

Fall at his feet

Mark 7:24-37

Introduction

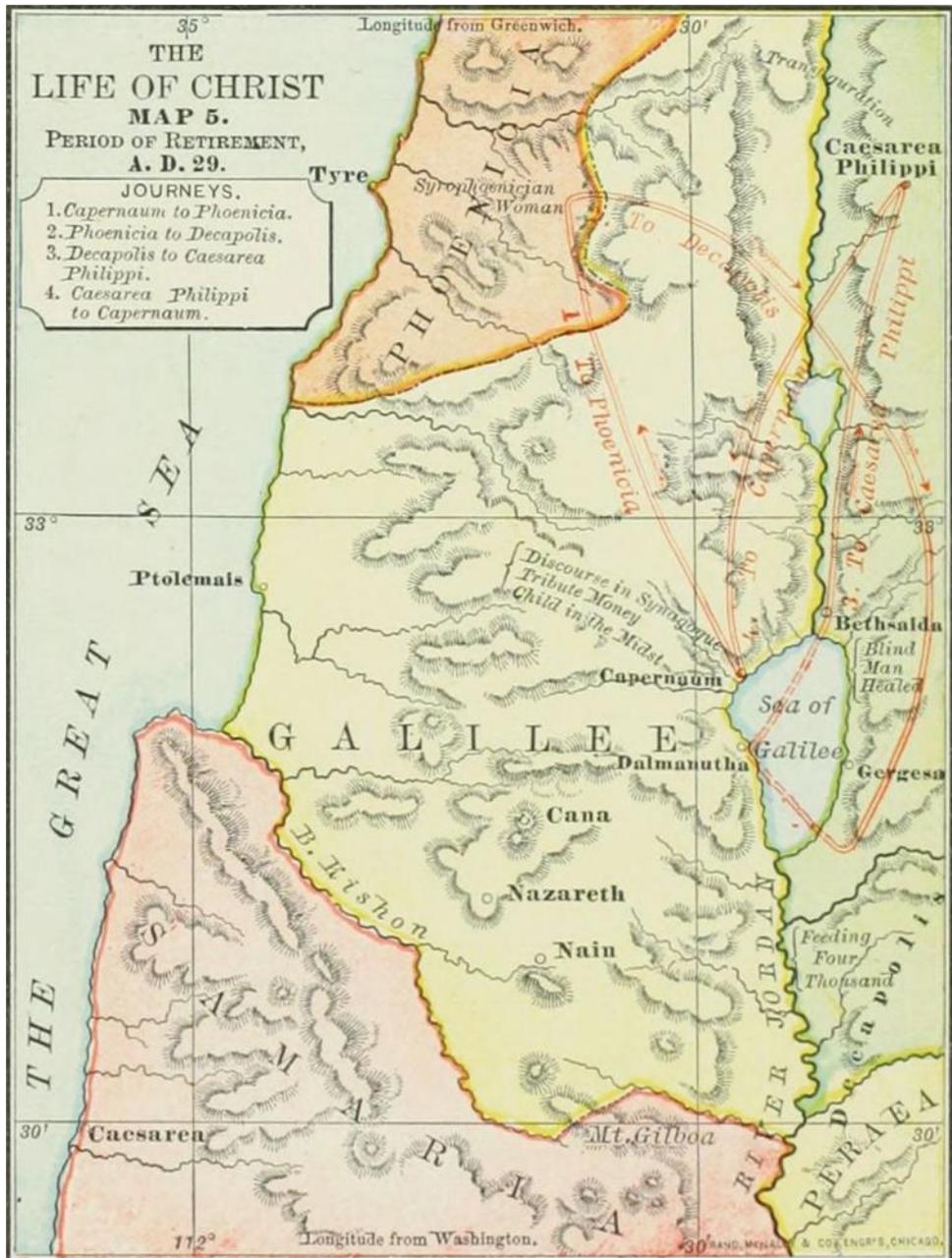
Where do you go to get away from it all? Where do you go to have that moment of peace where you can get away from all the noise and have time and space to think and reflect?

At times Jesus withdraw to lonely places to have time to get away from the noise of the crowd to rest, pray and to spend time with the disciples. In this study we read about how Jesus withdraw from completely from Galilee, leaving it and crossing the border moving into the Hellenistic (culturally Greek) region of Tyre. (You will find the map from the Randy McNally Bible Atlas on the follow page helpful). His time preaching the gospel in Galilee seems to have come to an end and in the reading today we will see him move about avoiding Galilee. In this study, we look at two people who encounter Jesus whose stories Mark has included in his account. Please read verses 24 to 36. Before beginning to answer the questions, you might like to trace the journey out on the map provided noting down anything you know about the places that are mentioned.

THE
LIFE OF CHRIST
MAP 5.
PERIOD OF RETIREMENT,
A. D. 29.

JOURNEYS.

1. Capernaum to Phoenicia.
2. Phoenicia to Decapolis.
3. Decapolis to Caesarea Philippi.
4. Caesarea Philippi to Capernaum.



The Syrophenician woman

Please read again verses 24 to 30 again to discover the first person that Mark wants to introduce us to.

1. Where did Jesus go and what did he do when he got there?
2. What did the woman do when she heard the news about the arrival of Jesus?
3. How did Jesus react to the woman and why do you think he reacted this way?
4. What was Jesus saying to the woman in this parable and what did the woman say back to Jesus using the words of his parable?

Think about it

Tyre was just north of Galilee on the coast and had never been part of Israel and at times its people had been at enmity with Israel. Jesus left Galilee and went there, but, as far as we know, he did not preach there which was what he had been doing all around Galilee. Mark does not tell us what he was doing there just about this encounter with this woman.

Why do you think Jesus was there (Mark 9:30-32)?

Why do you think Jesus spoke to the woman using a parable?

Jesus ended up granting the woman's request. Why do you think that he did this?

What do you like about the woman's response?
What can she teach you?

This woman, like several people that Mark has told us about, fell at Jesus feet. We cannot literally fall at Jesus feet today, but is there something that we should take away from this? If so what?

The deaf and mute man

Mark does not tell us anything more about the stay of Jesus and his disciples in Tyre. In verse 31 we are told how Jesus left Tyre and headed down into the Decapolis. It is what happened there when a deaf and mute man that was brought to Jesus that Mark wants us to understand. Please read verse 31 to 37.

5. What did Jesus do when some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk?

6. The Greek word that our NIV Bibles have translated “could hardly talk” only occurs in one another place in the Greek Bible. It is found in the Greek OT that was in use at the time in the book of Isaiah chapter 35 and verse 6. Please read Isaiah 35:1-10. Why might this story for Mark be at least a partial fulfilment of this prophesy?

7. After the man was healed, what did Jesus tell the people to do and how did they respond?

8. Why do you think the people responded this way?

Think about it

The question that was raised about Jesus in chapter 4 was “Who is this man?” and Mark has been revealing more and more about Jesus so that we can answer it for ourselves. Mark has chosen to include this story about the deaf and mute man at this point to reveal more about Jesus.

What do you think Mark want us to understand about Jesus and how and why we should respond to him?

Why did so many people not respond to Jesus the way the Syrophoenician woman responded?

What should we do if we know how we should respond but are finding it difficult to do so?

Jesus did not always do the sorts of things that he did when he healed this man. Is there something that we can learn from his approach?