

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

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Association Minister Message

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"DESTINATION." *"On that day, when evening had come, Jesus said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.'" Mark 4:35.* Traveling with Jesus must have been an adventure for the first disciples. Trivia from Google: Jesus walked 400 miles from Egypt to Nazareth as a child, 3,125 miles during his ministry, and it is estimated that He walked 21,525 miles over His lifetime, almost the equivalent of walking around the entire world. As an itinerant preacher and miracle worker, He was an easy target from religious and government leaders who questioned His authority and were challenged by His words and deeds. Crowds followed Him expecting *"the greatest show on the earth,"* overlooking God's Spirit in Him that called for change of heart and transformational power.

Going to *"other sides"* can be treacherous and fearful, or transformational and life changing. It is how we make the journey that is important, not the *DESTINATION*. To have peace we need to be peacemakers. Faith is a life-long journey of experiencing God's amazing grace and unconditional love. Resurrection is now and forever. Forgiveness leads to reconciliation. Generosity begins with thankfulness and understanding that what we have is a trust and a gift to bless one another.

At the conclusion of teaching to the crowds using parables, Jesus turns to His disciples and wants to get away from the crowds. The *DESTINATION* is the *"other side."* While going on their boat to the *"other side,"* Jesus and His disciples experience a *"great windstorm."* The storm beat the boat and swamped it with water that caused the disciples to be afraid. Through all of this, Jesus was *"asleep on the cushion"* oblivious to the raging storm. The disciples woke Jesus up, asking, *"Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"* Jesus calmed the storm and they were awed that *"...even the wind and the sea obey him..."*

The disciples' journey and *DESTINATION* to the *"other side"* was more than a boat trip: it was life-changing, awe-inspiring and filled with God's Holy Spirit. We, too, journey to many *"other sides"* that can be blessings or curses. Encountering Jesus, the Christ, affirms in us that we do not journey alone or have to solve everything ourselves. Even the *"wind"* and the *"sea"* are calmed in our lives by Jesus' words, *"Peace! Be still!"* Live the journey. Be transformed by the Spirit. Love without ceasing. *BLESSINGS ALWAYS!*