

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Luke 1:38

# The Sea of Galilee

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## your God my God...

Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Ruth 1:16

So many people believe in so many different things these days. While this notion can be discouraging it shouldn't be a surprise. For many years even since the time of Ruth and Naomi people have believed in many different gods. Some even ponder the lack of a god. The true and living God who is Lord of everything knowing this made it very clear who Christ was; His Son. God also notes in the Bible the wonderful blessing that exists in life when two people humbly and faithfully accept this truth about Christ and love Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Marriage is certainly a precious and God given blessing in the life of those who enter into this covenant before God. While this passage in Ruth is

not about marriage, it is about a commitment to follow, undergird, and support each other in all things. And the devotion to be like minded in thought and deed is crucial in any marriage. My wife and I made such a devotion one to the other through this very scripture five years ago. What a blessing it has been in my life.

And at this time of year I am always reminded of the great blessing it must have been to Mary and Joseph as they devoted their lives to God. Furthermore, I am reminded of the great commitment God made to send His Son Jesus into this world fulfilling promises he made to those he created that they might have eternal life. Behold the Lamb of God!

Until Next Time,



Michael Williams

## Such a Strange Way... by Meghan Williams

There's a Christmas song that I hear every year, that really hits home with the miraculous way our Savior entered this world. The song is by 4HIM and its called "Strange Way to Save the World." Sung from the view of Joseph, it centers around the simple premise: Why Mary? Why Joseph? Ordinary people chosen for an extraordinary time. A baby? That's Messiah? This is unexpected. Prophecy fulfilled, but still God, isn't this a strange way to save the world?

The miracle of Christmas is woven throughout the story of Jesus' birth from day one. Prophets from hundreds of years ago. Angels. A Miracle Conception. A birth in a stable. A baby born of God and Man.

There is little wonder why we wonder at this season. The display of God's infinite knowledge weaving the even the tiniest of details together is a divine showcase of the care and plan and way in which he also touches our lives.

Maybe we don't see miracles...but sometimes we do. Maybe we don't see angels in the flesh but God is no less present and no less working and weaving through our lives every day.

Saving the world, even in such a strange way, was not a one time event, but the Chronicle of years and years and years of a loving God making good on His promises and being faithful to His people. Merry Christmas!

## Fishin' Buddies...

I have to be completely honest. I never thought I would have a fishinøbuddy that was a fish. I, however, now have a fishinøbuddy named Sherry that is a goldfish. Sherry was won at a fall festival by my daughter Hayley. She began as only my daughterø fishinøbuddy thus is why I havenø mentioned her before now. In fact, I have to admit I didnø think she would last more than a day after having survived a plastic bag house in a little bit of water for several hours while riding shotgun in my truck.

I was content with the plastic bag also being her final resting place until I looked into my daughterø eyes as she uttered, øWhat is going to happen to the fish in the bag.ö Sherry had not been named yet at this point, but it was evident by Hayleyø expression my first thought of flushing her down the river was not going to be an option. So in desperation the goldfish found refuge in a University of Georgia etched trifle dish. I noted how even though we made the effort to save her she would eventually die one day; preparing her for the inevitable situation I thought we would discover the next morning at breakfast as Sherryø

new home found its way to the center of the kitchen table. Hayleyø response to this discussion was more mature than I expected. She said, øWe should still try.ö

What a lesson in service! Even if we canø control the final decisions of others we are still called to serve God by telling them about his son, Jesus Christ. Yes, the inevitable will still happen and each will die; those loving Christ having eternal life and those hating Him finding eternal separation from God. We should still try, regardless of the outcome. By the way Sherry is still swimming in Meghanø trifle dish on the kitchen table.



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