



## “Don't Forget To Read The Message”

December 2021

So here we are, about to say goodbye to 2021 and say hello to a New Year. We had some good times that made us smile but also some very challenging times, of pain and heartbreak. Some of us lost loved ones to illness, some lost loved ones to senseless violence, and almost all of us suffered physically, spiritually, and emotionally from the challenges of these unprecedented times. But by the grace of G-d here we are, looking forward optimistically to a new year. It reminds me of the story, "Don't

Forget To Read The Message"...

Several years ago, a friend of mine "Jeff" was invited to spend the weekend at his employer's home. Jeff was a bit nervous about the weekend. His boss was very, very successful broker, with a beautiful home in the suburbs, and cars costing more than we can imagine.

The first day and evening went well, and Jeff was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. His employer was quite generous as a host and took him to the finest restaurants. Jeff knew he would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so he was enjoying himself immensely.

As the two of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss walking slightly ahead of Jeff, stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts.

Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd Jeff thought! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at Jeff.

Finally, Jeff could stand it no longer. He casually mentioned that his daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for Jeff to see. He had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this?

"Look at it." He said. "Read what it says."

Jeff read the words "United States of America".

"No, not that; read further." "One cent?" "No, keep reading." "In G-d we Trust?" "Yes!" "And?"

"And if I trust in G-d, the name of G-d is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin, I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin and currency, but we never seem to notice it! G-d drops a message right in front of us telling us to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I stop to see, if my trust IS in G-d at that moment? I pick the coin up as a respect to G-d; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is G-d's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, G-d is patient and pennies are plentiful...! End of story.

When I was out today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, "In G-d We Trust," and had to laugh. Yes, G-d, I get the message. Now, when I'm out and about and I find a coin, I look at them differently. I read the message and thank G-d for being

patient with me. As the saying goes, "WITH FAITH YOU HAVE NO QUESTIONS, WITHOUT FAITH YOU HAVE NO ANSWERS".

So, as we are about to enter a new year we pause to thank G-d for all his blessings of the past, and say a prayer for the New Year ...We pray that...

**May** the evening of, December 31, find us enjoying the company of our family and loved ones.

**May** we wake up on January 1st, finding that the world has not come to an end, the lights work, the water faucets flow, the sky has not fallen, and that our computer did not crash.

**May** we get a clean bill of health from our dentist, our cardiologist, our gastro-entomologist, our urologist, our proctologist, our podiatrist, our psychiatrist, our plumber, and the IRS.

**May** what we see in the mirror, delight us, and what others see in us, delight them.

**May** someone love us enough to forgive our faults, be blind to our blemishes, and tell the world about our virtues.

**May** the telemarketers wait to make their sales calls until we finish dinner, and may our checkbook and our budget balance, and may they include generous amounts for charity.

**May** we remember to say "I love you" at least once a day to our spouse, our children, our parents, our loved ones, because they make our lives so special.

**May** we find something to laugh about every day, even if we have to look in the mirror.

**And may** we live in a world at peace and the awareness of G-d's love in every sunset, every flower's unfolding petal, every baby's smile, and every wonderful, astonishing, miraculous beat of our heart...

May G-d bless us, keep us safe and always keep us in his loving care. Amen.

On behalf of ALL the Chaplains, wishing you and your loved ones, the very best during this Holiday Season. Season's Greetings, Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year

May 2022, be one of your best ones yet. Should you need a shoulder to lean on, an ear to listen, or perhaps have some good humor to share, please give us a call.

Your Chaplains are available for you and your loved ones 24/7.

For the curious: Spelling out The name of G-d, why the dash? Please note: I do not spell out the name of G-d out of respect.

Spelling out THE NAME and then throwing it in the trash, would be a desecration of THE NAME, so I put in the dash.

This is a religious custom I follow, and please don't be offended, thanks for understanding. If you would like to discuss it further, please don't hesitate to drop me a line or give me a call.

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

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