

# EXPLORATION: BIBLE

By Chip Thompson

## Jesus and The Sea of Galilee

Many of the teachings and miracles of Jesus happened at or on the Sea of Galilee. And, for the twelve disciples, some of the greatest revelations concerning the Deity of Christ happened as they were sailing on this sea.



**This is the beautiful Sea of Galilee at sunset. [Photo by Chip Thompson, 2023]**

The hometown of Jesus during his ministry years was Capernaum, a fishing village on the Sea of Galilee. On the shores of Galilee, Jesus called four fishermen: Peter, Andrew, James, and John to be his disciples. Jesus said, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men’ and they immediately left their nets and followed Him” (Matthew 4:16ff). These rough men, after Jesus’ death and resurrection, turned the ancient world upside down. Through the power of Jesus, they founded what would later become the largest religion in the world, Christianity.

Along the shore of Galilee, Jesus preached his famous, ‘Sermon on the Mount.’ This sermon begins with the Beatitudes – Blessed are the poor in spirit, the mournful, the meek, those who hunger for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and the persecuted” (Matthew 5:3-10). In this sermon Jesus claimed to be God and Judge when he said, “Not everyone who says to ME, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to ME in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’

And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you. depart from ME, you who practice lawlessness!’” (Matthew 7:21-23).

While sailing on the Sea of Galilee the disciples learned firsthand about the Deity of Jesus. On one occasion the Bible says, “Suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But Jesus was asleep. Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, ‘Lord, save us! We are perishing!’”



**Galilee can quickly become an angry sea when a storm is approaching. (Photo by Chip Thompson, 2012)**

Then Jesus said this to his disciples, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?’ Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. So, the men marveled, saying, ‘Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?’” (Matthew 8:23-27). Think about this! On a raging sea, even if the wind suddenly stopped, the waves would continue to rage for a long while. In this case, however, even the waves suddenly calmed. So, “Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?” Only God Himself has control over the winds and a raging sea.

On another occasion, along the shores of Galilee, Jesus fed a multitude (over 5,000 men, women, and children) with just five small loaves of bread and two small fish. Can you imagine witnessing this supernatural event? Immediately following this miracle, “Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.”

Later that night, because the wind and waves were against them, the disciples were struggling to cross the sea. Then, at

about 3 AM, “Jesus went out to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him... they were terrified. ‘It’s a ghost,’ they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus called to them: ‘Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid.’”

As Jesus walked toward the boat, an amazing thing happened. Peter called out, “Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water.’ ‘Come,’ Jesus said. Then Peter got out of the boat, walked on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. ‘You of little faith,’ he said, ‘why did you doubt?’ And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God’” (Matthew chapter 14).



**Somewhere out in the middle of this vast stretch of water is where Jesus would have come to his disciples walking on the sea. [Photo by Chip Thompson, 2014]**

This story is a lesson for us. Life is often a struggle. We are all toiling against the storms of our lives. As we struggle to make any progress against the mighty waves, Jesus comes to us. He is not affected in the least by our storms. He calls us to come to him and we try. But despite our best efforts to walk on the raging sea, we sink. Then, as we cry out to Him for salvation from certain death, HE SAVES US. In our own strength, we have NO POWER to overcome. Only Jesus can save us. The Bible tells us, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12) and “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:13). [Questions? Comments: [ephchip@gmail.com](mailto:ephchip@gmail.com)]