

CHRIST FEEDS THE 5,000 AND WALKS ON THE SEA

BIBLE TEXT : Matthew 14:13-36

LESSON 93 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you
In due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:6, 7).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Matthew 14:13-36 (KJV)

¹³ When Jesus heard *of it*, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard *thereof*, they followed him on foot out of the cities.

¹⁴ And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

¹⁵ And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals.

¹⁶ But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat.

¹⁷ And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.

¹⁸ He said, Bring them hither to me.

¹⁹ And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to *his* disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

²⁰ And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

²¹ And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

²² And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent

BIBLE REFERENCES:

1 The 5,000 Fed

1. Jesus invites the Apostles to the desert to rest, On their return from a missionary tour, Matthew 14:13;
Mark 6:30-32 (KJV)
³⁰ And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.
³¹ And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.
³² And they departed into a desert place by ship privately.
Luke 9:10 (KJV)
¹⁰ And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.
2. The multitude follow and interrupt their rest, Matthew 14:13;
Mark 6:33 (KJV)
³³ And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto him.
3. Jesus, moved with compassion, heals their sick and speaks unto them of the Kingdom of God, Matthew 14:14;
Mark 6:34 (KJV)
³⁴ And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.
Luke 9:11 (KJV)
¹¹ And the people, when they knew *it*, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.
4. Jesus proves Philip,
John 6:5-7 (KJV)
⁵ When Jesus then lifted up *his* eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?
⁶ And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.
⁷ Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.
5. Andrew locates a lad with five loaves and two fishes, Matthew 14:17
John 6:8-9 (KJV)
⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,
⁹ There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?
Mark 6:38 (KJV)
³⁸ He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see. And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes.
6. The disciples would send the crowd away, but Jesus says, "Give ye them to eat," Matthew 14:15,16;
Mark 6:35-37 (KJV)
³⁵ And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time *is* far passed:
³⁶ Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat.
³⁷ He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?

the multitudes away.

²³ And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

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

²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

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

²⁷ But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

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

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

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

³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

³² And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

³³ Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

³⁴ And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret.

³⁵ And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased;

³⁶ And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched

Luke 9:12 (KJV)

¹² And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, Send the multitude away, that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place.

7. Jesus commands the people to sit down in orderly fashion, Matthew 14:19;

Mark 6:39-40 (KJV)

³⁹ And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass.

⁴⁰ And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties.

Luke 9:14-15 (KJV)

¹⁴ For they were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, Make them sit down by fifties in a company.

¹⁵ And they did so, and made them all sit down.

John 6:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ 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 thousand.

8. Jesus blesses the bread and fish and gives to the disciples to serve to the multitude, Matthew 14:18, 19;

Mark 6:41 (KJV)

⁴¹ And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave *them* to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all.

Luke 9:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ Then he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude.

John 6:11 (KJV)

¹¹ And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

9. The multitude eat, are filled, and 12 baskets remain, Matthew 14:20;

Mark 6:42-43 (KJV)

⁴² And they did all eat, and were filled.

⁴³ And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes.

Luke 9:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ And they did eat, and were all filled: and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets.

John 6:12-13 (KJV)

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

¹³ Therefore they gathered *them* together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

II Jesus Walks on the Water

1. The disciples go by ship while Jesus sends the multitude away, Matthew 14:22;

Mark 6:45 (KJV)

⁴⁵ And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people.

2. Jesus goes alone to pray, Matthew 14:23;

Mark 6:46-47 (KJV)

⁴⁶ And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.

⁴⁷ And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land.

John 6:14-15 (KJV)

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

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

3. The disciples are afraid when they see Jesus walking on the water, Matthew 14:24-26;

Mark 6:48-50 (KJV)

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

were made perfectly whole.

passed by them.

⁴⁹ But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out:

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

John 6:18-19 (KJV)

¹⁸ And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew.

¹⁹ So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid.

4. Jesus gives the assurance, "It is I; be not afraid," Matthew 14:27;

Mark 6:50 (KJV)

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

John 6:20-21 (KJV)

²⁰ But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid.

²¹ Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.

5. Peter walks on the water, Matthew 14:28-33

6. The sick are healed, Matthew 14:34-36;

Mark 6:53-56 (KJV)

⁵³ And when they had passed over, they came into the land of Gennesaret, and drew to the shore.

⁵⁴ And when they were come out of the ship, straightway they knew him,

⁵⁵ And ran through that whole region round about, and began to carry about in beds those that were sick, where they heard he was.

⁵⁶ And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole.

NOTES:

Rest for the Weary

After the Apostles had completed their missionary tour they returned and reported to Jesus what had been accomplished. Jesus, realizing their need for physical relaxation, extended the invitation, "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while" (Mark 6:31). The heart of Jesus goes out to the weary. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). A change by getting away from the crowd furnishes rest for the tired body and nerves, but rest for the soul comes only when sin is cleansed from the heart. Many people are running to the desert, the mountains, or the seashore for relief, when they should come to Jesus for release from the burden of sin.

Compassion and Action

Although Jesus left to get away from the multitudes, He was not angry nor impatient when they found His retreat, but was moved with compassion toward them. His deep feeling for them was followed by action - "He healed their sick." Later when the disciples would send them away to buy bread, Jesus said, "Give ye them to eat." Compassion amounts to nothing if it does not bring forth action. James said, "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" (James 2:15, 16).

"They need not depart," were the words of Christ when the disciples would send the multitude away. The hungry soul that comes to Jesus will not be sent away empty. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6). Jesus not only took care of their temporal

QUESTIONS

- 1 Why did Jesus and His disciples go to the desert?
- 2 What was the attitude of Jesus when He saw the multitude coming?
- 3 What did He do?
- 4 How did the disciples want to handle the feeding of the multitude? and what was Jesus' reply?
- 5 Who did the serving? and how was the crowd arranged?
- 6 What did Jesus do that night before joining the disciples?
- 7 What were Jesus' words when the disciples cried out for fear?
- 8 What was the cry of Peter when he began to sink?
- 9 What did those in the ship say concerning Jesus? and what caused them to make that statement?
- 10 Name the various miracles of Jesus in this lesson.

needs but "spake unto them of the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:11). This was His desire, that men might repent and be born into the Kingdom of God. The message of John the Baptist, who had just been beheaded, had been, "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2).

Miracles

Jesus, desiring to prove Philip, asked, "Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" (John 6:5). It seemed an almost impossible task to Philip, but Jesus wanted him to know that "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). One of the hard things today is for people to believe that God still performs miracles. Some say the days of miracles are past; others try to deny the miracles that God wrought in Bible times. But it was the miracle-working power that marked the Gospel in the beginning, and the same signs are following the preaching of the true Gospel today. If it were not for the miracle-working power of God, the 5000 could not have been fed with five loaves and two fishes. Unless the Word of God, which is the Bread of Life, is given forth with the power of the Holy Ghost, it will be inadequate to fill the hungry souls of men.

Bring It to Jesus

Andrew said, "There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?"

Jesus' reply was, "Bring them hither to me." If everybody could only learn that lesson - take it to Jesus! If your efforts seem inadequate, your talents small, Jesus invites you, "Bring them hither to me." He who took the five loaves and two fishes and fed the five thousand "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20). There was sufficient food, and twelve baskets remained after all had eaten and were filled.

Order

Miracles are wrought by divine power and are not a product of hysteria. Jesus commanded the multitude to sit down by companies of 50 and 100 upon the green grass. He then looked up to Heaven and blessed the loaves. What a wonderful blessing that was! and what a difference it made as the food was given to the disciples to serve to the multitude! It is only as we receive from the Lord that we are able to give out. Some may wonder why we ask the blessing, or return thanks, at every meal; but why should we not be grateful that He who was able to feed 5000 from five loaves and two fishes is the same Jesus who cares for us?

Those Who Serve

The Apostles were the ones who served. Jesus said, "The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister" (Matthew 20:28). So the children of God today are called to serve. We are told to "mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate" (Romans 12:16). "For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth?" asked Jesus. He then came forth with the statement, "I am among you as he that serveth" (Luke 22:27). To follow the Master means a life of service and humility.

Time to Pray

The day that Jesus intended for rest turned out to be a busy day crowded with healings, preaching, and feeding the multitude.

Although Jesus had no time to rest, He took time to go up "into a mountain apart to pray." Our days may be crowded, our strength nearly exhausted, but let us follow the example of Jesus and take time to pray. Oftentimes tired bodies are strengthened after a season of prayer. Jesus, no doubt, felt refreshed for His journey upon the waters of the stormy sea after He had prayed. We, too, will be better able to go through stormy seas after we have prayed.

It was in the fourth watch, or between three and six in the morning, that the disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea. At first they did not recognize Him, but when they cried out in their fright, Jesus calmed them with the words, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid." Many times in trouble or sickness we do not realize that the Savior is near; but if we cry out to Him in our distress we will hear His voice, "It is I; be not afraid."

Eyes on Jesus

Peter wanted to walk upon the water to Jesus, and was able to stay on top of the water as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus. But when he looked upon the rough sea, he was afraid and began to sink. As long as we keep our eyes upon the goal we can make it through; but if we start to look at the things about us, we shall be overwhelmed and sink in despair. The testimony of Paul was, "I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians **3:13,14**).

Peter's Prayer

When Peter began to sink, he had simply to cry, "Lord, save me," and immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand and caught him. That was a short prayer, but it came from the earnestness of a drowning man. Many a soul in desperation has cried, "Lord, save me," and has felt that hand stretched forth to deliver.

Faith

"O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" Faith will bear one above the waters; doubt will sink one beneath the flood. Paul gives us a wonderful account of the accomplishments of faith in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. Miracles are performed today through faith - the incurable are healed; sin's captives are delivered. The old-time faith brings the old-time power.