

SHALOM Yeladim (children),

How would it feel to stand in the same place where Jesus stood and taught? Today we did just that and it was amazing! On the quiet shore of Galilee not too far from the city center of Tiberius is the village of Capernaum. Did you know that this word means "City of Comfort"? It is here that we read of Jesus going as his home base during part of his 3 year ministry, so of course the name "city of comfort" was perfect!

After paying the small fee of 10 shekels – cash only accepted here not credit card! We walk through into the remains of the actual village where Peter and Andrew lived! As we slowly meander our way towards the synagogue we pass artifacts and stone carvings on the left. Stopping at the railing we look closer at a pillar that was placed where the tax collector for the Romans would sit, you can read the inscription still "Alphaeus the son of Zebedee the son of John made this column. May it be for him a blessing." This is from the 4th century AD, so later then when Matthew was the tax collector. But Matthew was the tax collector there in Capernaum until Jesus called him and told him to "follow me". Read the pillar again – it mentions 2 men from the Bible – how amazing is that!



There are other treasures to see as well, carvings of the Star of David, used as a symbol of Israel for millennia. An olive oil press and a stone carving of what they called an "ark". This box on wheels was used to house the Old Testament scrolls and bring them from the ruler of the synagogue's house to the synagogue. All of these date from the time that Jesus was there so the scroll that he read from in the synagogue at Capernaum would have been brought to the synagogue in a cart that looked just like this. All of these are interesting and prove the Bible true, but the best is at the top of the road. There stands a white synagogue that many tourists are walking around and taking pictures of. We make our way to the side and instead are excited by the black ballast rock foundations. You see children, these black rocks that form the foundation are the stones from the synagogue that Jesus taught in. These stones were there when he told the disciples to let the children come to him and he blessed them. These stones bear witness to the truth of the life of our Lord and his teachings. Spread out between the synagogue and the shore are the houses and buildings of the village – I wonder which one was Peter's?



It is definitely not the largest house that the Catholic Church is built over as Peter was a humble fisherman and not the richest man in town! Our exciting morning had passed very quickly, and we soon discovered we were once again hungry for hummus and veggie sandwiches. We piled into the rental van and headed off to Ginosaur for a picnic lunch on the Galilean beach. We made a quick stop at Café Aroma for "café A-fuuk" literally translated "upside down coffee" for the adults and we were on our way with just a short 11 minute drive. Towels, lunch, the ever present water bottles and sunblock are all gathered out of the trunk and we walk down the pebbled beach to enjoy our lunch and a quick, refreshing swim.

Kibbutz Ginosaur has an amazing story to tell. Just up from the beach and at the beginning of a pier where large boats take tourists for boat rides on Galilee, stands a curiously shaped round museum. Unlike most museums, with their multiple exhibits, this has just one incredible sight to see. Years ago when your Daddy or Mummy was a young child 2 brothers made an important find in the mud of Galilee. The year was 1986 when 2 brothers, Yuval and Moshe, came as usual to fish from the sea. At the shore they saw a truck stuck in the mud and decided to help get it out. As they worked and the

wheels were free to spin – ancient coins came flinging out with the mud that spun out of the tires. They were so surprised, but it was just the beginning! Soon Roman nails and wood were dug up from under where that stuck truck had been. They kept digging to see what else they would find and an entire fishing boat from the time of Jesus was there laying in the mud just waiting to be found! Archeologists came to help, but the waters of Galilee started to come up and threaten to destroy this amazing find. Using spray foam to cover the boat they were able to then lift it by helicopter to safety. After working to remove the foam and coat it with a resin you can now see this boat in the Museum. We now know exactly what the boats looked like that Peter, Andrew, James and John used, isn't that amazing!

We started our day walking around the village where Jesus taught and called Matthew to be his disciple and we have ended our day looking at a boat just like the ones that he would have stood on to teach from the lake to the crowds on the shore of Galilee, wow archeology is an amazing proof that the Bible is true!



*Until Next Time;
Crazy Auntie Lindsay*