

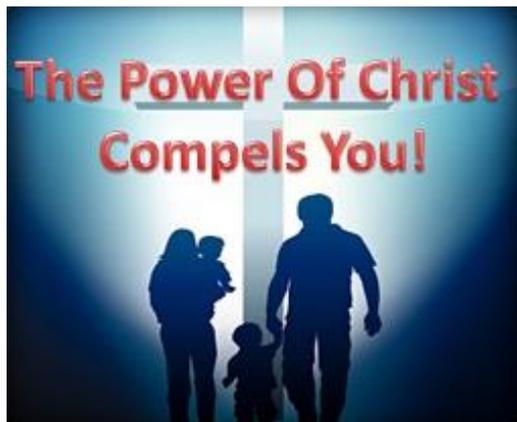
Happy New Year from Pastor Davis and the Study Hour Family

WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2014

THEME: COME LET US ADORE CHRIST THE KING IN WORSHIP, PRAYER, AND STEWARDSHIP

Unit I – ADORING CHRIST THE KING IN ACTS OF WORSHIP

“The Miracles of Christ Leads Men to Worship Him”



Sunday School Lesson No. IV – December 28, 2014
Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text:	Matthew 14:22-36
Motto Text:	Matthew 14:32-33, “And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.”
Required Reading:	Matthew 14:22-36; Mark 6:47-52; John 6:16-21
Reliable Resources:	Outline Bible (H. L. Willmington); Standard Lesson Commentary; Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Life Application Bible (NIV); Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Logos Bible Software; Precepts for Living, UMI

LESSON INTRODUCTION

Thus far my beloved, we have bowed in the presence of Divine Majesty, Genuine, Meaningful, and Momentous Moments with Christ our King that all led to worship! Now in this lesson we shall visit Jesus Christ among the multitudes and walking in the middle of the sea to save His disciples. That further validates His need to be worshipped by all.

According to the Standard Lesson Commentary: “Our lesson is set on the Sea of Galilee, which is actually a freshwater lake...It is in the north of Israel’s territory, and much of Jesus’ ministry took place around this lake...Storms can arise quickly on this lake. Because its western coastline features steep hills, a storm blowing in from that direction, from the Mediterranean Sea, might be seen by boaters only when it is nearly upon them. A small boat hit by high winds is in a perilous condition, even on a small lake.”

Well with this in mind, let us go into our text for today and discuss our **Anticipated Power Points** as noted in our text:

- **Deliberate Departure. Matthew 14:22-23**
- **Disastrous Deep. Matthew 14:24**
- **Disoriented Disciples. Matthew 14:25-26**
- **Deliverer’s Declaration. Matthew 14:27**
- **Disciple’s Display. Matthew 14:28-30**
- **Devine Deliverance. Matthew 14:31-32**
- **Deity Discerned. Matthew 14:33-36**

“The Miracles of Christ Leads Men to Worship Him!”

LESSON OUTLINE

I. Deliberate Departure. Matthew 14:22-23

Having fed a great multitude of at least 5,000 men beside women and children with two small fish and five loaves of bread, as well as healing many sick in the crowds (vss. 13-21), Jesus sensed a great willingness of the people to take Him by force and make Him their King. (Read John 6:14-15). He, knowing the hearts of men and the temptation of the devil, moving with wisdom, exercised His authority. He literally demanded the disciples to leave the area by boat and to meet Him on the other side of the sea. He constrained them, meaning to “*compel or drive them away.*” That’s why I call it a deliberate departure. But why was he so deliberate? To everything the scripture says, “*there’s a time*” and this was not the time for Him to exercise the position as Israel’s sitting Monarch (Mark 10:45). He had to go to the cross. Satan would have loved for Him to by-pass the cross, but Jesus knew the Father’s will. So, he sent the disciples away deliberately, and He went to a place of prayer!

Beloved, when we are challenged to not do the will of God, it's a great time to retreat to a solitary place with God in the Word and prayer! (Note that as long as there was food and fellowship, there was a crowd, but when Jesus went to pray, He was alone. vs. 23).

II. Disastrous Deep. Matthew 14:24

While the Lord prayed and communed with the Father, there was a disastrous storm that was impeding the progress of His disciples from reaching the designated rendezvous, just as sometimes in our lives, things will confront us to impede our progress in fulfilling the will of God. But Jesus sees us in our storms, and he will do what is necessary to enable us to fulfill the journey. Matthew 28:20 tells us, *“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

III. Disoriented Disciples. Matthew 14:25-26

In the fourth watch, which was between 3-6 a.m., Jesus had left the mountain of prayer and set forth to keep His word by crossing the sea to meet the disciples. There was only one problem. There was no boat and now a storm had arisen and His disciples were right in the middle of it. The storm had brought fear to the hearts of these men, but in spite of their disorientation in the sea, Jesus came to them walking on the water in the storm. Many great biblical figures, such as Moses and Joshua, had water moving experiences, but never had anyone walked on water! This too exemplified the deity and authority of our Lord that would lead men to worship Him!

Now in the midst of this storm, in the darkness of night, a figure moved above the wind and waves. They were not sure what it was and began to revert to the superstitions of their day, just as we have our own falsities. *“It's a ghost or spirit!”* They had become disoriented disciples, but in the midst of human hopelessness, there is hope.

IV. Deliverer's Declaration. Matthew 14:27

This is the reassuring voice of love and comfort. *“...be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.”* God always reassures His people that all is well as long as He is on the job! From the mountain of prayerful intercession, He knows, He sees, He cares and will deliver His own.

V. Disciple's Display. Matthew 14:28-30

Peter is the disciple that puts all on display. Remembering his personality of fearlessness and leadership, he cries out to the Lord to allow him to come to Him while walking in the storm on the water. This displayed Peter's fame (vss. 28-29). Now I am going to applaud Peter because his faith and obedience allowed him to do what no other recorded human has done. Praise God for his fame! But on the other hand, when he became distracted (vs. 30) it exposed the disciple's shame, for it was at that time that he lost focus. Beloved, and so it is with me and even you. Hebrews 12:2 reminds us where we should steadfastly keep our focus... *“Looking unto Jesus...”*

Again, to Peter's credit, when he lost focus, he immediately refocused and prayed a very direct prayer, *“Lord, save me.”* Let us learn how to keep our prayers short and direct while displaying our faith.

VI. Divine Deliverance. Matthew 14:31-32

At a moment, Peter's prayer was answered and with a mild rebuke concerning his doubt, both he and Jesus walked back, entered the boat, and the storm test was over. What was Peter's grade? It was satisfactory to the Master. But I ask the question in times of testing of our faith, “What is our grade?” Peter did something never done, and I praise God for divine deliverance! (Proverbs 3:5-6).

VII. Deity Discerned. Matthew 14:33-36

When the disciples' class had come to a close, they discovered that Jesus Christ is the true Messiah and worthy of worship! His miraculous power and presence led them to worship. (vs. 33). According to John's account of this incident (Jn. 6:24-25), people sought Him for His divine abilities, even so much that they believed the touching of the tassels on the hem of His mantle had power to heal. (vss. 34-36.) Truly they were led to a point of discerning His deity, but not fully grasping the totality of His person.

CLOSING

Beloved, Jesus is not just a Provider of bread, a heart fixer and mind regulator. He not only defies the rules of nature, but He is Lord and truly, even in spite of all His miracles, He is Lord to the Glory of God, and should be worshipped. Paul said, *“Every knee shall bow and every tongue must confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God our Father!”*

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Looking Ahead: January 4, 2015 Luke 11:1-13



You are invited to attend Noon Bible Study every Wednesday as Pastor Davis teaches the lesson at Bibleway.