

Are Your Hearts Hardened?

What's Your Answer Series

Solid Rock Church

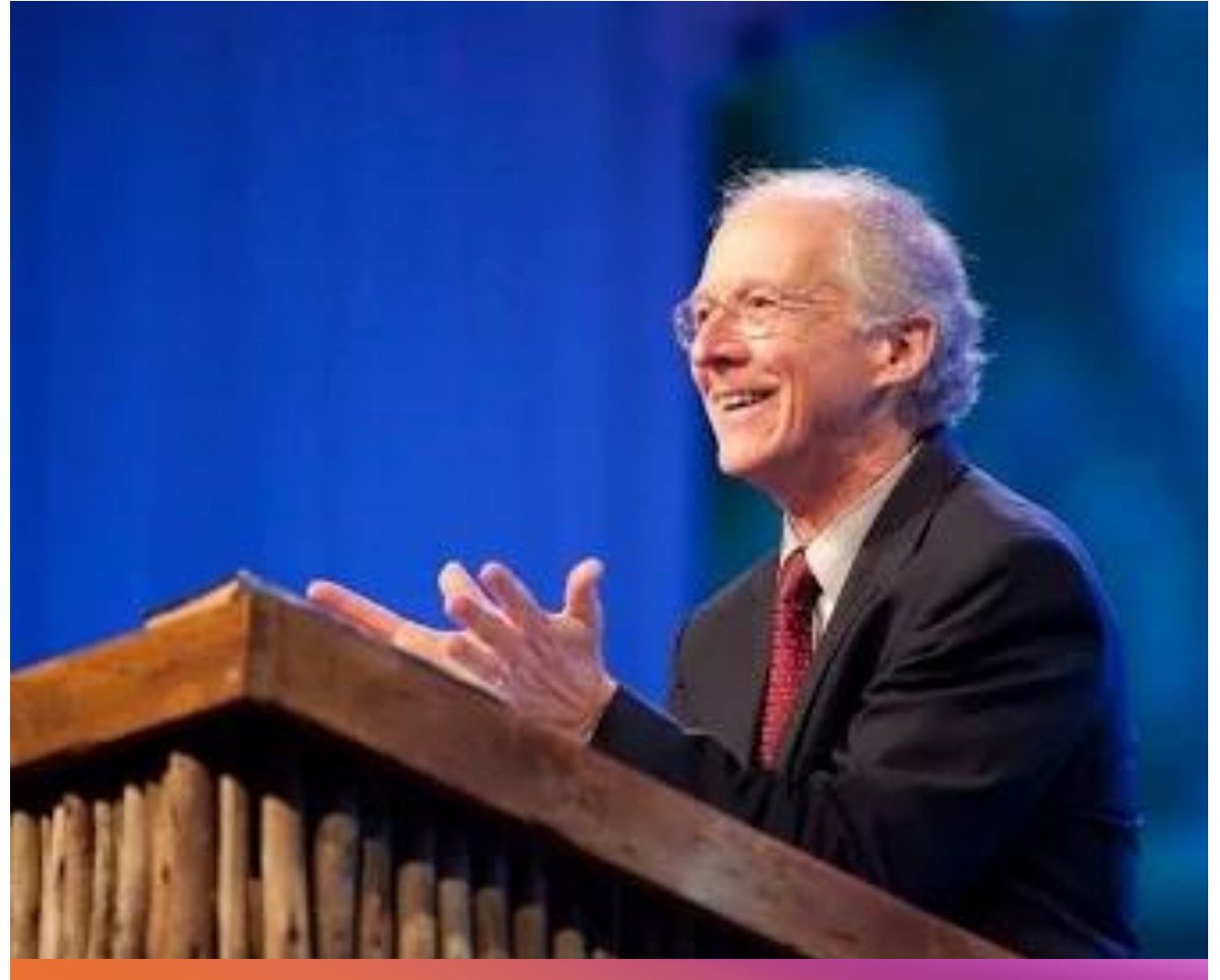
Pastor Elliott Anderson



Hardened Heart

“A spiritual condition of stubbornness, pride, and unresponsiveness to God and human compassion. A person with a hardened heart refuses to turn away from sin or seek God for full restoration.”

John Piper





OT Hardened Heart

Throughout the entire OT as
pridefully refusing the Lord

3 key Hebrew words used:

Chazaq: to be strong, resolute

Kabed: to be heavy, weighted

Qashah: to be severe, or stiff

Most Famous Hardened Heart

Exodus 8:15, But when **Pharoah** say that there was a respite, he hardened his heart and would not listen to them...

Exodus 9: 12, But the Lord hardened the heart of **Pharaoh**, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had spoken to Moses.



A close-up photograph of a cracked asphalt surface. The words "HARDENED HEARTS" are written in a bold, red, serif font, appearing to be painted or stamped onto the pavement. The cracks in the asphalt are prominent and run in various directions, some intersecting the letters.

**HARDENED
HEARTS**

New Testament

Hebrews 3: 8, Do not **harden your hearts** as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness.

John 12: 40, God has blinded their eyes and **hardened their heart...**

Jesus “Hardened Heart”

Mark 3: 5 **Pharisees**

Judged Jesus for healing on Sabbath

Mark 6: 52 **Disciples**

Poor response to walking on water

Mark 10:5 **Pharisees**

Looked for “lawful” divorce

Mark 16:14 **Disciples**

Doubted initial resurrection reports

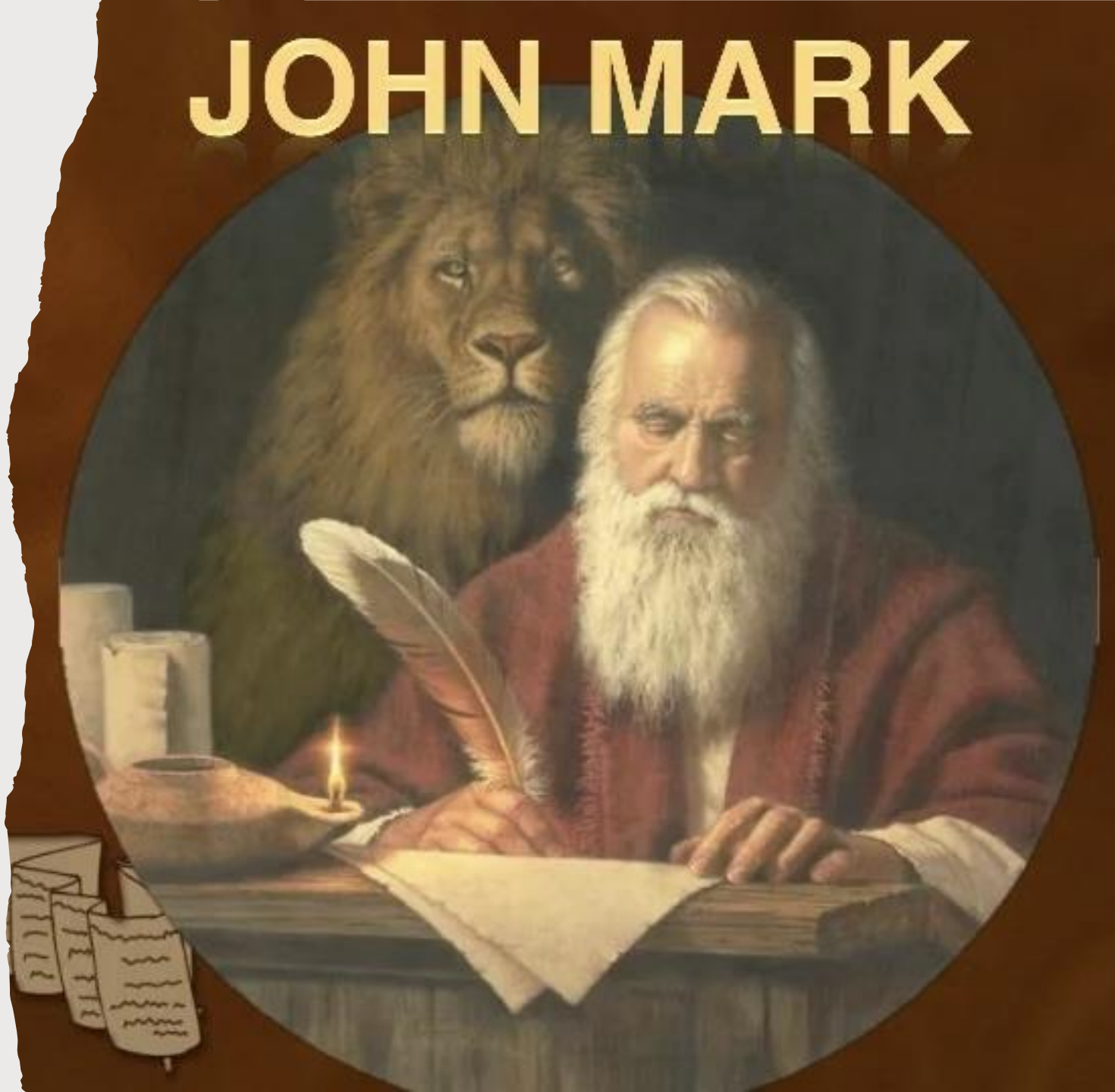


Mark's Gospel

Peter's narrative recorded
Cousin of Barnabas
(Colossians 4:10)

Focused on the Gentiles
Action over Sermons
Identity of Jesus
Cost of Discipleship

JOHN MARK





Pivotal Chapter

From Jewish focus
to Gentile inclusion

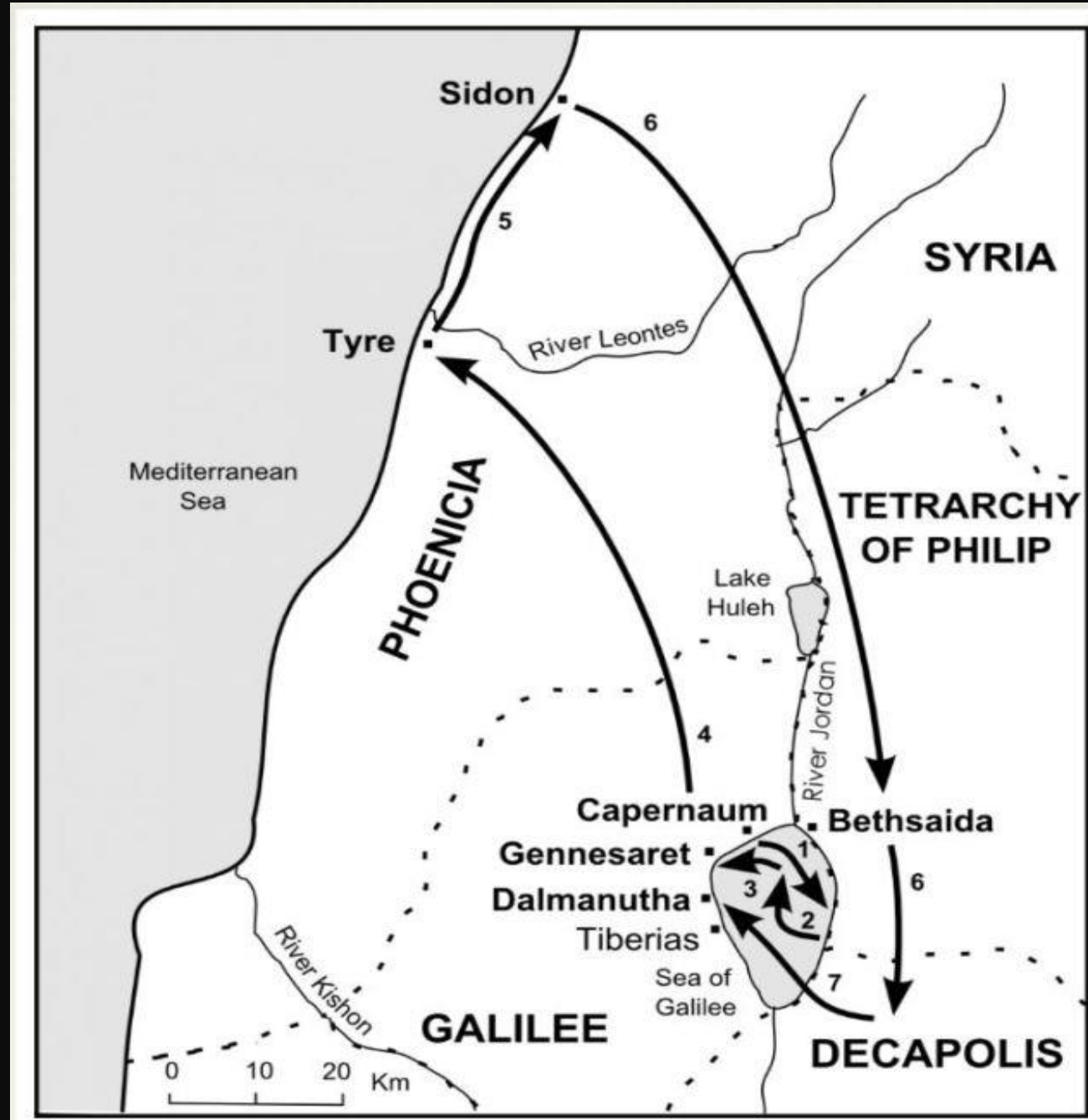
Public miracles to
private teachings

Rabbi to Son of Man

Mark 7: Week of Travel Gentile Cities

Mark 7: 31, Then Jesus returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of Decapolis.

90 Miles: 7 – 8 walking days



Compassion for the Crowds

Mark 8: 1 – 3, In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples to Him and said to them, “**I have compassion** on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them came from far away.”

Organizing and Preparing the Miracle

Mark 8: 4 – 5, And the disciples answered Him, How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place? And Jesus asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.” And **Jesus directed the crowd** to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, He broke them and gave them to His disciples to set before the people...

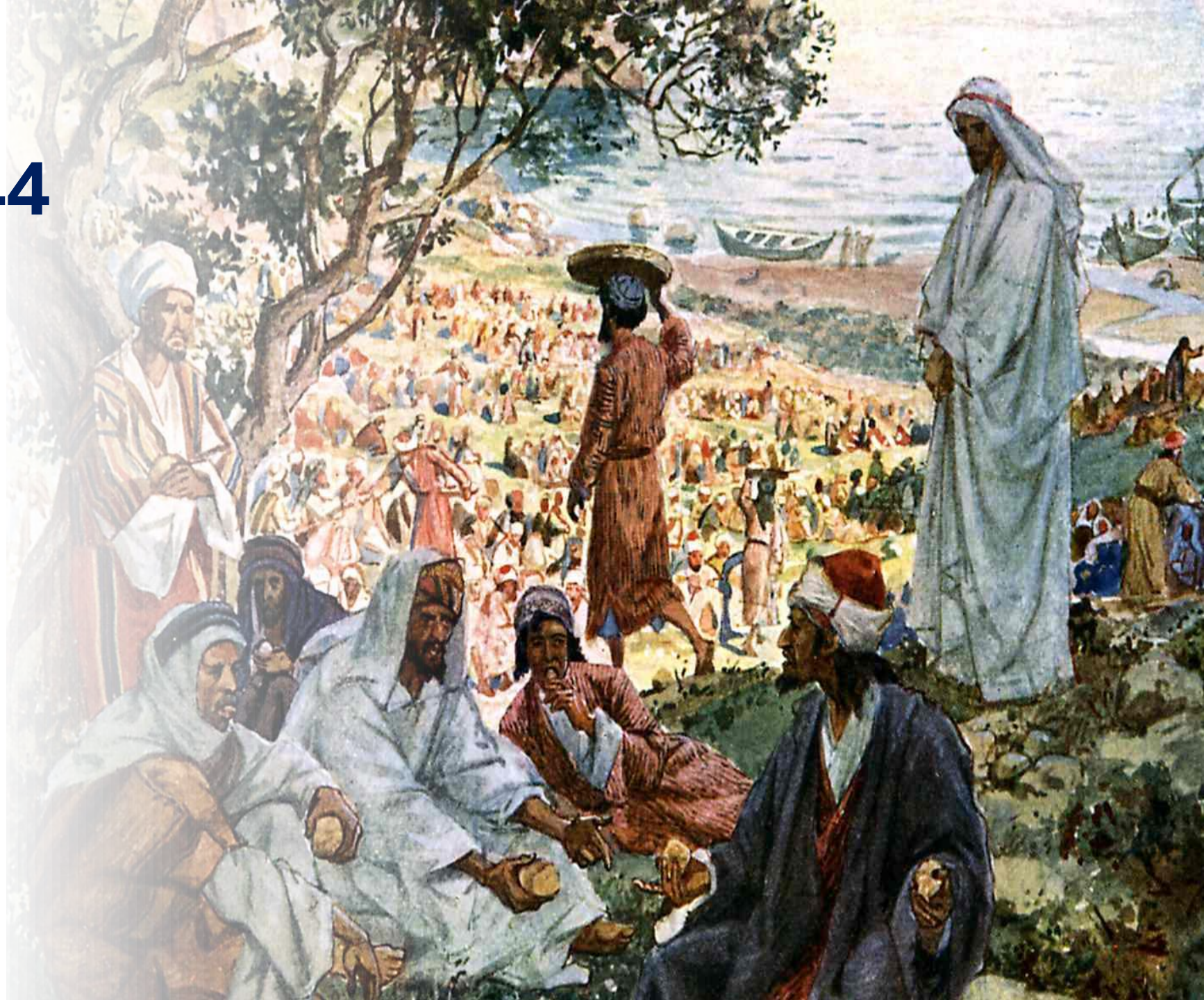
Mark 6: 30 - 44

Jesus feeds 5,000

Up to 20,000

Bethsaida area

5 loaves, 2 Fishes





2nd Large Group Miracle Feeding

Mark 8: 7 – 10, And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, Jesus said that these also should be set before the people. **And they ate and were satisfied.** And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. And there were about 4,000 people. And He sent them away. And immediately Jesus got into a boat and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

Comparison of Feeding the 5,000 and the 4,000

MARK 6:34-44

- ▣ Feeding of the 5,000
- ▣ One Day
- ▣ Mostly Jews
- ▣ Bethsaida on the northeastern shore of the Sea of Galilee
- ▣ 5 loaves and 2 fish
- ▣ 12 small baskets of leftovers

MARK 8:1-9

- ▣ Feeding of the 4,000
- ▣ Three Days
- ▣ Mostly Gentiles
- ▣ Decapolis on the southeastern shore of the Sea of Galilee
- ▣ 7 loaves and a few small fish
- ▣ 7 large baskets of leftovers

Symbolism of 12 and 7

12 Baskets from Jewish Feeding
7 from Gentile feeding

12 Disciples / Apostles
7 days of Creation

12 Tribes of Israel
7 Churches of Revelation

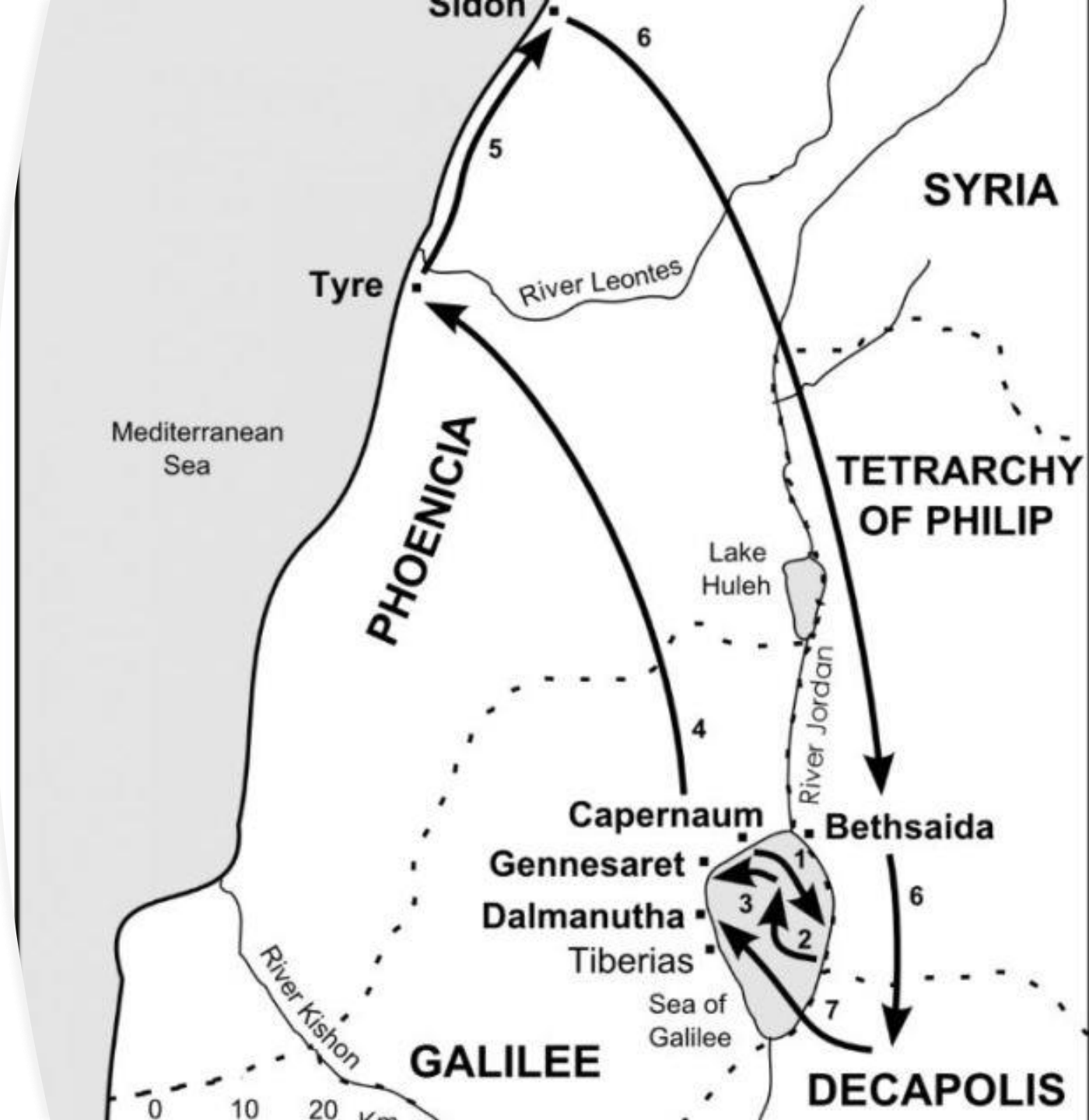
12 Gates in New Jerusalem
7 symbols of 7 in Revelation

From Decapolis to Dalmanutha

Mark 8: 10, And immediately Jesus got **into a boat** and went to the district of Dalmanutha

2 – 4 hour boat trip

A break from the crowds



Dalmanutha: Break Over!

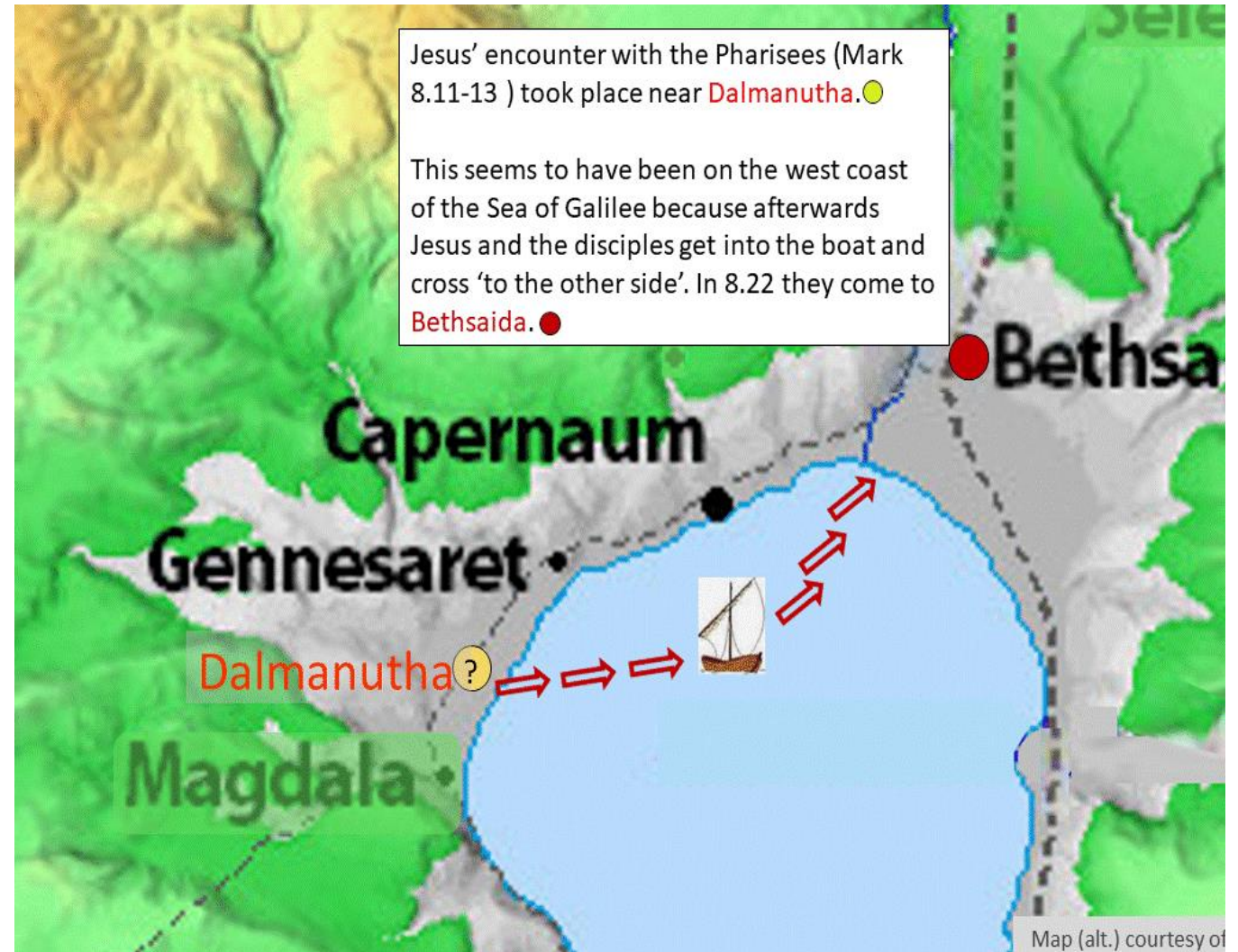
Mark 8: 11 – 12, The Pharisees came and **began to argue** with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. And **Jesus sighed deeply** in his spirit and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation.”

“Signs” Mark: 1 - 5

- Mark 1: 21 – 28** Casting out unclean spirits in Synagogue
- Mark 1: 29 – 31** Healing Peter’s mother-in-law
- Mark 1: 32 – 34** Healing tons of people
- Mark 1: 40 - 45** Healing a leper
- Mark 2: 1- 12** Healing the paralytic
- Mark 3: 1 – 6** Healing man with withered hand
- Mark 3: 7 – 12** Healing the multitude by the sea
- Mark 5: 25 – 34** Healing the bleeding woman

Mark 8: 13 – 14, And Jesus left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side. Now, the Disciples had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat.

Mark 8:22 - Bethsaida





Mark 8: 13 – 21

Boat Ride of Questions

Jesus asks Disciples
8 questions over the
next 6 verses.

Disciples answer 2

Penetrating Rhetorical Questions

Mark 8: 16 – 19, And the Disciples began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not perceive or understand? **Are your hearts hardened?** Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? When I broke the 5 loaves for the 5,000, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?”

Questions and Answers

Mark 8: 19 – 21, They said to Jesus, “Twelve.” And Jesus asked them, “And the seven for the 4,000, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?” And they said to him, “Seven.” And He said to them, “***Do you not yet understand?***”

What Does Jesus Want Us to Understand?

He has unlimited power to provide and care for us.

We should not worry about food or be corrupted by the spiritual hypocrisy of the religious leaders.

Matthew 6:25, Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink...

What Hardens Our Heart to The Provisions of Jesus?

SIN!!

Ephesians 4: 18, They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

Hiding Sin – Rebellion – Hardens Us

Proverbs 28: 13 – 14,

Whoever hides his sin will not prosper, but he who confesses sin will obtain mercy...but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

Hebrews 3: 8, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness.

Do Not Harden Your Heart



PRINCETON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

LOVING GOD • LOVING OTHERS • LOVING YOU

1. We must Repent and Receive a New Heart!



We can become like Jesus only when we allow God to rid us of our old, hardened hearts and give us new hearts -- a heart that emulates His.

2. We must have the desire and believe the promise of a New Heart

Desire

Psalms 51:10, Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Promise

Ezekiel 36:26, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.



3. We must believe the truth of a New Heart

2 Corinthians 5:17, Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Hebrews 10:22, Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water

