

coming
HOME

THE YOUNGER SON
CRAIG REES

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Luke 15:11–19

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Reveal #1

In asking for his inheritance the younger son essentially wishes his father were dead. (11:11-12)



Verse 13: “Not long after that...”



First, the father obliged — at great cost to him.

Deuteronomy 21:15–17



“A village father like this would not have cash assets to divide. He owns land, buildings, animals, and tools. For him to divide his estate and give disposable cash to his son, he must sell what he has to his village. And if he doesn’t sell it, clearly his son will. And this starts the scandal spinning in town. Why is he selling? What could his son have said? What if our sons get this idea in their heads? Not only is the father’s honor betrayed, but the entire village’s values are offended. This village would be angry. They boy wants to cash in his sonship.”

Gary Burge, *Jesus the Middle Eastern Storyteller*



Second, the younger son had to get out of town — for his own safety.

Deuteronomy 21:18–21



Reveal #2

The younger son abandons his heritage because sonship is something he does not want. (11:13-17)



The son does some shocking things:



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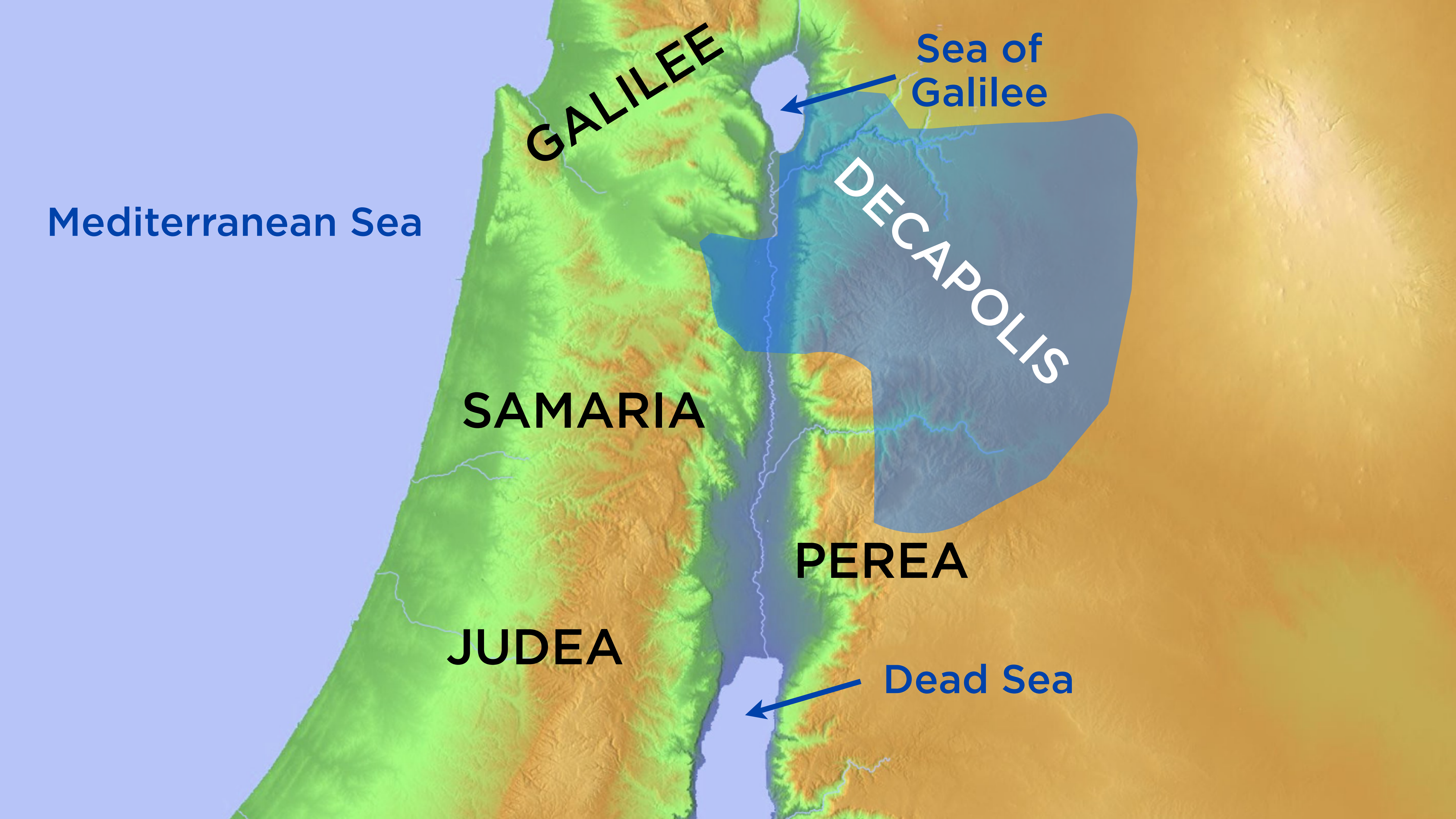


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First, he “got together all he had.”

Second, he headed to the “far country.”





GALILEE

Sea of
Galilee

Mediterranean Sea

DECAPOLIS

SAMARIA

PEREA

JUDEA

Dead Sea

The Galilee Region

● Chorazin

● Gamla

Capernaum ●

Bethsaida

Mt. Arbel ▲

Sea of Galilee

Tiberias ●

● Kursi

● Susita

DECAPOLIS

The son does some shocking things:

First, he “got together all he had.”

Second, he headed to the “far country.”

Third, he “squanders his wealth on wild living.”



“A discerning son heeds instruction, but a companion of gluttons disgraces his father.”

Proverbs 28:7



Rabbi Acha: “When the Israelites are reduced
to carob pods, then they repent.”



Reveal #3

The younger son understands repentance as a 50/50 scheme, but the “way back” follows the same route as his “way in.” (11:18-19)



hired servant (verse 19)



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3 types of servants:



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3 types of servants:

1. doulos or bondsman (worked on the estate, almost part of the family)
2. oiketes or household slaves (a lower class, under the bondsman)
3. misthios or hired servant (outsiders, casual laborers, hired in)

Lesson:

Repentance is the way we RECEIVE forgiveness,
not the way we EARN forgiveness.

