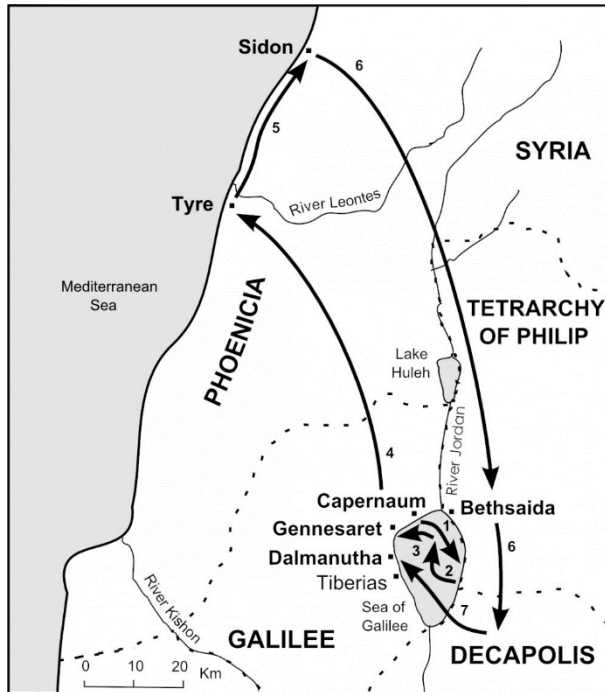


21—Signs, Signs, and More Signs

Matthew 15:21-16:12; Mk 7:24-8:9, 22-26



1. Matthew 15:21 and Mark 7:24 mention Jesus went to “Tyre and Sidon” after his encounter with the “scribes and Pharisees” who had come up from Jerusalem. Was this a predominantly Jewish area or Gentile area? Why do you think Jesus might have gone there?

2. As Jesus travels into this area, what request is made of Him and who makes this request? Why is her nationality significant (Matthew 15:22; Mark 7:24-26)?

3. In what ways does Jesus initially respond to this woman’s request and why does He respond in this way (Matthew 15:23-26; Mark 7:27)?

4. What evidences do we see in this woman exhibiting her powerful faith in Jesus (Matthew 15:22,25,27; Mark 7:25-26,28)? What does Jesus do for her (15:28; Mark 7:29-30)?

5. Who is brought before Jesus in Mark 7:31-32? What does Jesus do in the process of healing him (Mark 7:33-37)?

6. Although Jesus asks the crowd to keep this miracle quiet, what is the result (Mark 7:36-37)? What conclusion does the multitude make after various healings (Matthew 15:30-31; Mark 7:37)? Where else do we find a similar description (Genesis 1:31)?

7. The feeding of the 4,000 sounds very familiar to the feeding of the 5,000. Were these the same instances with different counts or two different miracles (Mark 8:19-20)?

8. Describe the process of this miracle (Matthew 15:32-38; Mark 8:1-9). What are some of the lessons we can take home from this text?

9. Though Jesus has given many “signs” why were the Pharisees and Sadducees still demanding more? Does Jesus always perform a “miracle-on-demand?” What does he think of their demands? What “sign” does He speak of to them (Matthew 16:1-4; Mark 8:10-14)?

10. After this encounter, Jesus warns: “*Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees and... Herod.*” What does this warning mean and why was it important (Matthew 16:5-12; Mark 8:14-21)?

11. Mark records another miracle not found in Matthew’s text (Mark 8:22-26). What was this miracle and how was it different than other healings we have seen? Could there be some spiritual symbolism for us to “see” behind this miracle?