

## **Welcome to Galilee!**

### **John 4:43-45**

Mark 1:14-15; Matthew 4:17; Luke 4:14-15

**Intro:** I love Galilee! Among its highlights is the largest “sweet water body” in Israel, the Sea of Galilee. It sits in a bowl, below sea level, and is surrounded by mountains on its east and west shores, the Rosh Pinna Sil to the north with the mouth of the Jordan River exiting to the south. In biblical times the entire coast would have been dotted with little fishing villages. Today, fishing is still a major industry around the lake. The entire region is punctuated with undulating hills and valleys always fertile and inviting. In the spring of the year, the hill sides explode with the radiant colors of wild flowers. And on top of all this it is not densely populated like Judea; rural and fairly open to all who travel through. It’s easy for me to see why Jesus would retreat to this region frequently.

#### **I. The OT Galilee—open to all, including foreign armies.**

- A. Assyrians and company: II Kings 15:29
- B. Darkness, gloom and despair: Isaiah 9:1

#### **II. The NT Galilee—a retreat for Jesus and others.**

- A. A provision for safety: Matthew 2:22 (Joseph); John 7:9 (Jesus)
- B. Retreat: Matthew 4:12; Mark 1:12; Luke 4:14; John 4:3 (Jesus)
- C. A place called “home”: Luke 2:4; Matthew 21:11 (Jesus)
- D. A place for calling disciples: Matthew 4:18; Mark 1:16
- E. A place for miracles: Matthew 4:23; 15:29-31; Luke 5:17
- F. A place for prophetic fulfillment: Matthew 4:15
- G. A place for prayer: Matthew 14:23; Luke 6:12; 9:28
- H. A place of infamy: John 1:46; John 7:52
- I. A place for those who are searching for Messiah: John 12:21

#### **III. Your “Galilee”—do you have one?**