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Jesus' First Stay in Capernaum

John 2: 12

After the wedding in Cana (**to see link click [Bq](#) - Jesus Changes Water into Wine**), **Jesus went down** roughly eighteen miles **to Capernaum**. The verb **down**, is appropriate because Cana was on the uplands whereas **Capernaum** was on the northwest coast of the Sea of Galilee, on the edge of the plain of Gennesaret.

Judging by the Gospel accounts, **Capernaum** was a city of considerable importance. From the Synoptics we know that it was **Jesus'** ministry headquarters in Galilee after leaving Nazareth. **Capernaum** might even be called **His own town (Matthew 9:1)**. It was probably a large population center, not to mention several of **His apostles** made their homes there.



It was near this place that **Christ** called the fishermen (**Mattityahu 4:18; Mark 1:16; Luke 5:1**). **Matthew** sat **at the tax collector's booth**, when **the Lord** called him into **His** service, see **[Cp](#) - The Calling of Matthew (Levi)**. Many **miracles** were done in **Capernaum**, including the healing of the centurion's servant (**Matthew 8:8-13; Luke 7:1-10**). A detachment of Roman soldiers lived there, and their residence was long and significant enough for the centurion to have provided a synagogue for the local Jewish congregation. Other **miracles** include the healing of an official's son (**John 4:46-54**), **Peter's** mother-in-law (**Matthew 8:14-16; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39**), and a paralyzed man (**Matthew 9:2-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26**). It was also probably in **Capernaum** that the miracle-working **Rabbi** raised the daughter of the synagogue leader Jairus (**Mattityahu 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56**). Here, **He** also drove out an unclean

spirit (**Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-36**);, and used a little child to teach humility (**Matthew 18:1-5; Mark 9:33-37; Luke 9:46-50**).

But, no matter how many **miracles** were performed before their eyes, the people of **Capernaum** ultimately rejected **Messiah** and **His** message. **Jesus** answered **His** own question when **He** said: **And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades. For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you (Mattityahu 11:23-24)**. While all unbelievers will end up in **the lake of fire (Revelation 20:7-10)**, there will be degrees of punishment. Those who lived in **Capernaum** and actually witnessed **His miracles**, but rejected **Him** anyway, will have a punishment even worse than the wicked of **Sodom**. This prophecy seems to have been fulfilled in the most literal sense as evidenced by the fact that neither **Sodom** nor **Capernaum** can be found today.³¹⁹

Nevertheless, **He went down to Capernaum with His mother, brothers** (see [Ey - Jesus' Mother and Brothers](#)) **and talmidim, and** enjoyed a time of family reunion there. Once again, this would be a natural place for Joseph to be mentioned, but, the biblical record is silent, presumably because he had passed away by that time. **His mother** is mentioned here for the last time until we see **her** at the foot of the cross as **her Son** is crucified (**John 19:25-27**). No specific reason is given for going to the city at that time. **There they stayed for a few days**. It seems to have been a period in which **Yeshua** spent time with **His** new **apostles** before leaving for Jerusalem and the start of **His** public ministry (see [Bs - Jesus' First Cleansing of the Temple](#)), as we see next.