

Site: Capernaum

Scripture References:

Matthew 4:13; John 6:59; Matthew 6:33; Luke 4:31-33

Historical Significance:

1. Located along the international Highway (Via Maris) that ran from Syria to Egypt. Capernaum was a major stop along this highway. It had a custom house which is most likely where Matthew worked.
2. Large fishing village and the home of James and John.
3. Jesus first taught in parables at Capernaum.
4. Jesus performed more miracles here than anywhere else.
Jesus condemned the city because the Jewish people saw his miracles but would not believe or repent. (Matthew 11:23-24)
Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law. (Matthew 8:14; Mark 1:29-31)
Called his disciples to be "fishers of men". (Matthew 4:13, 18-22; 9:9-13)
Called Levi to be a disciple.
Healed the centurion's servant. (Matthew 8:5-13)
Healed the paralytic that was let down through the roof. (Mark 2:1-12)
Healed a royal official's son. (John 4:46)
5. Jesus withdrew publicly from ministry and postponed his offer of the Kingdom to the Jews. Instead he began to teach his disciples what they would need to know after he died and returned to heaven.

Things to look for:

1. Black basalt foundations that mark the synagogue during Jesus' ministry.
2. Roman mile marker (Via Maris).
3. Olive Press
4. Limestone reliefs (one has the image of the Ark in a cart).
5. Restored ancient synagogue.
6. Peter's house
7. Statue of Peter.

What does this site teach us about God?

1. He wants us to make choices to live intentionally for Him.
2. He wants to give us a Christlikeness.
3. He wants us to make the best use of our time. Do we need to change our way of thinking?
4. Is the Kingdom of God a goal of our lives?