**Anticipation!!** Have you ever anticipated something to the point, that every emotion flooded every fiber of your being? I am sure you are recalling many times by now. Maybe your wedding, birth of a child, new job, or home. Maybe the Spirit grabbed ahold of you and said now is the time for something different, a new drastic change and you knew that life would never be the same.

With every marker down the journey of our lives God opens anticipation for the new, exciting, scary, and wonderful glory around the bend. I write these words as I anticipate my new journey back to Israel and the wonders that God has awaiting me this time around. The anointing of a new turn in ministry, (don’t misunderstand me **I’m** **NOT LEAVING**!) Ha! No just refocusing and God is opening more doors and windows to reach the multitude with the Hope, Peace, Love and Redemption of His Saving Grace.

We will be going on an archeological tour, exploring areas that have been unseen and unknown to the rest of the world for centuries and millennials. We will be visiting the site of the graves of the Giants, going to Joshua’s Alter, possibly the newly discovered site of Sodom and Gomorrah, areas of the Dead Sea that are surfacing with the long drought and receding waters, the new olive trees thought to be extinct for over 2000 years, that have just started popping up in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives starting in 2019 when I was last there.

As Kristen and I have anticipated this trip it has come in a whirlwind life events and emotions. Due to a turn of events we will get to stay one extra day which will bless us with the chance to meet up with my Hebrew instructor in the morning and then a trip back to the Mt. of Olives, the Garden and joining the Palm Procession down the path that Jesus rode on that colt over 2000 years ago.

That is right! I have to pinch myself as I take it all in. I have been down that street before. Yet to process down it with Palm branches on Palm Sunday, the day the sacrificial lambs were being chosen and taken into the Jewish homes, Jesus the sacrificial lamb descended that very road as King of the Jews, their High Priest and the Ultimate Sacrifice all together. I know how electric the atmosphere was when I was there 4 years ago without the pomp and circumstance.

Imagine what it must have been like? The anticipation of the Disciples following Jesus knowing that something BIG was about to happen, but not really getting the full picture. Jesus had just raised Lazarus from the dead not too long before. He had just been anointed by Mary ushering in his Kingship and Priesthood. And now the flood of emotions.

They knew that if Jesus returned the officials wanted him killed. Yet here they were like Thomas said, “Let us go and die with him”, risking it all, experiencing the joy and anticipation of what THIS descent down This road would fully mean.

Jesus started on the mountain top and then didn’t stay there he had to descend to the bottom of the valley to put it all into motion. However, he didn’t’ stay in the valley. Many times throughout that week he walked up that lonesome path to a quiet garden, the one that contained the grave that he would soon enter, to spend time praying to His Father. The Garden a place of solitude, a place where one can anticipate going to meet God while we pour out our hearts. A place of beauty and thorns. A place where we are pulled out of the chaos of life to just sit and be, anticipating the presence of God.

I can not begin to imagine the emotions and events that the disciples, those whom Jesus himself loved with his whole heart, experienced that last week. From Joy, elation, anxiety, bewilderment, pain, sadness, anger, fear, grief, distraught, a lack of understanding, brain fog, a glimmer of hope, back to elation and then Utter Joy.

If we are honest we have all been there. The far reaching swing of the pendulum of emotions and anticipation through life’s journey. I am very much anticipating my chance to sit with God on the mountain top, in the garden just spending time with Him, and having a chat about what new, exciting direction he has for my journey as well.

Shalom