

# Chapter 9:32-43

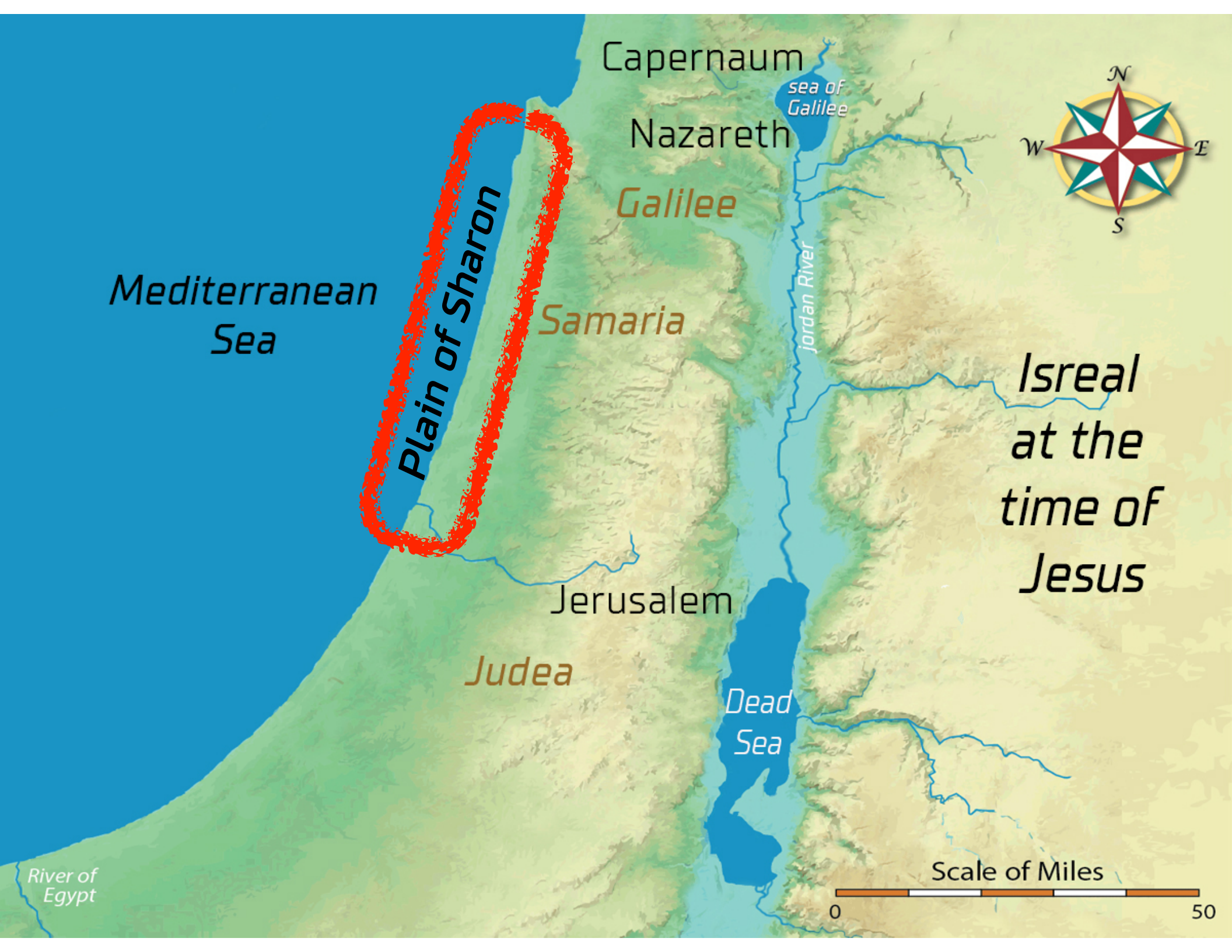
*the book of*  
**ACTS**

*The account of the growth of the Church*



**Acts 1:8 "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**





Capernaum

Nazareth

sea of Galilee

Galilee

Samaria

Jordan River

Israel  
at the  
time of  
Jesus

Jerusalem

Judea

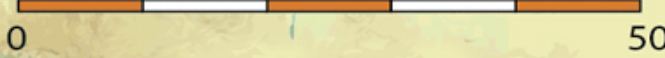
Dead  
Sea

Mediterranean  
Sea

Plain of Sharon



Scale of Miles



River of  
Egypt





Capernaum

Nazareth

sea of Galilee

Galilee

Mediterranean Sea

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Lydda

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Dead Sea

River of Egypt

Scale of Miles

0 50



<sup>32</sup> Now as Peter was traveling around from place to place, he also came down to the saints who lived in Lydda. <sup>33</sup> He found there a man named Aeneas who had been confined to a mattress for eight years because he was paralyzed. <sup>34</sup> Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Get up and up your mat!" And immediately he got up.

<sup>35</sup> All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

<sup>36</sup> Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which in translation means Dorcas). She was continually doing good deeds and acts of charity.

<sup>37</sup> At that time she became sick and died.



When they had washed her body, they placed it in an upstairs room.<sup>38</sup> Because Lydda was near Joppa, when the disciples heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Come to us without delay."<sup>39</sup> So Peter got up and went with them, and when he arrived they brought him to the upper room.

All the widows stood beside him, crying and showing him the tunics and other clothing Dorcas used to make while she was with them. <sup>40</sup> But Peter sent them all outside, knelt down, and prayed. Turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up.



<sup>41</sup> He gave her his hand and helped her get up. Then he called the saints and widows and presented her alive. <sup>42</sup> This became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

<sup>43</sup> So Peter stayed many days in Joppa with a man named Simon, a tanner.

# Miracles?

**Good definition:** A miracle occurs when God makes an obvious display of supernatural activity. He dramatically defies the laws of nature in order to validate divinely ordered events.



Miracles don't happen  
every day. If they did  
we'd call them  
*"regulars."*

*Chuck Swindoll*

*Living Insights NT Commentary: Acts pg. 184*



It may seem that they are a regular occurrence in the Bible, however they are actually relatively rare. The majority are found in three relatively short, extremely remarkable eras: *the Exodus story, the ministries of Elijah & Elisha and Jesus' life through the early sections of Acts.*

*Chuck Swindoll*

*Living Insights NT Commentary: Acts pg. 184*





# Miracles?

Jesus tells us that we should ***pray boldly***,  
keeping in mind that  
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Jesus tells us that we should **pray boldly**, keeping in mind that it's **His will, not ours** is always best!

## **boldly**

(Matt. 7:7-11;  
Heb. 4:16;  
James 1:6-8;  
1 Jn 5:14-15)

## **His will**

(Matt. 6:10; Lk  
22:42; Heb  
10:7; 1 Jn 5:14)



# *Miracles?*

*There is a balance. One cannot insist that God should always work miracles. On the other hand, one should not rule out that God can work miracles!*

# Who Does God Use?

God uses imperfect people who order their lives by His Spirit and priorities.

The early accounts of Peter's life following Jesus wasn't pretty. Often he didn't understand Jesus and at times his priorities were in direct opposition to Jesus! *However, a dramatic change happens when God's Spirit comes into Peter's life!*

# What Does God Use?

It's easy to assume that Peter is imitating Jesus, however the reality is Jesus is alive and well - working through Peter! God is using it to draw people to Himself!

That's the larger lesson: God's great miracle is displayed in His Spirit transforming you and working through you to draw people to Him!





# welcome to sierra community church