



NEWSCAST 13. MIRACLE IN CAPERNAUM

.... A great problem facing Roman governors ruling in Judaea was how to deal with Jewish beliefs and practices which were difficult for a Roman to comprehend. The new Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, was hardly the right man for the job as the Caesarea incident clearly demonstrates.

Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee, married his brother's ex-wife, Herodias. They had both divorced their previous partners in order to marry.

John the Baptist denounced this as incestuous under the law. As Herod Antipas had already soured relations with the powerful, neighboring Nabatean Arabs by divorcing the Nabatean princess, he wanted no further trouble — so he had John the Baptist arrested.

Jesus — who was the cousin of John the Baptist — was baptized by him in the River Jordan and for some time had a ministry parallel to John's in the Jordan valley.

After the arrest of John, Jesus withdrew to the Wilderness to work out what type of ministry he was to have. He then started a new ministry of preaching and healing in Galilee.

Jesus and his family moved to Capernaum where his disciples had lived as fishermen before they were called to follow him. Capernaum became Jesus' base for his healing and preaching ministry throughout Galilee.

Biblical references:

Luke Chapters 3 & 5;

Mark Chapter 2;

John Chapters 1 & 3.

