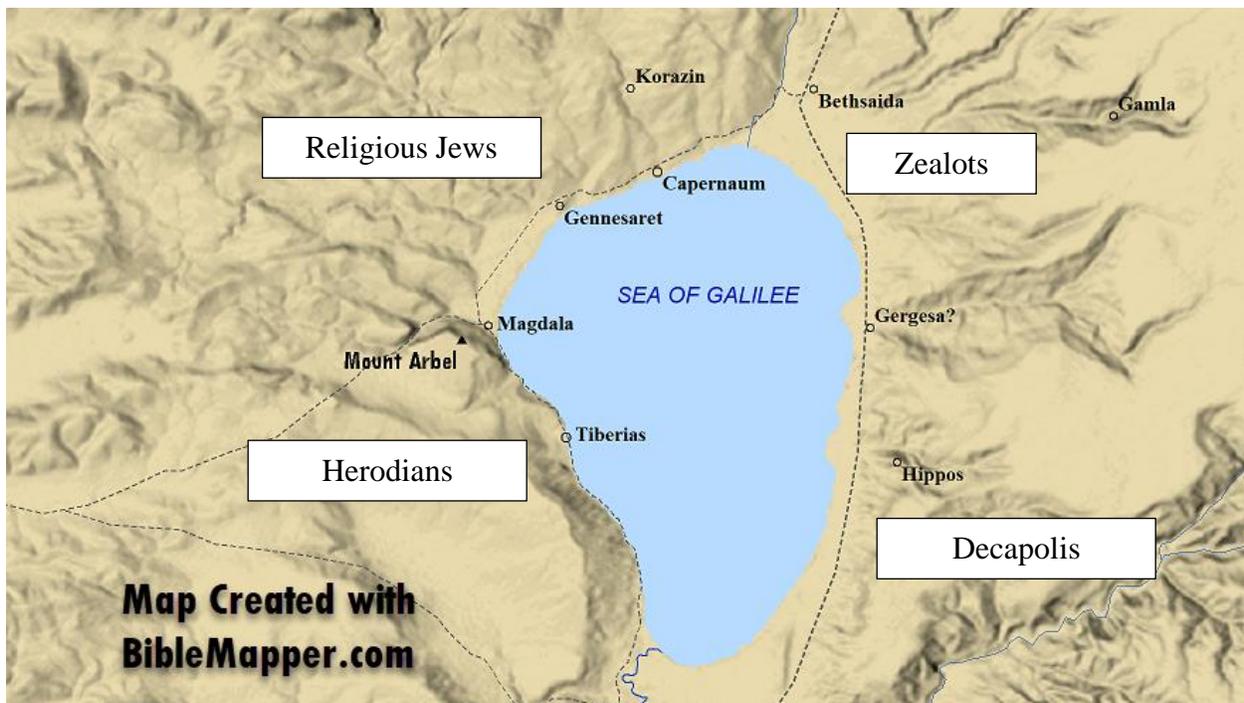


## 1. Sea of Galilee

- The land is the “5<sup>th</sup> Gospel” – see Bargil Pixner<sup>1</sup> (see also<sup>2</sup>
- Context matters – the Gospel writers are careful to tell us
  - The audience.
  - Location of the event.

## 2. Regions surrounding the Sea of Galilee:



- The regions surrounding the lake were quite segregated:
  1. **Religious Jews** - northwest corner. This is where the majority of Jesus' ministry takes place (Matt. 11:20).
  2. **Herodians** - Southwest corner. Herod Antipas placed his capital city – Tiberias (named for the Roman Caesar at the time Tiberias) – around 20 AD.
  3. **Pagans** - Decapolis. The city of Hippos (Susita) was located on the Southeast corner. An entirely pagan city with all the pagan gods and temples.
  4. The **Zealots** - Northeast corner. The HQ of the Zealot movement was a small village called Gamla (Aramaic for Camel).
- For example, the feeding of the 5000 vs. 4000.

<sup>1</sup> Bargil Pixner, *With Jesus Through Galilee According to the Fifth Gospel*. (1992) (this book is increasingly difficult to find).

<sup>2</sup> Bargil Pixner, *Paths of the Messiah: And Sites of the Early Church from Galilee to Jerusalem*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press. 2010.

### 3. A Region of Political and Religious Opposites:

- If Jesus wanted an isolated ministry, he would have stayed in Nazareth.
- Herod Antipas' capital city at Tiberias:
  - His father – Herod the Great – had massacred many Galileans to gain power and appease Rome in the 30<sup>s</sup> BC.
  - The massacre happened at Mount Arbel
  - Many of those Galileans went on to become Zealots
- Herod wanted to be a full King –
  - Tiberias and Herod Antipas represent the oppressive Roman power
- Zealots (Gamla):
  - Hyper-patriotic Jews who resorted to violence and terrorism to fight the Roman oppression.
  - “Only God can rule over the land of Israel!”
- Religious Jews vs. Decapolis:
  - Decapolis is considered unclean and to be avoided.
- How do you keep your kids from the deceptively attractive culture of the Decapolis
  - “I’m number one!”
  - “I deserve a break today!”
  - “I did it my way!”

### 4. Capernaum:

- Hebrew – *Kafar Nahum* – the Village of Nahum
- Main industries:
  - Fishing – a fishing port on the sea.
  - Food processing equipment
  - Millstones
- Matthew 18:6 –
  - The event is located in Capernaum (see Matt. 17:24)
  - Jesus teaches what you can see.
  - He doesn’t teach “millstones and sea” in Jerusalem.
  - He teaches “millstones and sea” where there are “millstones” and the “sea.”