

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND ON CAPERNAUM

Location

The Town Itself

It's Economy

The Synagogue

First-Century Population Estimates

CAPERNAUM AS JESUS' HEADQUARTERS

Described as Jesus' own City (Matt 9:1, cf. Mark 2:1, which says Capernaum)

Peter, Peter's Mother-in-Law, and his Brother Andrew Had Moved There (Mark 1:29)

Earlier, they had lived in nearby Bethsaida (John 1:44)

Jesus Called Matthew to Follow Him at Capernaum (Matt 9:9)

Jesus Dwelt at Capernaum (per Matt 4:13)

(After the Cana Wedding) Jesus, Mary, His Brothers, His Disciples Went to Capernaum

John 2:12 says that all of them went to Capernaum, but Jesus did not stay long.

Likely, Capernaum was Mary's home. I presume Jesus escorted her home.

ESTIMATING CAPERNAUM'S DEMOGRAPHICS

Average world birth/death rate today: 18.5 births per 1000 total population
-7.8 deaths per 1000 total population
10.7 RNI (Rate of Natural Increase)

This is with birth control, modern medicine, modern agriculture, etc.

World Population Estimates

In 1400 (with the Plague) world population was less than 400,000,000
(Slightly more than current U.S. population: 327,200,000)

In 2000 world population was somewhat above 6,06,000,000

In other words the population today is 15 times what it was in 1400

Birth Rates: The birth rate in the first century may have been 80 per 1000
Many third-world countries have a rate of 30 per 1000

Infant and Child Mortality Rates:

In the ancient world about 1 in 4 children died in their first year

In the ancient world about 1 in 4 children died between ages 1-15

Applying these rates to Capernaum

EXPOSITION

Jesus asked His disciples who would be great in the Millennium (Matt 18:1)

Jesus stood a little child amongst the disciples as an object lesson (18:2-5)

Jesus warned against offending young believers (18:6-7)

Implication: The simplicity of the message of life

CONCLUSION