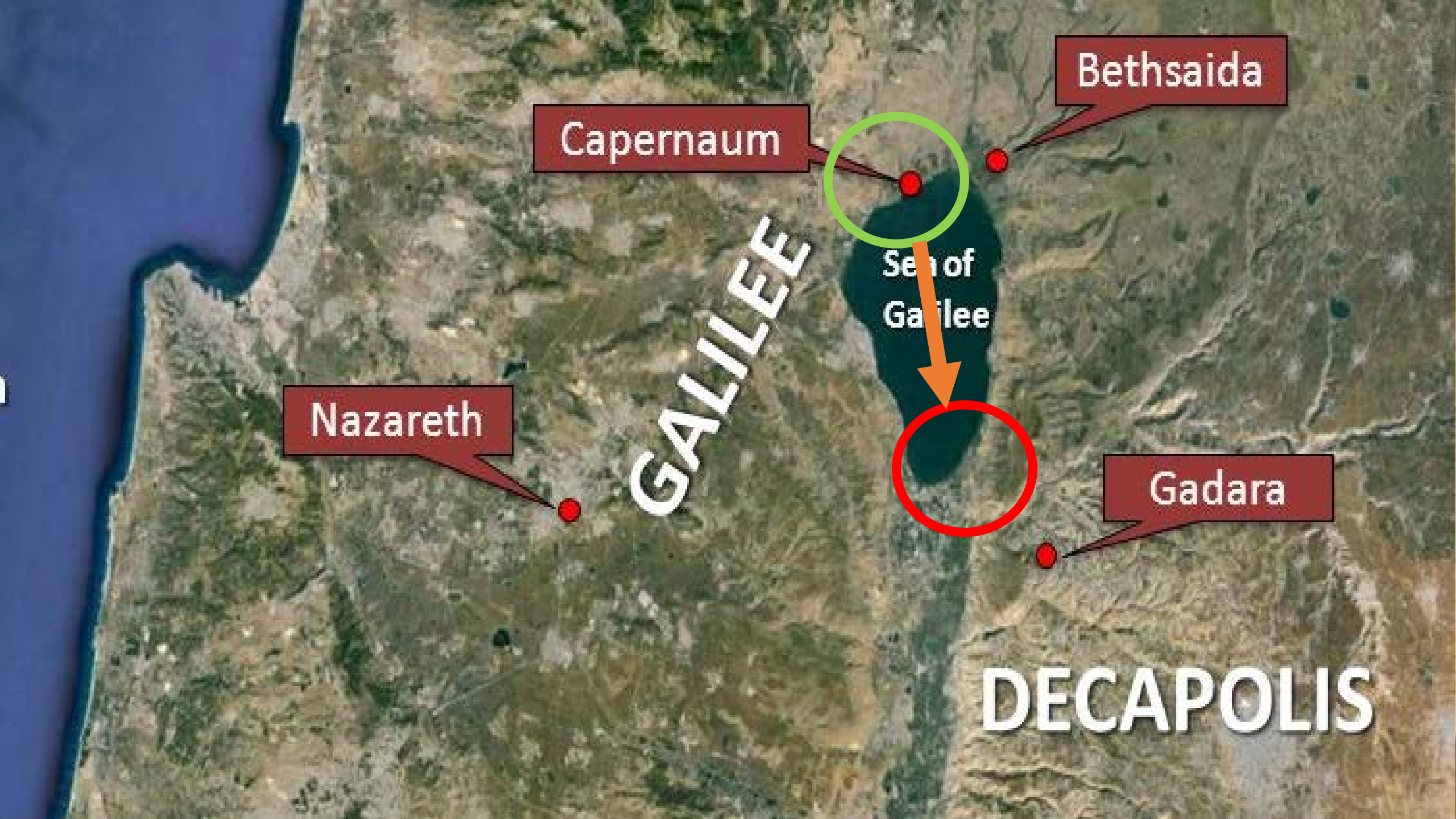


- This is not a story about how Jesus wants to *rescue us from the storms of life*
 - He put them into the storm! (35)
- The point is to learn about Jesus (41)
 - We need to be looking for how He exposes & addresses *our* wrong beliefs



Authority over the Supernatural

- They came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gerasenes (5:1)



Bethsaida

Capernaum

Nazareth

Sea of Galilee

Gadara

GALILEE

DECAPOLIS



Authority over the Supernatural

- The man runs to meet Jesus (5:2)
- Background Information on the man (3-6)
 - Outcast
 - Supernaturally strong
 - Constant screaming and gashing
 - Possessed by *many* demons



Authority over the Supernatural

- Response from the demons
 - The demons recognize Jesus (7a)
 - The demons fear Jesus (7b)
 - The demons submit to Jesus (10)
 - The demons obey Jesus (13)



Authority over the Supernatural

- Jesus delivers the man
 - Dramatic – swine plunging to their deaths
 - Obvious – clearly the demons left him
 - Effective – he was very different after (15)
 - Decisive – forced *the big question*
 - Memorable – what a story! (see 19-20)



Authority over the Supernatural

- Response: herdsmen run and tell
- Response: people become afraid
 - Implore Jesus to leave!
- Response: the man implores to go along
 - “Go and tell” (sow seeds? – see 7:31)
 - Response: everyone was amazed



Authority over the Supernatural

- “Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you.”
- How long had the man been possessed?
- Was God surprised by the man’s situation?
- God used it to further His agenda

So What?



- Do I *really* believe that God's agenda is more important than my comfort, wants, needs, safety, or even life?
- Do I really believe that God has my best interest in mind (i.e.- *Don't You care?*)?
- Do I really believe He is in control?



So What?

- How might this have been different if Jesus warned them ahead of time?
- Why doesn't He warn us?
- How we *react* reveals what we really believe
 - "Why are you afraid?" (fear vs. faith)



So What?

- God will use circumstances to challenge and refine our understanding of who He is and our faith in Him (*Who then is this?*)
 - James 1:2-4; 1 Pet. 1:3-9, 13-17



So What?

- What circumstances are you facing?
- How are you reacting/responding to God?
 - “Don’t You care?!” (4:38)
 - “Take it away!” – John 12:23-28
 - “Your will be done.” – Matt. 26:36-44
- What is God trying to expose in/to you?