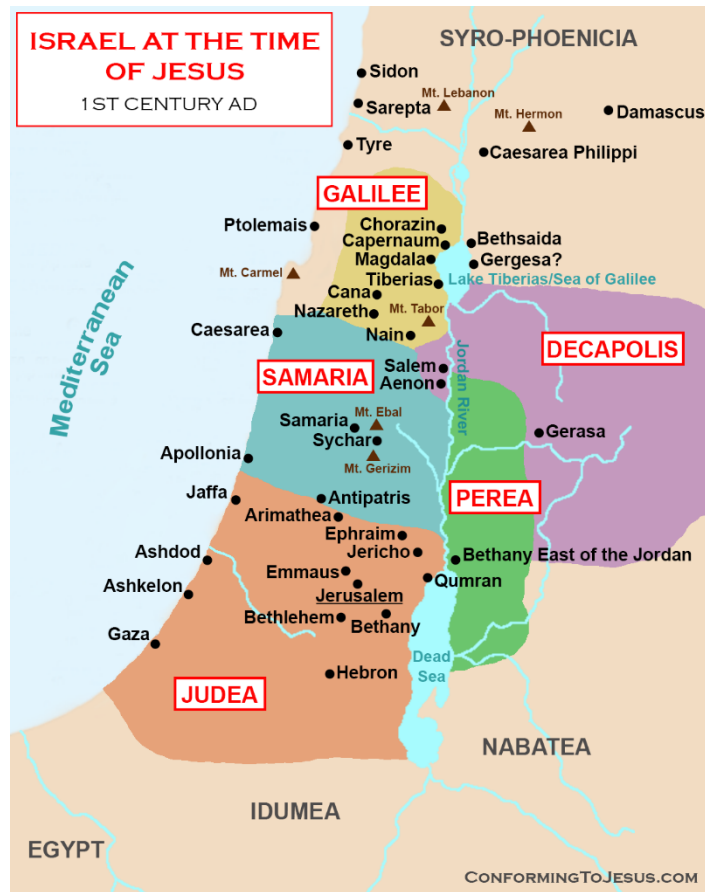


Session 5: Mark 3:7-4:20

DISCIPLES/FOLLOWERS

1. Read Mark 3:7-12. What points does Mark make in these verses?
2. Read Mark 3:13-19. Jesus again calls His followers (12 of them)—Jesus is the incarnation of a **seeking** God—He makes them “apostles.” What does that mean? Why 12?
3. Read Mark 3:20-35. Although Jesus performed many miracles and spoke with authority, many people began to reject him. What did his family think of him? Even worse, what did the religious leaders think of him?

4. How did Jesus show that the Pharisees’ charge was completely illogical?
5. Why is blaspheming (speaking outrageous, usually evil, things against God) the Holy Spirit unforgiveable? Is blaspheming Jesus unforgiveable?
6. The crowd had come to Jesus to see and experience his miraculous power (verses 7–12). Members of Jesus’ family had accused him of being out of his mind (verses 20–21). The Pharisees had accused Jesus of driving out demons by the prince of demons (verse 22). Yet some were true members of Jesus’ family. Who are they—then and today?



## THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER AND ITS EXPLANATION

7. Read Mark 4:1-20. In verses 3-8, what brings different outcomes for the sower?
  
8. In verses 10-13, what did Jesus say about why He speaks in parables? Is this what you would have expected Him to say about the reason for teaching in parables?
  
9. As you consider verse 12, read Isaiah 6:8-13. What is the significance of Jesus quoting this Old Testament passage to make his point?
  
10. In verse 14, what does the sower sow, and what spiritual reality does it represent?
  
11. In verse 15, who works to steal away what is sown and why?
  
12. In Mark 4:21-34. Each of these parables teach the disciples about work in the kingdom of God. What instructions does each parable give? What encouragement does it give?
  - a. Read Mark 4:21-25 --- The parable of the lamp.
  
  - b. Read Mark 4:26-29 --- The parable of the growing seed.
  
  - c. Read Mark 4:30-34 --- The parable of the mustard seed.