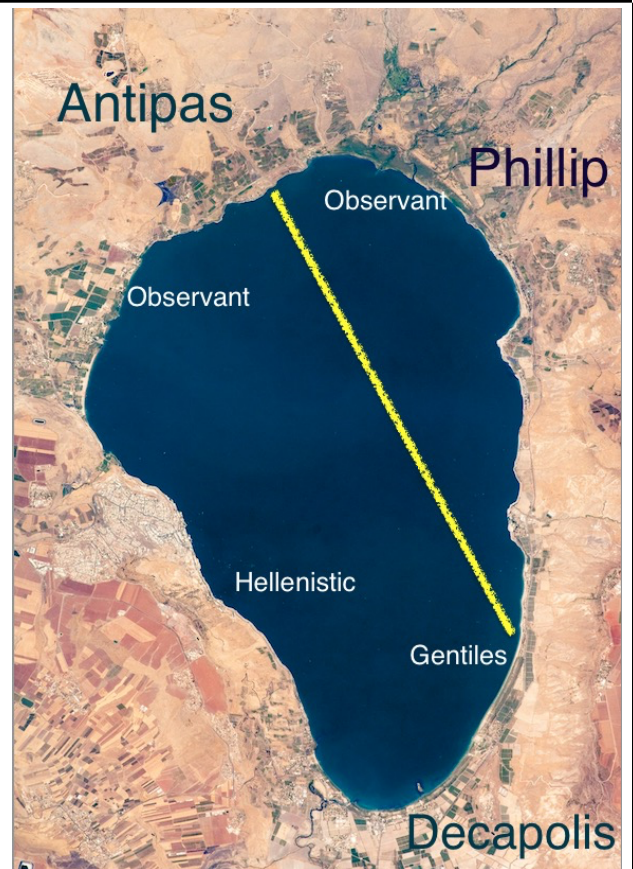


Other Side: Besides merely traveling from one side of the lake to the other, there were different political jurisdictions and ethnic compositions at different locations around the sea. “Going to the other side,” was an idiom like we might use “wrong side of the tracks” today. “Hellenistic” refers to those who claimed to be Jewish but adopted a Greek lifestyle. There is no record of Jesus visiting this area. The times when He visited the Gentile Decapolis region are few but highly significant, as seen in this lesson. He spent almost all His Galilean ministry along the northern shore amongst those who took their faith more seriously.

Storms: the Sea of Galilee is 690’ below sea level, with hills as high as 2,000’ feet surrounding it. During stormy conditions, the warm, moist air above the water will often rise, while cooler air from the hills rapidly descends fed by unstable air from the Mediterranean funneled through a narrow canyon at the western-most edge of the lake. This creates high wind speeds and large waves at the water’s surface.



Memory Verse #27: “Who then _____, that even the wind and the sea _____ Him?” (Mark 4:41).

Lesson notes & questions:

Lesson Reflections *(review before Apply nights):*

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

APPLY!

- Share any “Lesson Reflections” with the group. Recite this lesson’s memory verse and discuss what it means to you.
- **Calming of the storm: Mark 4:35-41**
 - What do you conclude from the detailed definition of the storm in verse 37 and that Jesus is sleeping through it in verse 38?
 - If you know the story of **Jonah 1**, what parallels are there with Mark 4?
 - **Read Psalm 107:24-32**. Why does God want us to know He has power over nature?
 - What kind of faith is Jesus asking the disciples to have in verse 40?
 - Why is fear the enemy of faith?
 - How can we better realize that Jesus is there with us in our storms and in our fear?
 - How would you answer the question posed by the disciples in verse 41?
- **Legion and the Swine: Mark 5:1-20**
 - Recall that Gadera is generally the region where Reuben, Gad, and part of Manasseh settled during the time of Joshua. They saw that the land was pleasing to the eye and profitable for cattle herding. In Jesus’ time, it is a land of gentiles, demon-possessed, and pig farmers. What can this teach us about the dangers of straying from God (in a way that initially seems insignificant) and compromising with the world?
 - What can we learn about Jesus’ reaction to someone who is a social outcast? How can we be more like Jesus towards those who do not fit in?
 - Why don’t the demons want to leave the region? What does this tell us about demons and territory?
 - What are some possible reasons Jesus doesn’t permit the restored man to accompany Him? Share a time when the Lord has said “no” to what you thought was a fair request, but you subsequently learned there was a greater purpose.
 - Why does Jesus tell others to keep miracles quiet, but he tells this man to share?
 - Time permitting, **read Acts 16:16-24** and note parallels with Mark 5:6-20.
- **Spend the last five minutes in prayer pairs**
 - Praise for answered prayers, growth, and how God is working in your life
 - Petitions for specific challenges and intercessions for others