



Lesson 31 – A Night on the Lake

Based on Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:14-21.

1) Where does our lesson begin today?

John 6:10-11 And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five _____. And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the _____, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

2) What reaction did this have upon the people?

John 6:14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that _____ that should come into the world.

3) What sentiment did Jesus want to stop?

John 6:15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a _____, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

Seated upon the grassy plain, in the twilight of the spring evening, the people ate of the food that Christ had provided. The words they had heard that day had come to them as the voice of God. The works of healing they had witnessed were such as only divine power could perform. But the miracle of the loaves appealed to everyone in that vast multitude.

All day the conviction has strengthened. That crowning act is assurance that the long-looked-for Deliverer is among them. The hopes of the people rise higher and higher. This is He who will make Judea an earthly paradise, a land flowing with milk and honey. He can satisfy every desire. He can break the power of the hated Romans. He can deliver Judah and Jerusalem. He can heal the soldiers who are wounded in battle. He can supply whole armies with food. He can conquer the nations and give to Israel the long-sought dominion.

4) What did Jesus do?

Matthew 14:22-23 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a _____, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a _____ apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

Without the Holy Spirit to enlighten the mind and enlarge the comprehension, the faith of the disciples would fail. It was painful to Jesus that their conceptions of His kingdom were, to so great a degree, limited to worldly aggrandizement and honor. For them the burden was heavy upon His heart, and He poured out His supplications with bitter agony and tears.

5) How long did the disciples wait to follow Jesus' command?

John 6:16-17 And when _____ was now come, his disciples went down unto the sea, And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now _____, and Jesus was not come to them.

The disciples had not put off immediately from the land, as Jesus directed them. They waited for a time, hoping that He would come to them. Unbelief was taking possession of their minds and hearts. Love of honor had blinded them. They knew that Jesus was hated by the Pharisees, and they were eager to see Him exalted as they thought He should be. To be united with a teacher who could work mighty miracles, and yet to be reviled as deceivers, was a trial they could ill endure.



Would Christ never assert His authority as king?

- 6) What words of wisdom did Jesus give to the disciples earlier that day?

John 6:12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the _____ that remain, that nothing be lost.

The disciples had that day witnessed the wonderful works of Christ. It had seemed that heaven had come down to the earth. The memory of that precious, glorious day should have filled them with faith and hope. Had they, out of the abundance of their hearts, been conversing together in regard to these things, they would not have entered into temptation.

- 7) Did the disciples have an easy trip to Capernaum?

Matthew 14:24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, _____ with waves: for the wind was contrary.

A violent tempest had been stealing upon them, and they were unprepared for it. It was a sudden contrast, for the day had been perfect; and when the gale struck them, they were afraid. They forgot their disaffection, their unbelief, their impatience. Everyone worked to keep the boat from sinking.

- 8) How long did they struggle to get to shore?

Mark 6:48 And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the _____ watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.

Jesus had not forgotten them. The Watcher on the shore saw those fear-stricken men battling with the tempest. Not for a moment did He lose sight of His disciples. With deepest solicitude His eyes followed the storm-tossed boat with its precious burden; for these men were to be the light of the world. As a mother in tender love watches her child, so the compassionate Master watched His disciples. When their hearts were subdued, their unholy ambition quelled, and in humility they prayed for help, it was given them.

- 9) How did the disciples react?

Matthew 14:26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a _____; and they cried out for fear.

At the moment when they believe themselves lost, a gleam of light reveals a mysterious figure approaching them upon the water. But they know not that it is Jesus. The One who has come for their help they count as an enemy. Terror overpowers them. The hands that have grasped the oars with muscles like iron let go their hold. The boat rocks at the will of the waves; all eyes are riveted on this vision of a man walking upon the white-capped billows of the foaming sea.

- 10) How did Jesus calm their fears?

Mark 6:50 For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he _____ with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.

- 11) What did Peter do?

Matthew 14:28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the _____.

- 12) Jesus' reply:

Matthew 14:29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he _____ on the water, to go to Jesus.



Looking unto Jesus, Peter walks securely; but as in self-satisfaction he glances back toward his companions in the boat, his eyes are turned from the Saviour. The wind is boisterous. The waves roll high and come directly between him and the Master; and he is afraid. For a moment Christ is hidden from his view, and his faith gives way. He begins to sink.

13) What did Peter do?

Matthew 14:30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to _____, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

14) Was Jesus angry with Peter?

Matthew 14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou _____?

Walking side by side, Peter's hand in that of his Master, they stepped into the boat together. But Peter was now subdued and silent. He had no reason to boast over his fellows, for through unbelief and self-exaltation he had very nearly lost his life. When he turned his eyes from Jesus, his footing was lost, and he sank amid the waves.

15) What promise did the LORD promise to Israel?

Isaiah 43:1-2 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, _____ not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with _____; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

When trouble comes upon us, how often we are like Peter! We look upon the waves, instead of keeping our eyes fixed upon the Saviour. Our footsteps slide, and the proud waters go over our souls.

It was on the point where he thought himself strong that Peter was weak; and not until he discerned his weakness could he realize his need of dependence upon Christ. Had he learned the lesson that Jesus sought to teach him in that experience on the sea, he would not have failed when the great test came upon him.

16) How does this passage end?

Matthew 14:32-33 And when they were come into the ship, the wind _____. Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a _____ thou art the Son of God.

The night of horror was succeeded by the light of dawn. So shall it be for us!

Can you see God never takes His eyes off of His children?

Would you like to see and do AWESOME things?

When is it safe to look away from Jesus?