

Crossing the Sea of Galilee Crossing from 2021 to 2022

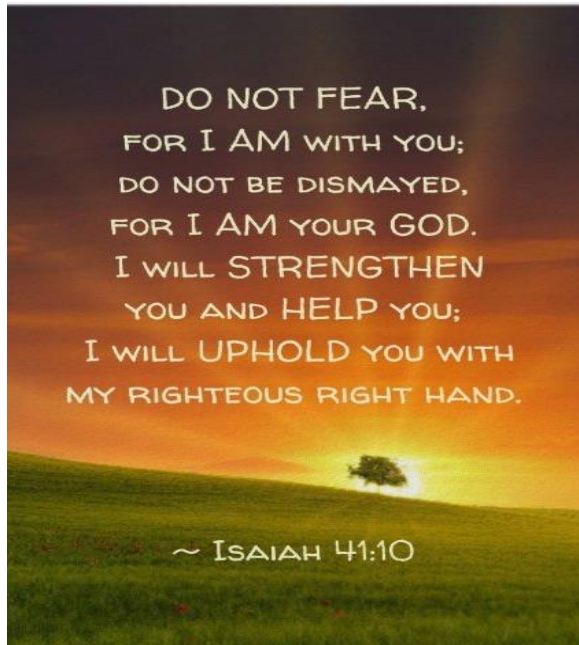
In the fourth chapter of the Gospel of Mark, we are told of the story where Jesus asked his disciples to cross over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. In the middle of the crossing, strong winds and fierce waves had the disciples worried for their lives. Distraught, they desperately tried to keep the boat from sinking under the towering waves. In their despair they went to ask Jesus for help, only to find him asleep in the back of the boat on a cushion. "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" (*Mark 4:38*). Jesus arose and looked out to the sea, and said to the wind, "Silence, be quiet" and the winds ceased, and there was a great calm. He turned to the disciples and asked them, "why are you afraid?".



As we cross from 2021 into 2022, we find ourselves amidst our own great storm, dealing with the pandemic, loss of health, economic uncertainty, and loss of employment. Right when we thought that the pandemic could potentially be behind us, we find ourselves amid yet another variant, Omicron. Schools are closing again, people

who are not vaccinated are at risk for losing their job, and we live in times of social unrest and division. The truth be told, like it happened to the disciples, our faith may waiver. We too, may feel that our prayers go unanswered, thinking that the Lord has fallen asleep and forgot about us. Mark 4:41 ends the story with an important point. "And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who

can this be that even the wind and the sea obey Him!” The disciples were afraid of the storm, but The Bible says they were terrified when they realized that their teacher was in command of the forces of nature. “The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 9:10). They are now beginning to understand



that they were face to face with God. They can depend on His loving care. All they had to do is be in His will, in this case, simply cross to the other side as He asked them to, and He will take care of their every need. Like the prophet of old said, “Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God, I will strengthen you and help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)

Think about this, “they found him asleep in the stern, on a cushion.” Jesus knew they were heading for troubled waters and yet it was His intent to withdraw and go to sleep. By His absence, He became noticeable and got their attention.

Could it be that today Covid is the Lord’s way of getting our attention? Could it be that he wants us to go to him also, and like the disciples tell Him that we need Him and how much we depend on his help?

Friends, **do not ask, Lord where are you?**

Rather ask, where am I? Am I in His will?

We need to stop worrying so much about what may happen to us, what may go wrong, and trust in the Lord! Nothing that happens to us escapes God’s attention. Deliverance comes from the Lord. He is our rock and our salvation. He will keep us from danger. Be fearful no more. The powers of nature, the storms of life, the Covid virus and the whole universe obey our God, Jesus Christ! Being fearful, as natural as it may seem, is not of the Lord! God gave us His peace (John 14:27). As we love Him and strive to do right by His teachings, He will always be on our side, He will be in our boat with us! He is there for us even when we think he is asleep. Trust in the Lord, live according to His ways and you can rest assured that He will

see us through to the other side. In the words of King David, “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me. (Psalm 23:4)” And elsewhere he writes

“The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1)

Remember the road ahead may be unseen, but we walk by faith and not by sight.

A Blessed and a Happy New Year to all!

A PRAYER:

“Lord we know all creation and all forces of nature, including this Covid virus, are subject to You. We need you now Lord, save us from this storm, come help us and show us your mercy. Deliver us from evil and harm. Help us to follow your will, so that we can have hope and look for your protection and life eternal, Amen”.