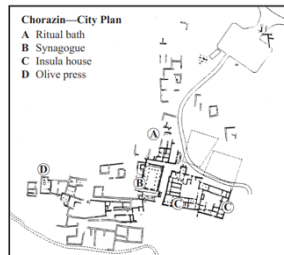


1st Century Synagogue Life – Jewish village life in the 1st century was centered around the synagogue, literally. Below is a plan of Chorazin, a typical village, that shows the synagogue surrounded by multi-generational homes. We believe the synagogue was a type of community center, school, and worship place all in one. The congregation at Nazareth was probably about the size of a typical Sunday at Calvary. They would be seated along the perimeter of the building facing each other. A speaker, often a visiting rabbi but sometimes a member of the congregation, would first read from a pre-assigned Torah portion. Today, this is standardized, and every synagogue, including messianic Jewish synagogues, reads the same portion. This week, they read the Passover story in Exodus 13-17. This is followed by a reading from the writings, Isaiah 61 in Jesus’ case. In Jesus’ day, we aren’t sure if a set reading schedule was followed or whether Jesus picked Isaiah 61. After standing to read the Scriptures, the speaker would sit and give a brief teaching called *d’rash*. **Stoning** was the prescribed penalty for blasphemy. Strictly speaking, Jews did not have the power to prescribe capital punishment and of course, the Torah requires due process for the accused.

Setting of Lesson 12: Shechem, Cana, Nazareth, Capernaum



Memory Verse #12: Chain-breaker: Luke 4:18-19 – “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim _____ to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim _____ to the captives and recovering of _____ to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's _____.”

Walking in His Dust: Talmidim _____ before we _____: 2 Peter 3:17-18 - Be on your guard so that you are not _____ by the _____ of unscrupulous people and _____ your own firm commitment. _____ in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Lesson notes & questions:



“Go make disciples...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Mt 28:19-20)

Word Wednesday Lesson 12 – THIS DAY

John 4:31-51; Luke 4:16-30

Lesson Reflections (review before Apply nights):

- What is at least one new thing I learned about loving God or loving my neighbor?
- Which topics would I like to know more about or need clarification on?
- How does the Holy Spirit want me to apply the lesson’s Scripture to my discipleship?

APPLY!

- Share your “Lesson Reflections” responses with the group.
- **Read Luke 4:16-21.**
 - Also, read verse 18 in KJV. What is different?
 - What general things does Jesus reveal about Himself?
 - Answer in the form of praise. For example, “Jesus, I praise you because ... “
 - **Read Matthew 5:2-12.** How do Luke 4 and Matthew 5 relate to each other?
 - Spiritual blindness is a central theme, particularly in John’s gospel. **Read 2 Corinthians 4:4.** What do we learn from this cross-reference?
 - **Read Leviticus 25:10.** Let us be a people and a nation that proclaims
 - How would you summarize this sermon?
 - What specific examples of good news, healing, liberty, sight, or favor has He done for you?
- **Read Luke 4:24-30.** What was/were the error(s) the people of Nazareth made? How do we guard against these errors?
- **Read Leviticus 25:10.** Why do you think this verse is on the Liberty Bell? In view of what we just read in Luke 4, define biblical liberty. Is it the freedom to do whatever you want and be left alone, or is there a higher goal for our nation?



GO!

- What is God saying to you, and how are you responding?
- What is something you are excited about right now?
- What is a big challenge you are facing right now?
- Who is on your heart right now and why?
- Review the last lesson’s GO section. What prayers has God answered?
- Pray for one another!