

"My name is Legion, for we are many..."

You may well ask what does all this have to do with walking in the footsteps of Jesus? Bare with me.

Since our arrival in Israel on the morning of the 29th of January, we have been travelling in Galilee. WE have driven around that famous sea. I have learned that much of Jesus ministry took place in a small triangle of land. We have been to Nazareth, and Chorazin. I bought wedding wine in Cana. And we have been to Capernaum. Like our Lord Barbara and I have sailed on the Sea of Galilee and walked 10,000 to 12,000 steps a day up steep hills and mountain trails...beside the bus rides. Every time you climb, going back to our accommodations has meant walking back down.

Our home has been a resort located on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, named Ein Gev. Last night...sundown is about 5:30 pm...diner was at 7:00...and we gathered to sing praises in the darkness. I brought my guitar specifically that we might do this. We sang choruses known to our family since the middle of the 1970s.

This morning we set out by bus to explore the Golan Heights. Prior to 1967 this land was not part of modern Israel. Prior to the 6 Day War, at this point you could drive across Israel in 25 minutes. Why is that important? It has to do with walking in the footsteps of Jesus. Syria was shelling, and firing rockets into the Ein Gev area where we have been staying. Syria was doing this from the Golan Heights above. They also began a water diversion project so that 1 of the 3 sources of the Jordan River would cease to serve Israel. The Jordan supplies water to the Sea of Galilee. This is Israel's only fresh water source for the entire nation. The 6 Day War was about water. Israel took the Golan Heights securing Ein Gev and her water supply. The result of all of that was the planning and beginning of construction of the highway we are travelling today.

Building the highway just 5 miles from Ein Gev the Engineers discovered the ruins of a Byzantine Monastery dating back to the 6th century. Construction was halted. Israel's Department of Antiquities designated it a significant sight. Result? The highway was re-routed and the archeologists went to work.

The question the archeologists wanted to answer was, what was important enough about the sight to justify the construction of a monastery?

Excavation resulted in the discovery of tombs. They also found a stone at level of the tombs, which is housed in The National Museum, upon which is etched the name "Legion" and the word "saved". It has been a long story....but this is the place where Jesus cleansed him of his demons. He cast them out of Legion into a herd of swine. The swine went mad and ran down the hillside into the Sea of Galilee where they perished. I have slept the last 3 nights less than 5 miles from where Jesus saved the man named "Legion". This is the place....holy ground.

Morley Mitchell
Sent in the love of Jesus.