

## 13.53-16.20: Who is Jesus?

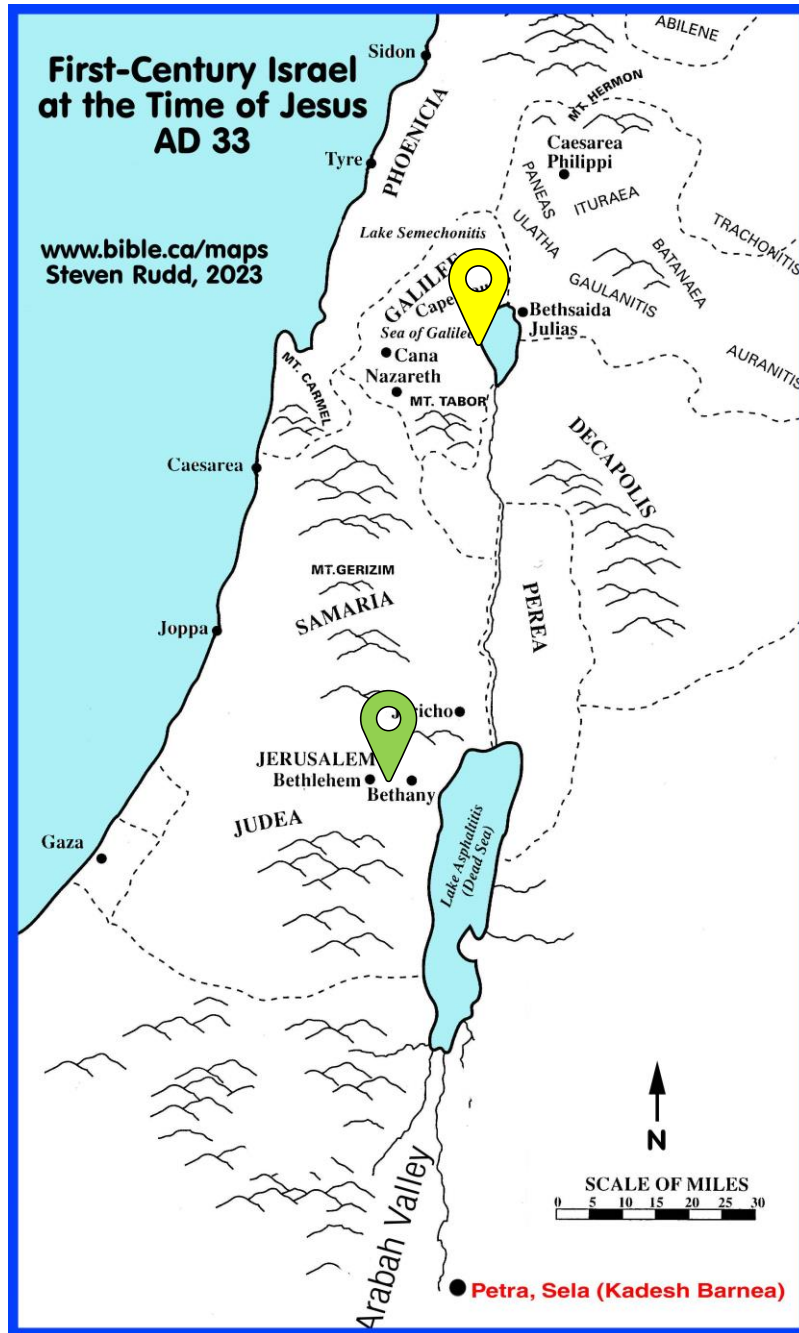
- Nazarenes – one of us; carpenter's son, Mary's son, brother of ...
- Herod – John the Baptist raised from the dead
- Disciples - the Son of God

### Jesus' identity through:

- Fulfillment of the OT
- Demonstrations of authority
  - Actions – walking on water
  - Teaching – challenging Pharisees' interpretation of the Law

# MATTHEW RECAP





# MATTHEW 15:1-20



# Two Foundational Issues:

## Authority of the Tradition of the Elders (Oral Law)

- **Oral Law** – rabbinical interpretations of Written Law (613 commands found in OT); intended to provide clarity to Written Law
- **Pharisees** – as binding as Written Law

## Source of spiritual defilement

- **Pharisees** – emphasis on externals

**Combined** – ceremonial handwashing was part of Oral Law intended to keep people from becoming unclean due to eating food with unclean hands

**MATTHEW**  
**15:1-20**



# Threefold Response

- **Obeying the Traditions of the Elders (Oral Law) can lead to disobeying the commands of God (Written Law)**
- **The Pharisees are hypocrites –** misperceptions about God are leading to behavior that is distancing them from Him
- **The source of our defilement is internal (what comes out of our hearts) not external (what we put into our stomachs)**

**MATTHEW  
15:1-20**





**Proverbs 4.23** - Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

- **Guard** – protect, watch over
- Hearts are accessed through eyes and ears
  - Mt 12 - Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit... A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.
- Be discerning without being pharisaical

# MATTHEW

## 15:1-20



**Phil 4.8** - Finally, brothers and sisters,

- **whatever is true** - conforms to reality; is aligned with God and His Kingdom
- **whatever is noble** - worthy of respect, honor, above reproach
- **whatever is right** - just in God's sight
- **whatever is pure** – morally blameless
- **whatever is lovely** – causes delight, pleasing
- **whatever is admirable**— commendable
- **if anything is excellent** – virtuous
- **or praiseworthy**— worthy of approval or recognition
- **think about such things** - carefully ponder, let one's mind dwell on

# MATTHEW

## 15:1-20

