

Matthew 14:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret.

Analysis

And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret (καὶ διαπεράσαντες ἦλθον ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν εἰς Γεννησαρέτ)—The verb διαπεράω (diaperaō, 'to cross over completely') indicates they successfully traversed the lake despite the storm that had nearly sunk them. Gennesaret (Γεννησαρέτ, from Hebrew Kinnereth, meaning 'harp-shaped') was a fertile plain on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee, south of Capernaum. Luke 5:1 calls the lake itself the 'Lake of Gennesaret,' while John calls it the Sea of Tiberias (6:1).

The journey from the eastern shore (where they fed the 5,000, cf. Mark 6:45, 53) to Gennesaret shows Jesus's intentional movement back to Jewish territory after the miracle. The plain was known for fertility—Josephus described it as a paradise with temperate climate and diverse crops. Jesus entered a place of plenty, yet the people's greatest need wasn't food but healing (vv. 35-36).

Historical Context

Gennesaret's plain was approximately three miles long and one mile wide, one of the most productive agricultural regions in Galilee. Josephus (Wars 3.10.8) praised its fertility and beauty. The region's prosperity contrasted with the spiritual poverty Jesus addressed. Archaeological remains show thriving first-century settlements around the lake, supporting the Gospel accounts of large crowds and multiple villages within close proximity.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's intentional movement to different regions model strategic ministry rather than random wandering?
2. In what ways do material prosperity and physical comfort sometimes blind people to their deeper spiritual needs?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ	διαπεράσαντες	ἦλθον	εἰς	τὴν	γῆν	Γεννησαρέτ
And	when they were gone over	they came	into	^{G3588}	the land	of Gennesaret
G2532	G1276	G2064	G1519		G1093	G1082

Additional Cross-References

Luke 5:1 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,