



# MARK

*The Gift of God*





# *Fostering Fledgling Faith*

Mark 5:21-43



- Mark 4:35–8:26 → the disciples' faith
  - Challenges, illustrations of His power (over nature, demons, sickness, death), examples, tests
  - *LBTB*: emphasized, repeated, related, alike, unlike, true to life

## Mark 5:21-6:5



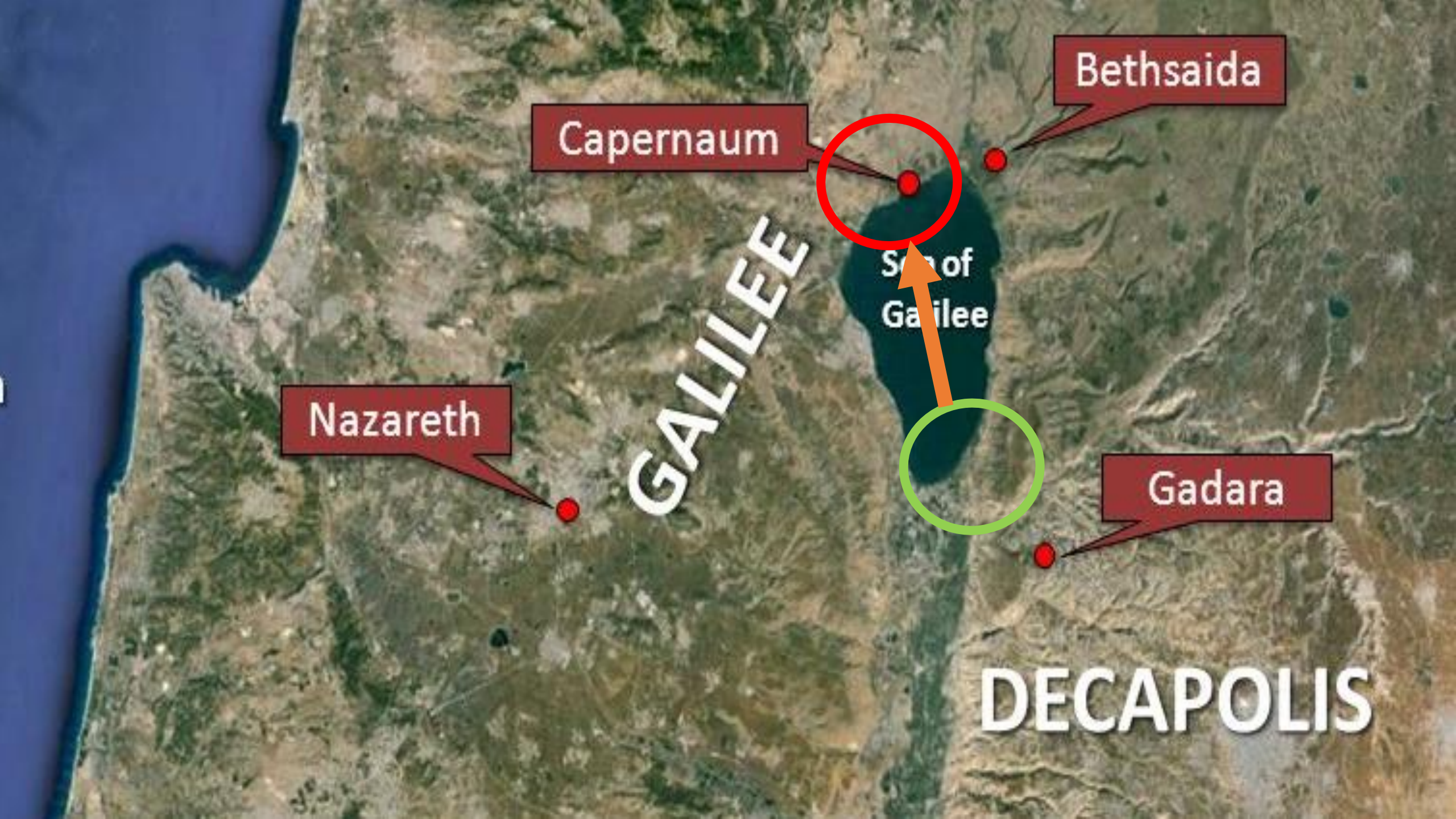
- Building faith in Jesus:

1. His Authority over the Natural
2. His Authority over the Supernatural
3. His Authority over Sickness
4. His Authority over Death



## Authority Over Sickness

- After Jesus freed the demoniac, the people rejected Him and asked Him to leave (5:17)
- Jesus got back into the boat (18) and sailed back to the other side of the lake (21)



Bethsaida

Capernaum

Nazareth

GALILILEE

Sea of Galilee

Gadara

DECAPOLIS



## Authority Over Sickness

- One of the synagogue officials named Jairus
  - He humbled himself before Jesus
  - He was risking everything
  - “My little daughter is at the point of death” – *utter desperation!*



# Authority Over Sickness

- Jairus' fledgling faith
  - He at least recognized Jesus as a healer
  - But assumed Jesus needed to touch her
- Jesus responded to *his* request
  - In the midst of a *large crowd*
  - Willing to work with even a spark of faith





## Authority Over Sickness

- Interruption: A woman who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years
  - She was incurable (Luke 8:43)
  - She was *unclean* (Lev. 15:19-30)
  - She was an outcast (*heard of Jesus - 27*)
  - She was desperate!



## Authority Over Sickness

- “If I just touch His garments, I will get well.”
  - Many had tried (3:10)
  - Many were trying (5:24, 31)
  - Many will try later and succeed (6:56)
  - Why was this time different?




## Authority Over Sickness

- The woman's fledgling faith
  - She recognized Jesus could heal
  - But assumed it was the touch that did it
  - She thought she could do it secretly
- Jesus sought to fan the spark into flame
  - He wanted more than just her health



## A Note of Caution!

- “Your faith has made you well” (34)
  - Faith is the cord, not the outlet
  - Faith is the hose, not the hydrant
  - It is the means, not the source
    - It is NOT like *The Force*!



## A Note of Caution!

- It is GOD who heals!
  - He is sovereign – He decides
  - He is all-wise – He knows what is best
  - He is good – even when we don't *get it*
  - He is love – beyond our understanding



## Authority Over Sickness

- Their view of Jesus was accurate but incomplete
  - Just like the disciples!
- Jesus used these instances to move everyone to greater and deeper understanding and faith



## Authority Over Death

- The girl died and everyone lost hope (35)
  - What went thru Jairus' mind?
- “Do not be afraid, only believe.”
  - “You came to Me for a reason. Keep believing!”



# Authority Over Death

- Did Jesus tell a lie? (39)
  - No -- people often misunderstood His meaning (e.g. – John 2:19-20)
  - Death as *sleep* – John 11:11-15
    - “I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe”





## Authority Over Death

- The wailers mock Jesus (40)
  - Professional mourners (Amos 5:16-17)
    - Evidence her death was real
- Only the parents and 3 disciples allowed
  - 2 or 3 witnesses (Deut. 17:6)
  - Cf. *The Transfiguration* (Mark 9:2)



## Authority Over Death

- Jesus took the dead girl's hand (41)
  - Unclean again! (Lev. 19:11-13)
- "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"
- *They were amazed with great amazement*
  - No one even considered this
  - Where they asking: "Who is this?"



## Four Stories – 4:35-5:43

- The storm could not be survived
- The demoniac could not be restrained
- The woman could not be healed
- The girl could not be revived



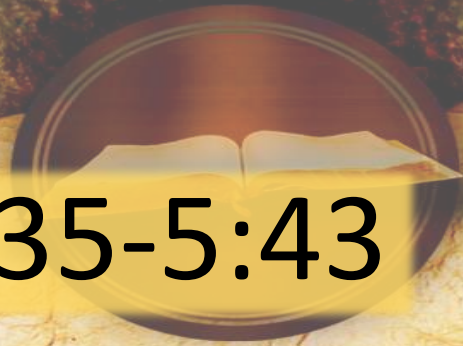
## Four Stories – 4:35-5:43

- Jesus showed His authority over nature
- The demoniac could not be restrained
- The woman could not be healed
- The girl could not be revived



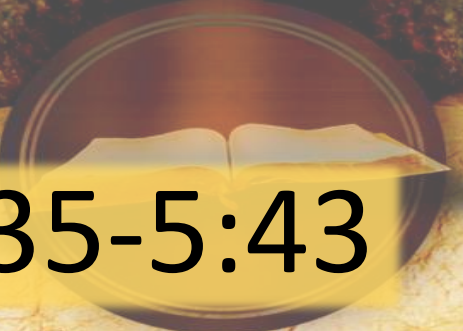
## Four Stories – 4:35-5:43

- Jesus showed His authority over nature
- Jesus showed His authority over demons
- The woman could not be healed
- The girl could not be revived



## Four Stories – 4:35-5:43

- Jesus showed His authority over nature
- Jesus showed His authority over demons
- Jesus showed His authority over sickness
- The girl could not be revived



## Four Stories – 4:35-5:43

- Jesus showed His authority over nature
- Jesus showed His authority over demons
- Jesus showed His authority over sickness
- Jesus showed His authority over death

## So What?



- God uses pain and desperation to drive us to Himself
  - No human solution will work
    - God let the woman try for 12 years!
    - Maybe you need to try something new
  - But that is only the beginning





## So What?

- God uses pain and desperation to drive us to Himself
  - “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” – C. S. Lewis

## So What?



- It is an immature faith that sees only what it can get from God
  - And that demands only *good*
  - God doesn't heal everyone of everything
    - 2 Cor. 12:7-10
- Maturing faith seeks God regardless