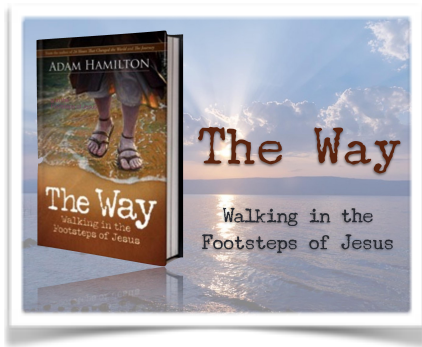


February 28, 2016 **Chapter 2**

The Healing Ministry Capernaum



Goals

- Understand the role of Capernaum in the life and ministry of Jesus.
- Reflect on the healing miracles of Jesus, especially miracles over paralysis and demon possession.
- Contemplate demons at the time of Jesus and demons in our day and age.
- Perceive how faith in Jesus Christ can play a role in dealing with demons of any sort.
- Recognize possible connections between spiritual maladies, such as guilt and shame, and physical maladies.
- Understand the ministry of what Adam Hamilton calls “stretcher-bearer,” both in the time of Jesus and in our time.

Biblical Foundation (*Mark 1:21-28*)

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He[a] commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Conversation Questions

- Did the town of Capernaum in the video look like you expected a town in biblical times to look?
- What surprised you about what you saw of the town of Capernaum?
- Think about the synagogue. What did you notice about the way it was built?
- What does the construction suggest?
- What kinds of demons infect us today?
- Which of these demons are of our own creation and which are demons over which we have no control and never had any control?
- Do demons only infect us individually, or do demons infect whole groups of people, perhaps even nations?
- How do you think Jesus would react to the demons that infect us today? Does he still say, “Come out?” Do the demons of today depart at Jesus’ word?

PALESTINE AT THE TIME OF JESUS

Chapter 2

