



Follow Me –

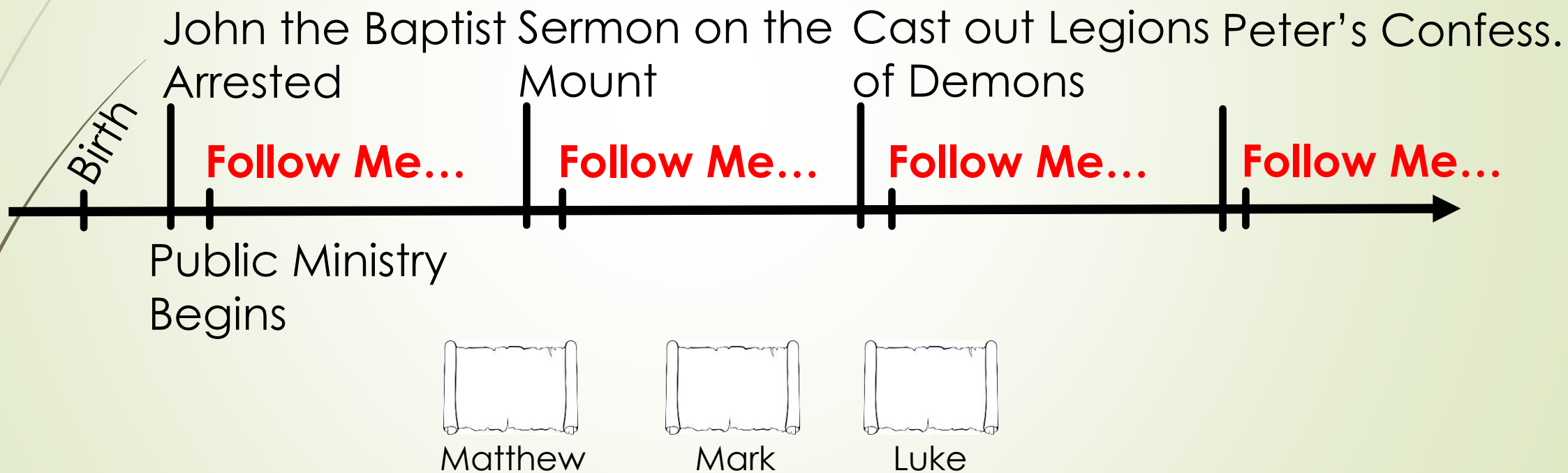
Take Up the Cross (Version 2 Part 1)

Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23 (John 12:26)

(Video indicates “Part 2”)

Timeline

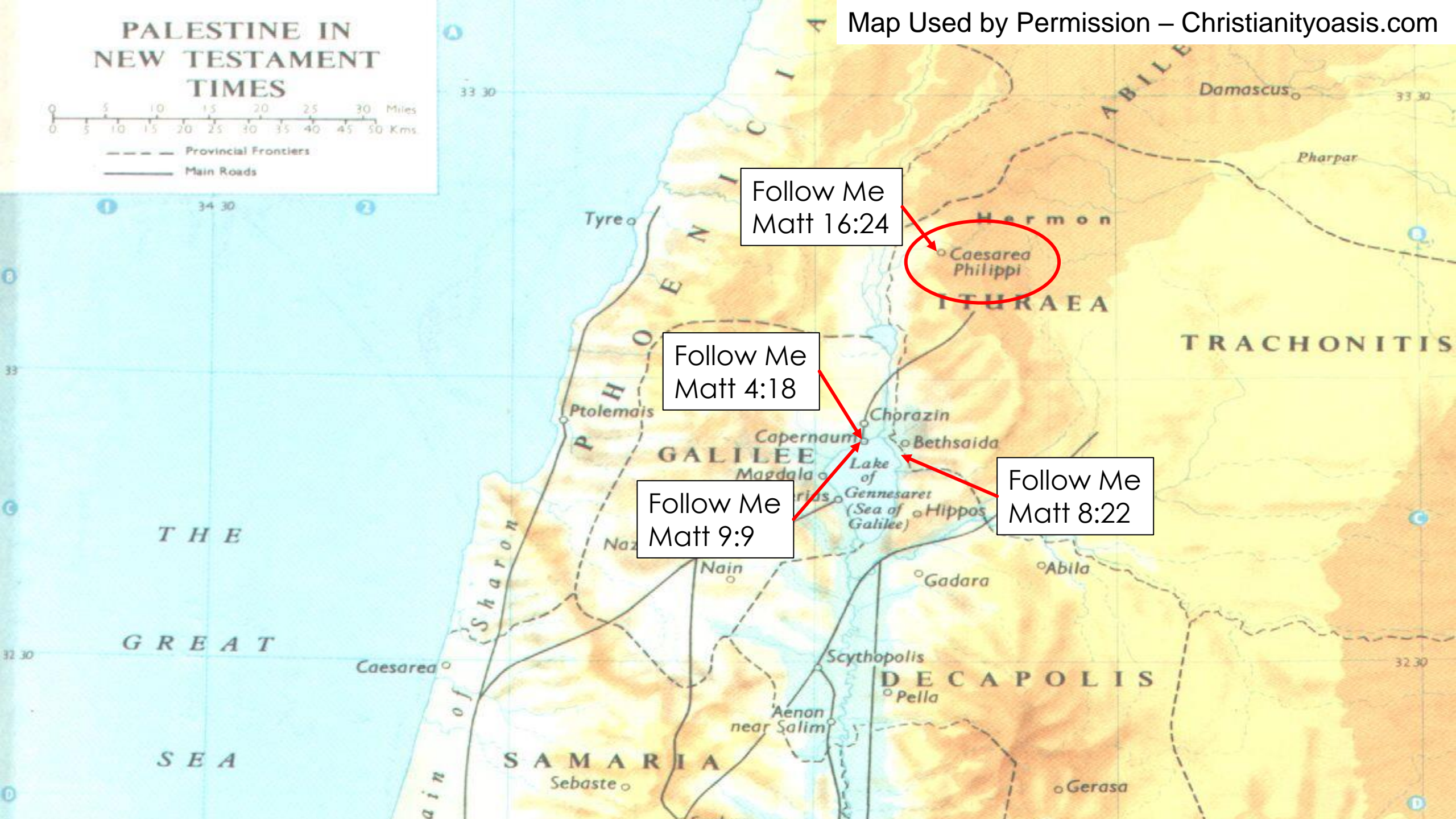
Follow Me – Take Up the Cross



PALESTINE IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES



--- Provincial Frontiers
— Main Roads



Follow Me
Matt 16:24



Follow Me
Matt 4:18



Follow Me
Matt 9:9

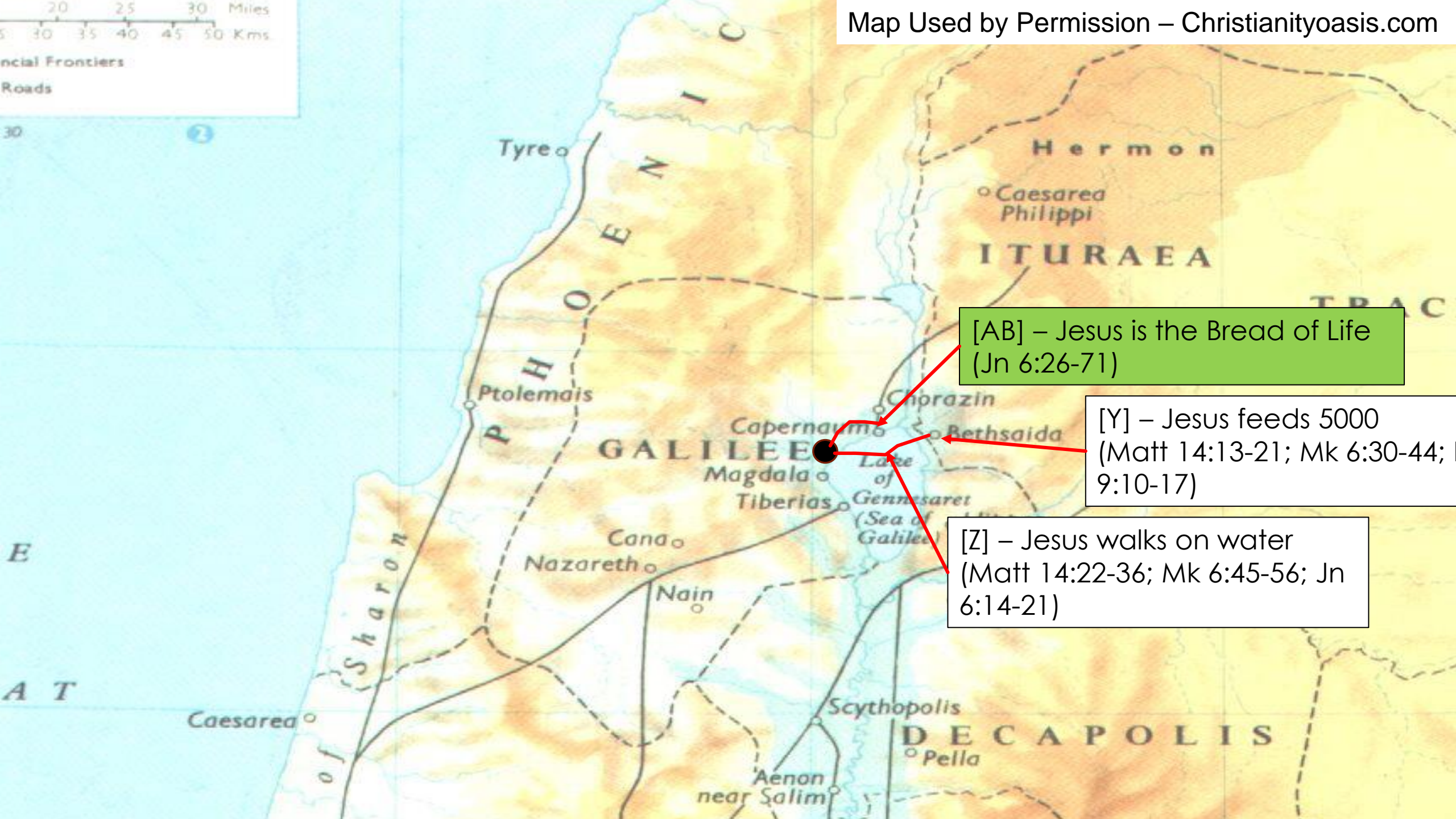


Follow Me
Matt 8:22



John 6:26-65 (NASB)

- 63** It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh provides no benefit; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit, and are life.
- 64** But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray Him.
- 65** And He was saying, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.”
- 66** As a result of this many of His disciples left, and would no longer walk with Him



[AB] – Jesus is the Bread of Life
(Jn 6:26-71)

[Y] – Jesus feeds 5000
(Matt 14:13-21; Mk 6:30-44;
9:10-17)

[Z] – Jesus walks on water
(Matt 14:22-36; Mk 6:45-56; Jn
6:14-21)

Matthew 16:13-20 (NASB)

- 13** Now when Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, **“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”**
- 14** And they said, **“Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets.”**
- 15** He ***said** to them, **“But who do you yourselves say that I am?”**
- 16** Simon Peter answered, **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”**
- 17** And Jesus said to him, **“Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My**

Identity Question

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Discipleship Question

Matthew 16:13-20 (NASB)

- 18** And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.
- 19** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”
- 20** Then He gave the disciples strict orders that they were to tell no one that He was the Christ.

Introduces the coming church age

Matthew 16:21-23 (NASB)

- 21** **From that time** Jesus began to point out to His disciples that it was necessary for Him to go to Jerusalem and to suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and to be killed, and to be raised up on the third day.
- 22** And yet Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You!”
- 23** But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for **you are not setting your mind on God’s purposes, but men’s.**”

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Matthew 16:24-27 (NASB)

- 24** Then Jesus said to His disciples, **“If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.**
- 25** For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
- 26** For what good will it do a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what will a person give in exchange for his soul?
- 27** For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay every person according to his deeds.

A Follower's Commitment

Matthew 17:1-3 (NASB)

- 1** **Six days later**, Jesus *took with Him Peter and James, and his brother John, and *led them up on a high mountain by themselves.
- 2** And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.
- 3** And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

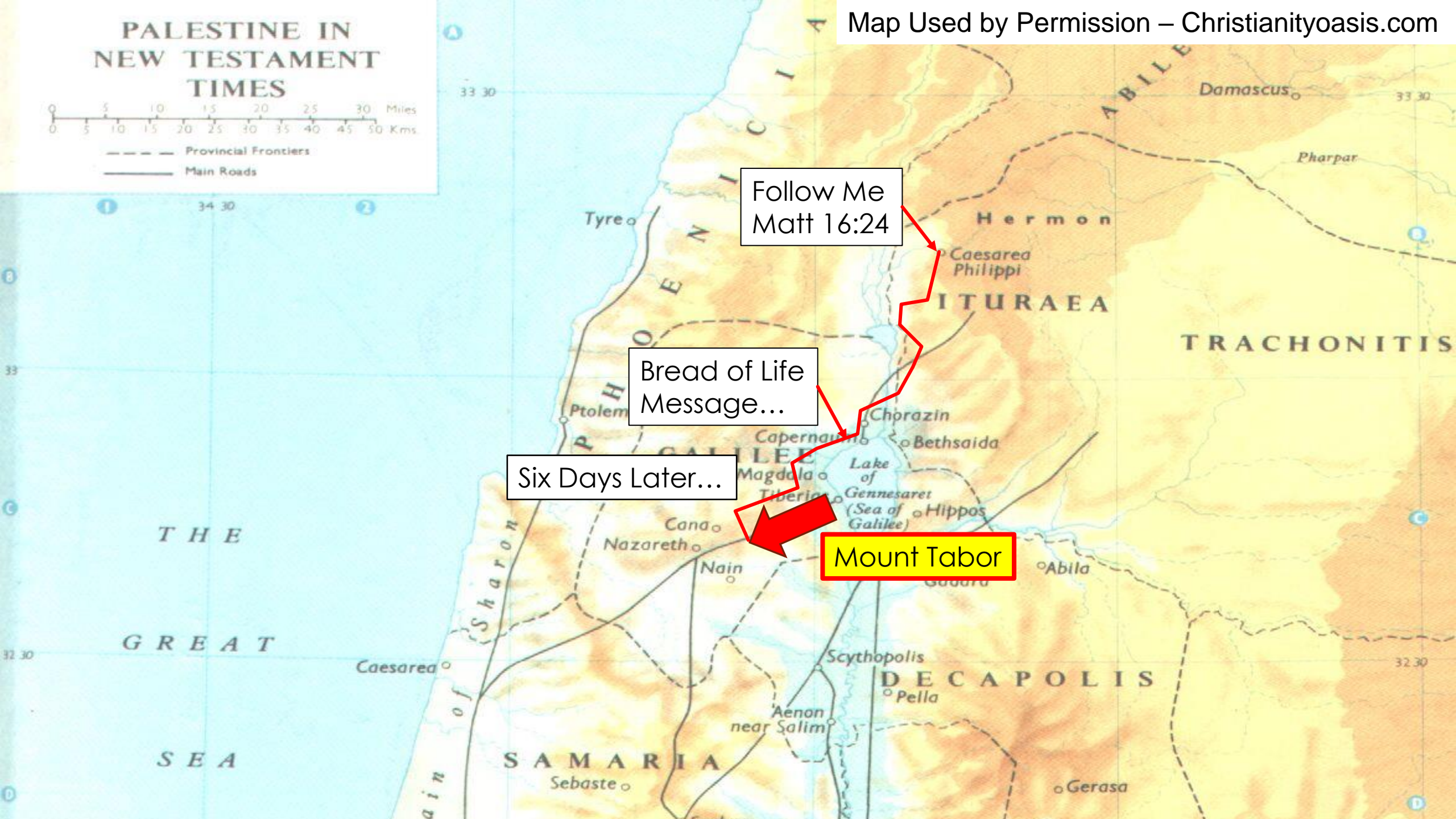
Timeline of Events

- Conversation took place around the time of “Bread of Life” message where many followers deserted Jesus (John 6:59-65)
- Conversation transitions Jesus’ ministry from public to private (Matt 16:21)
- Conversation prepares Jesus’ disciples for the church age (Matt 16:18-20)
- **Conversation took place six days before Jesus’ Transfiguration (Matt 17:1)**

PALESTINE IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES



--- Provincial Frontiers
— Main Roads



Follow Me
Matt 16:24

Bread of Life
Message...

Six Days Later...

Mount Tabor

Key Themes

- **“Bread of Life” message where many followers deserted Jesus (John 6:59-65)**
- **Identity Question – Who do people say I am? (Matt 16:13)**
- **Discipleship Question – Who do YOU say I am? (Matt 16:15)**
- **Commitment Question – Whoever wants to save his life will lose it... (Matt 16:25)**
- **Church Age – On this Rock... (Matt 16:18)**
- **Ministry Leadership – Mind of Christ vs of men (Matt 16:23)**
- **Christ’s Ministry Plan – Predicts His Death 3x (Matt 16:21)**
- **Deny Self / Take Up the Cross (Matt 16:24)**

John 6:1-4 (NASB)

- 1 After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or **Tiberias**).
- 2 A large crowd was following Him, because they were watching the signs which He was performing on those who were sick.
- 3 But Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples.
- 4 **Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near.**

Just Before Feeding 5000

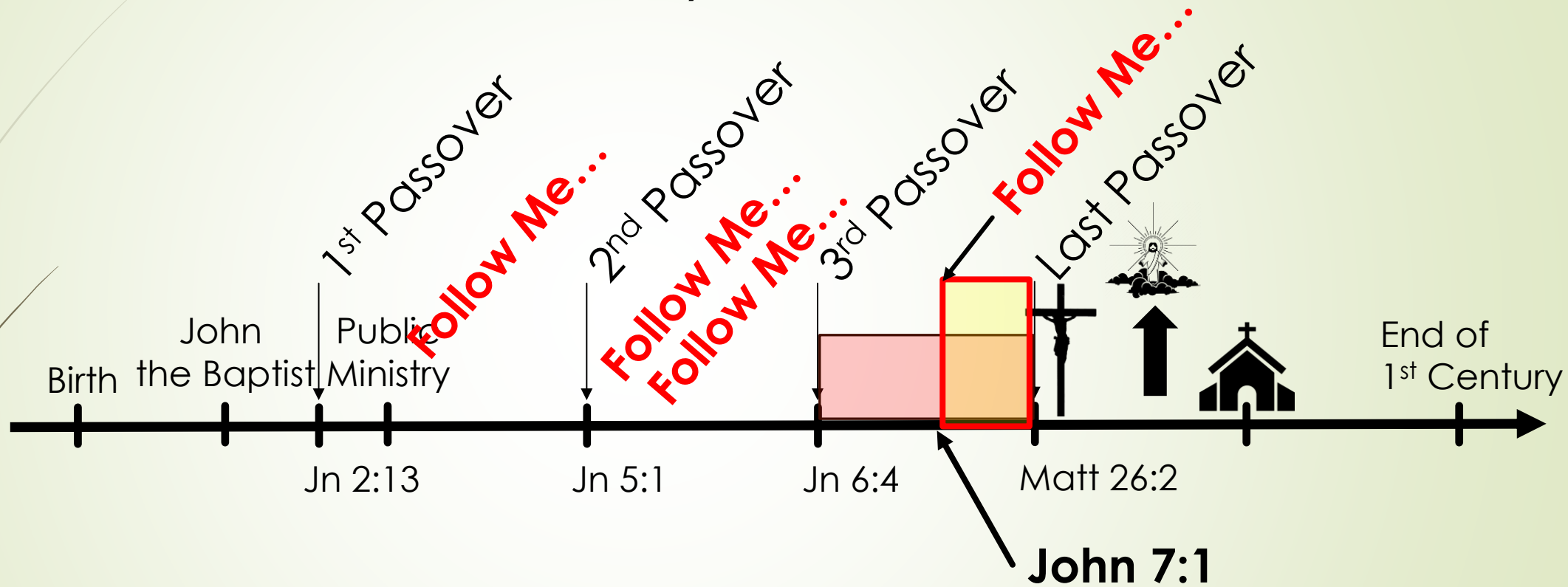
John 7:1-4 (NASB)

- 1 After these things Jesus was walking in Galilee, for He was unwilling to walk in Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill Him.
- 2 Now the **feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths**, was near.
- 3 So His brothers said to Him, “Move on from here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing.
- 4 For no one does anything in secret when he himself is striving to be known publicly. If You are doing these things, show Yourself to the world.”

Feast of Booths (Tabernacle) – Fall Season

Timeline

The Public Ministry of Jesus Christ



Final Six Months of Christ's Public Ministry

PALESTINE IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES



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Timeline of Events

➡ Discipleship Training for the Twelve

- ➡ Sends out the Twelve (Matt 10:1-11:1)
 - ➡ John the Baptist is beheaded
- ➡ Twelve Returns, Began Teaching about the Kingdom using Parables (Matt 13)

➡ Passover is near (John 6:4)

- ➡ Feeds 5000 (Matt 14:13-21; John 6:1-15) ←
- ➡ Walks on Water (Matt 14:22-36; John 6:16-24)
- ➡ Bread of Life (John 6:25-65)
- ➡ Syro-Phoenician Woman (Matt 15:21-28)
- ➡ Feeds 4000 (Matt 15:29-39)
- ➡ **Follow Me (Matt 16:24 / Jn 6:66-71)**

Matthew 16:13-20 (NASB)

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17 And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.



“Follow Me” – Take Up the Cross

Identity Question

Every Response is Wrong!!!

Wrong Responses to Jesus' Identity

- **Elijah**
- **John the Baptist**
- **One of the Prophets**

Wrong Responses to Jesus' Identity

- **Elijah**
- John the Baptist
- One of the Prophets

➤ **Malachi (Mal 4:5-6) prophesied that Elijah would return before the great and dreadful day of the LORD (Mal 4:5-6)**

➤ **Looking for an "Elijah" type character**

Theological Principle (Christian Civic Responsibility Edition):

Unrelenting emphasis on personal preferences on character expected from Scripture, (I will sit this one out...)

Wrong Responses to Jesus' Identity

- Elijah
 - **John the Baptist**
 - One of the Prophets
- Based on a rumor perpetuated by King Herod at that time. King Herod evidently did not know that Jesus and John the Baptist were seen together.
- Defers to the views of the current authority

Theological Principle (Christian Civic Responsibility Edition):

Unwise trust on sources / authorities regarding what is factual
(low information voter...)

Wrong Responses to Jesus' Identity

- Elijah
- John the Baptist
- **One of the Prophets**
- **General perception that Jesus is merely another prophet like Jeremiah.**
 - **Messenger vs Message (Views Religion as a practice)**
 - **Lacks understanding about Christ**

Theological Principle (Christian Civic Responsibility Edition):

Unwavering loyalty to specific ideology / issue / group;
("white dudes for")

Right Response to Jesus' Identity

➤ **Identity = Value**

Theological Principle (Christian Civic Responsibility Edition):

➤ **What are your (our) values?**

➤ **Avoid Elijah Symptom**

➤ **Avoid John the Baptist Symptom**

➤ **Avoid One of the Prophets Symptom**



“Follow Me” Principle I –

**Following Jesus – in ministry leadership –
requires us to develop our own
understanding and confession about
Jesus, and NOT rely on public opinions**

Theological Principle (Christian Civic Responsibility Edition):

Do your own Research / Understand the issues

Value Alignment; Not Value Conformity / Uniformity

Expectations for being Disciples of Christ

24 Then **Jesus said to His disciples,** “**If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.**”

➤ **My Disciples**

Expectations for being Disciples of Christ

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- My Disciples
- Follow Me

Expectations for being Disciples of Christ

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- **My Disciples**
- **Deny Ourselves**
- **Take Up Our Cross**
- **Follow Me**

Christianity NOT under My Conditions!

Expectations for being Disciples of Christ

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- **My Disciples**
- **Deny Ourselves**
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- **Follow Me**

I AM willing to suffer / be uncomfortable
for the sake of my belief in Christ



“Follow Me” Principle I –

Following Jesus – as a disciple – requires us to develop our own understanding and confession about Jesus, and NOT rely on public opinions

Theological Principle (Christian Civic Responsibility Edition):

Do your own research!!!

Lesson Review



1

2

3

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Questions