

**Why did Jesus center  
his ministry in  
Capernaum?**

ORCHARD VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
5TH NOVEMBER, 2023



**Quick way up to the top of Golan → Mt Hermon**



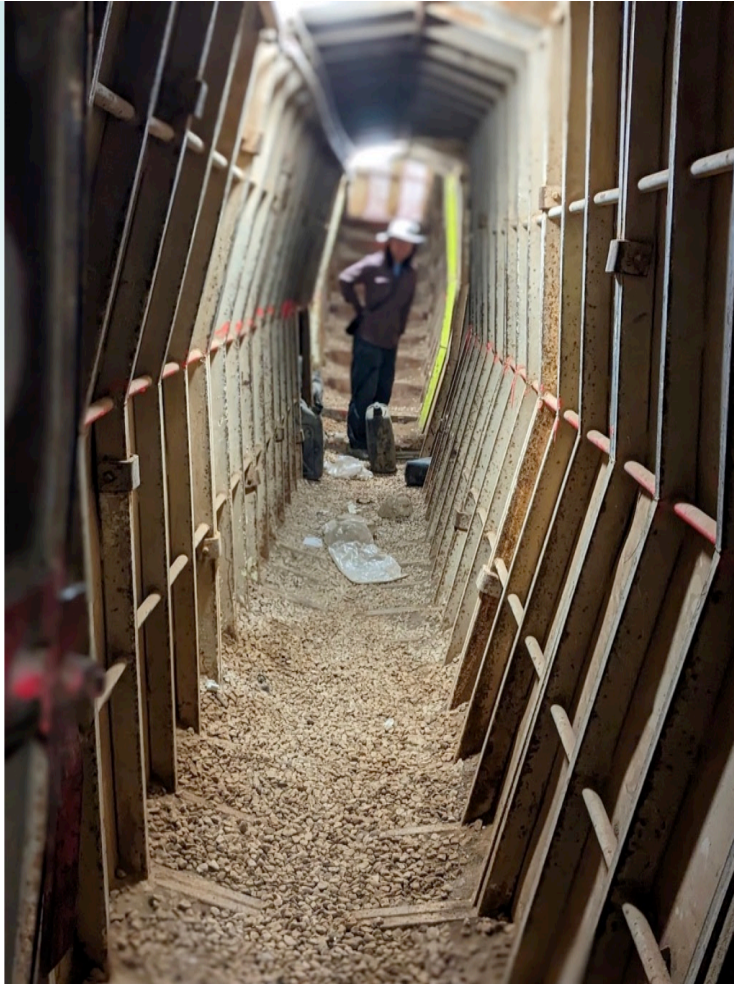
**At the top of the Golan Heights**



An abandoned **Syrian armored carrier**



We decided to check out **this military compound**



You enter via **one of many tunnels**



**Every complex needs a fully functional kitchen**



Emerging from a tunnel **with bomb blast doors**





**Lookout post - armaments removed**



**Tunnels lined with wires and cables**



**Operations Room**



**Reinforced Military Post**



## Communication Towers **on the Golan**



**On our return journey:  
Memorial to a Tank Battle **against Syria****



# Why did Jesus choose Capernaum?

and not: JERUSALEM, JERICHO,  
BEERSHEBA, SHECHEM, or HEBRON ....



## Matthew 4:13-16

Leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles – the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and those in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.”



# Capernaum is:

**By the Sea of Galilee**

RETREAT-LIKE OR  
COMMERCIAL FEEL?

**In the District of Galilee**

BREAD BASKET OF  
ISRAEL

**Near the Northern Border**

MIXED PEOPLE GROUPS,  
DISTANT FROM AUTHORITIES ...

**Not far from NS  
and EW trade routes +  
Sea of Galilee**

A TRANSPORTATION HUB?

# Capernaum is:

**By the Sea of  
Galilee**

Fishing Licenses;  
Fish Taxes  
Fulfillment of Is 9:1-2  
**In the District of  
Galilee**  
Port of Capernaum,  
Valuable freshwater fish

**Near the Northern  
Border**

Multicultural  
Openness to the Words of Jesus

**Not far from NS  
and EW trade routes +  
Sea of Galilee**

Via Maris from Damascus to  
Alexandria

# What happened in Capernaum?

## Early Disciples

Spiritual Relationships  
formed

**01.**

**02.**

**Teaching those  
who are open**

the Kingdom of God

## Miracles

We want some of this!

**03.**

**04.**

**Curiosity & Deeper  
Questions**

About following  
Jesus



# 01 Spiritual Friendships

IT'S IMPORTANT TO ESTABLISH YOUR  
FAITH PERSPECTIVE AT THE  
EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY



## Matthew 4:18-22

Walking by the Sea of Galilee Jesus saw two brothers, Simon and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee, their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.



**Capernaum:**  
**Rocky Shores**



**Sea of Galilee:**  
**Not for the timid**



02

# Life from a Spiritual Perspective

TEACHING THOSE WHO ARE OPEN





**Capernaum:**  
**Entrance to the Synagogue**

## Matthew 4:23-25

Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick,

those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.



## **MATTHEW 7:28-29**

AFTER THE SERMON ON  
THE MOUNT:

And when Jesus had finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.



03

# Healings and other Good Things

THE GOOD WORKS THAT WE DO



## Matthew 8:14-17

When he entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him.

That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."



**Capernaum:**  
**Detail of Homes**



**Capernaum:**  
**not a big city**



**Capernaum:**  
**Ruins of Peter's House under a modern church**





03

# Curiosity

WHEN FOLKS ASK QUESTIONS

## Matthew 8: 28-34

When he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demon possessed people met him, coming out of the tombs ... They cried out, “What have you to do with us, O Son of God?” ... Now a herd of many pigs was feeding at some distance...

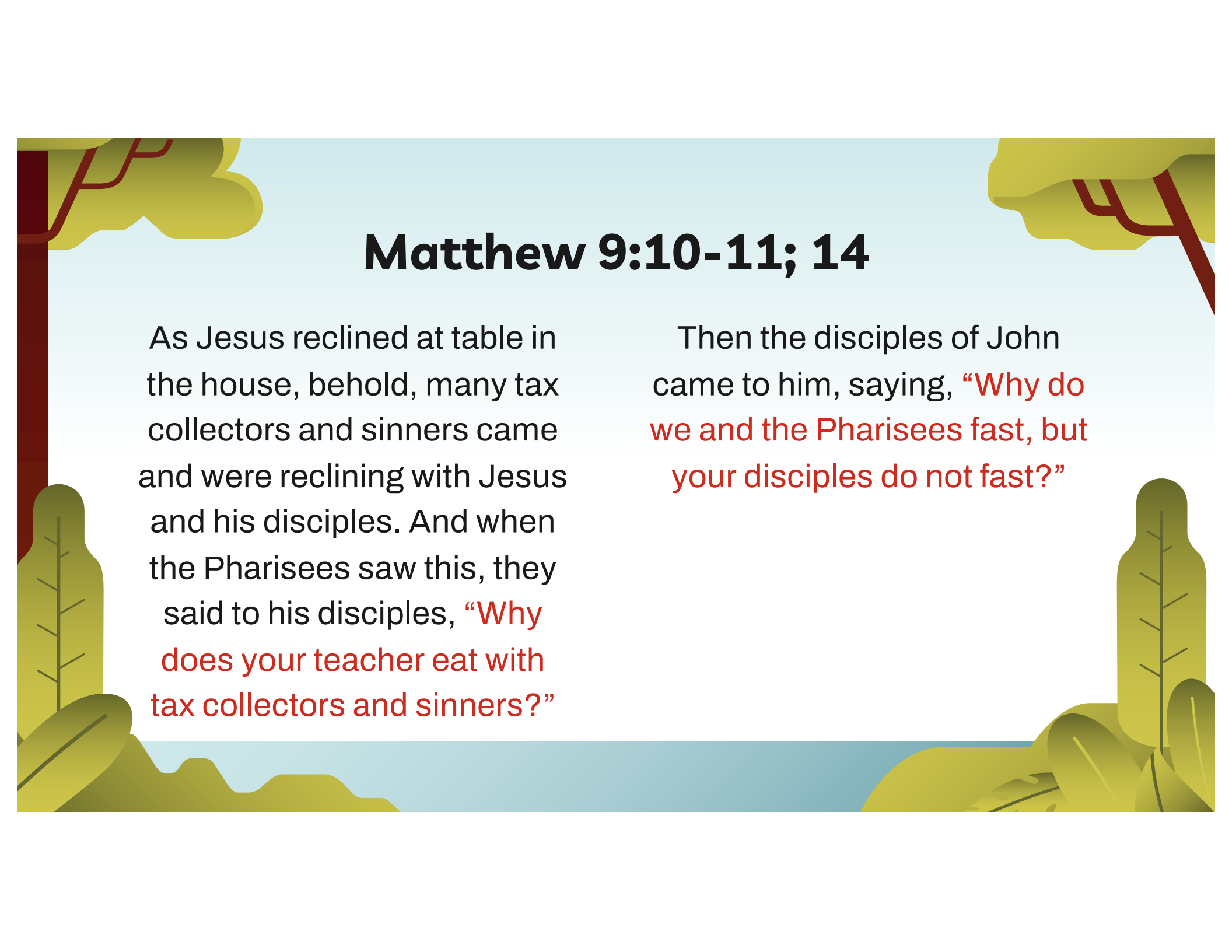
Jesus said to them, “Go.” So they came out and went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned .. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything ... And behold, **all the city came out to meet Jesus, and .. they begged him to leave ...**



04

# Deeper Truths of the Kingdom of God

THE KEY PHILOSOPHY OF JESUS



## Matthew 9:10-11; 14

As Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?”



04

# Deeper Truths of the Kingdom of God

THE KEY PHILOSOPHY OF JESUS



# **What are These Deeper Truths?**

**The Deeper Truths of the Kingdom of God are whatever questions that folks have.**



# Why did Jesus choose Capernaum?

and not: JERUSALEM, JERICHO,  
BEERSHEBA, SHECHEM, or HEBRON ....

# Capernaum

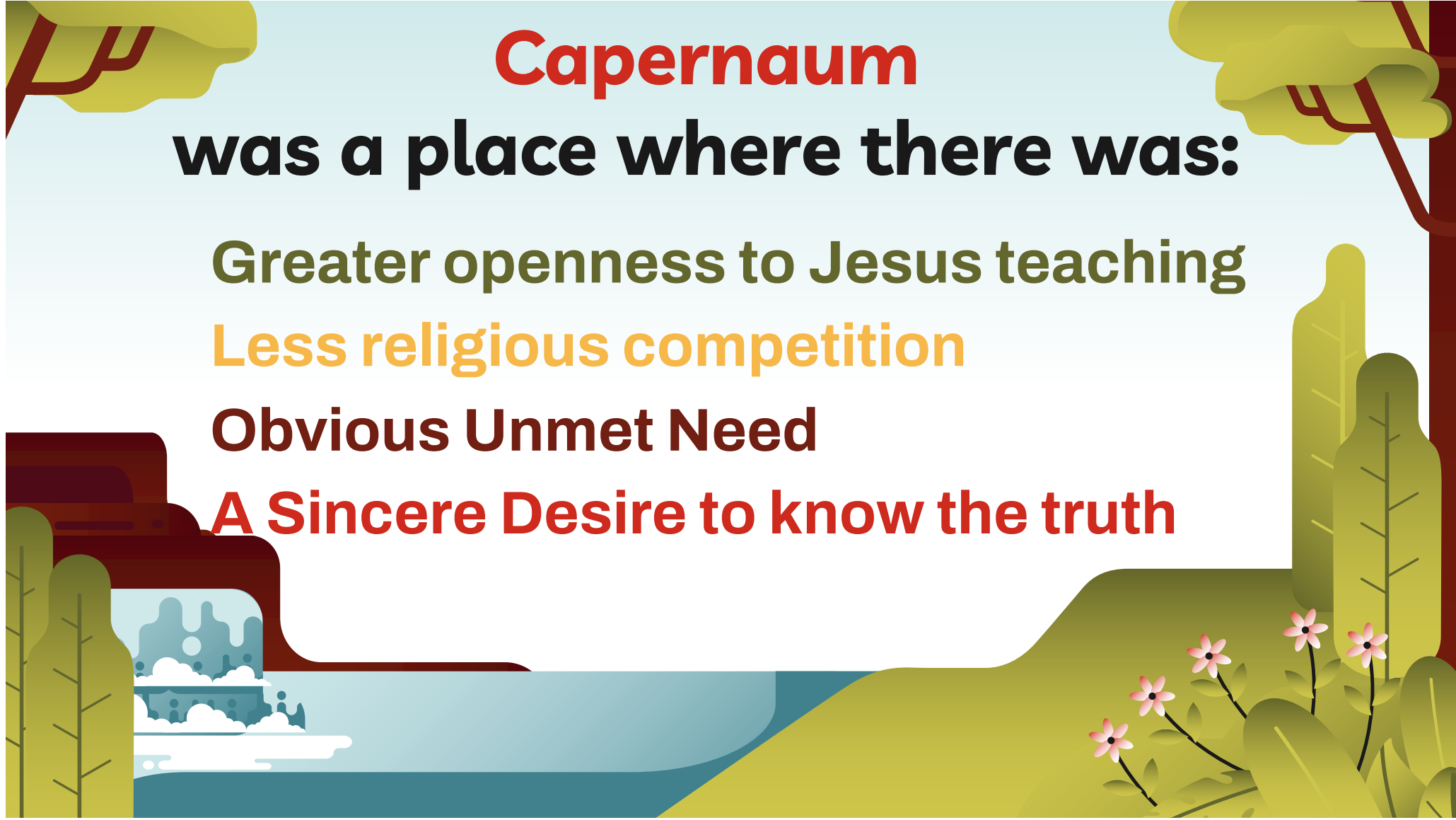
**was a place where there was:**

**Greater openness to Jesus teaching**


**Less religious competition**

**Obvious Unmet Need**

**A Sincere Desire to know the truth**





The background features a stylized landscape with green hills, trees, and a blue body of water. In the distance, a city skyline is visible through a window-like opening in the hills. The overall style is flat and modern.

# Why did Jesus center his ministry in **Capernaum?**

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