



Lofty News

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In February, Janna and I took a trip to Israel with some of our church family. There were 50 of us. I have to tell you it was a trip of a lifetime. To me it was very humbling to get to walk where our Lord and Savior walked. To be in the places where HE was 2000 years ago was super exciting. We were in Caesarea by the Sea, Herod's Theater, Cana of Galilee where Jesus performed His first miracle, Mount Carmel, Magdala, Mount of Beatitudes, Golan Heights, beautiful churches, Capernaum the town of Jesus, the White Synagogue that was built upon the remains of the Synagogue of Jesus. We were at a baptismal service in the Jordan River at the place where John the Baptist baptized Jesus. We saw Masada and of course Jerusalem. What a sight to behold, and it was most powerful as we entered that city. We saw the Dead Sea scrolls, and we walked the Palm Sunday road to visit the Garden of Gethsemane. We were able to see Bethlehem, Mount Zion, and we took a walking tour of the way of the cross, the Western wall also known as the Wailing Wall, the place of the skull or Golgotha. We took communion at the tomb, the upper room. We walked the path that Jesus took to the Kidron Valley. We saw the place where Peter denied Christ. We were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee looking on to the shore where HE preached to hundreds of people. Woohoo! That was very exciting.

Why did the disciples get into a boat and go across the Sea of Galilee if they knew a storm was approaching? I've now seen it with my own two eyes. The sea is down between two mountain ranges. You can't see a storm coming until it is upon you, duh!! Number one, Jesus told them to go ahead. Number two, HE wanted to teach another life lesson. How much did the disciples look to HIM and did they trust HIM? How big is our God? 1 John 4:4 says: little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for HE who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

I know with everything that is going on in this world I still do not worry. Some may ask, how can you not worry? God made me this way is the only answer I have. After all, I've given my life to HIM. I'm ready if the unthinkable happens. Not comparing myself to the disciples in any way, but they trusted the Lord and gave all to follow HIM. Glory to God in the highest, Hallelujah. For those that aren't made like me and have a tendency to worry, God gives us Phil. 4:6-7. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Also, John 16:33 where Jesus Himself said: "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart I have overcome the world." God is good, all the time, God is good!!! Hallelujah. We do not know what is ahead for us, but this thing I do know. I love the God who guides my footsteps. HE never fails. The church, that is you and me, needs to be praying not just through the rough times, but always. The doors on the building might be closed, but that is ok. We, Christ's followers, are the church. Janna and I look forward to seeing you at the Barn this summer. We have some good groups lined up for your enjoyment. One last scripture Romans 8:28, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to HIS purpose."

Stay safe and healthy until we meet again! Yours in Christ, *Tony (& Janna too)*