

Storms on the Sea

Lesson # 35: (Mt. 8:23-27; Mk. 4:35-41; Lk. 8:22-25; Mt. 14:22-33; Mk. 6:45-52; Jn. 6:14-21; DA 333-341; 377-382)

In our lesson today we will study two experiences that Jesus had on the Sea of Galilee with His disciples. The first took place when Jesus calmed a raging storm. The second transpired when Jesus walked upon the billows and then invited Simon Peter to come to Him upon the waters. We shall find that these episodes are loaded with spiritual meaning.

The First Episode: Jesus Calms a Raging Storm (Don't forget to apply the details of the story to your own personal walk with Jesus)

The Historical Setting

1. Which parables had Jesus just spoken before the storm on the lake? “Beside the Sea of Galilee He had spoken His _____ parables, by familiar illustrations again explaining to the people the _____ of His kingdom and the _____ in which it was to be established.” (DA 334)
2. What had Jesus been doing all day before he went to sleep in the boat? “All day He had been _____ and _____; and as evening came on the crowds still pressed upon Him.” (DA 333)

Note: Ellen White adds: “Day after day He had ministered to them, scarcely pausing for food or rest.” (DA 333). How could Jesus go on for such extended periods time scarcely pausing for food and rest? Look up the answer to this question in John 4:31-34.

3. Why did Jesus decide to cross the lake? “The close of the day found Him so _____ wearied that He determined to seek _____ in some solitary place across the lake.” (DA 333)

The Storm on the Lake

1. **Thought Question:** Do you think the storm was natural or supernatural? If your answer is “supernatural” who do you suppose caused it and why? Document your answer. Can you think of other episodes when the life of Jesus was in danger? List some. Who do you think was behind these episodes? _____

2. Had the disciples battled similar storms before? “These _____ fishermen had spent their lives upon the lake, and had guided their craft _____ through many a storm.” (DA 334)

3. What state of mind were the disciples in as they struggled with this impressive storm? “They were _____ in the grasp of the tempest, and _____ failed them as they saw that their boat was filling.” (DA 334)
4. What did the disciples attempt to do before they looked unto Jesus? “Absorbed in their efforts to save _____, they had forgotten that _____ was on board.” (DA 334)
5. What did the disciples finally realize as they struggled in vain with the tempest? They saw their labor _____ and only _____ before them.” (DA 334)
6. What was the disciples last and only hope? “In _____ was their _____ hope.” (DA 334)
7. What hid Jesus from the sight of the disciples? “But the dense _____ hid Him from their sight. Their voices were _____ by the roaring of the tempest, and there was no reply.” (DA 334)

Note: Are there any clouds and waves which hide Jesus from your sight? Does Satan roar so loudly that you are afraid that Jesus will not hear?

8. How many times did the disciples call on Jesus before He answered? _____ (DA 334)

Note: The Bible teaches that we must be persistent in prayer. Jesus does not always answer our prayers at once because he wants to teach us continual dependence upon Him.

9. What precarious and desperate condition did the disciples find themselves in? “Already their boat is _____. A _____, and apparently they will be swallowed up by the hungry waters.” (DA 334)

Note: Have you ever found yourself in this condition, spiritually?

10. What cry did the disciples utter and how did Jesus respond? “Lord, _____ us; we _____.’ Never did a _____ utter that cry unheeded.” (DA 335)
11. What occurred when Jesus pronounced the words: “Peace, be still”? The storm _____. The billows sink to _____. The clouds _____ away, and the stars shine forth.” (DA 335)
12. What did the fishermen experience after Jesus calmed the storm? “In the calm that followed, _____ was forgotten.” (DA 335)
13. What rebuke did Jesus utter to His disciples after His Father calmed the storm? “Why are ye yet _____? Have ye not yet _____?” (Mk. 4:40)

Spiritual Lessons

1. How did Jesus face the storm when he was awakened by His disciples’ cries? “When Jesus was awakened to meet the storm, He was in _____ peace. There was no trace of _____ in word or look, for no fear was in His _____.” (DA 336)

2. Was Jesus in perfect peace because He possessed almighty power? “But He rested _____ in the possession of almighty power. It was not as the ‘Master of earth and sea and sky’ that He reposed in _____. That power he had laid down. . . . He trusted in the _____ might. It was in faith—faith in God’s love and care—that Jesus rested, and the power of that word which stilled the storm was the _____ of God.” (DA 336)
3. What lesson can we learn from Jesus’ trust in His Father’s power? “So _____ are to rest in the care of our Savior. If the disciples had trusted in Him, they would have been kept in _____.” (DA 336)
4. What did the disciples’ fear reveal? “Their fear in the time of danger revealed their _____. In their efforts to save _____, they forgot Jesus; and it was only when, in _____ of self-dependence, they turned to Him that He could give them help.” (DA 336)
5. What do the tempest and the lightning represent? “When the tempests of _____ gather, and the fierce lightnings _____, and the waves sweep over us, we battle with th storm _____, forgetting that there is One who can help us.” (DA 336)
6. What happens when we cry out to Jesus in the midst of personal storms? “We trust to our own strength till our _____ is lost, and we are ready to _____. Then we remember Jesus, and if we call upon Him to save us, we shall not _____ in vain.” (DA 336)
7. What will living faith in the Redeemer do for us? “Living faith in the Redeemer will smooth the _____ of life, and will _____ us from danger in the way that He knows to be best.” (DA 336)
8. What Bible text compares the restlessness of the wicked with the troubled sea? _____ (DA 336)
9. What will Jesus do if we trust in Him? “His grace, that _____ the soul to God, quiets the strife of human _____, and in His love the heart is at _____.” (DA 336)

The Second Episode: Jesus Walks on the Water (As you study this story, make sure you think of how it parallels your own spiritual walk with Jesus)

The Historical Setting

1. What episode occurred immediately before Jesus walked on the water?

_____ Jn. 6:1-15)
2. How did the populace look upon Jesus after He fed the five thousand? “He can satisfy every desire. He can _____ the power of the hated _____. He can deliver Judah and Jerusalem. He can heal _____ who are wounded in battle. He can supply whole armies with

_____. He can conquer the _____, and give to Israel the long-sought dominion.” (DA 377)

3. What did the populace try to do with Jesus after He fed the five thousand? “When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by _____, to make him a _____, he departed again into a mountain himself _____.” (Jn. 6:15)
4. How did the disciples react when Jesus refused to be crowned as king? “They murmured because they had not been _____ to proclaim Him king. They blamed themselves for _____ so readily to His command.” (DA 380)

The Storm on the Lake

1. What spirit overtook the disciples as they got into their boat to go to the other side? “They brought upon themselves great _____ darkness. They questioned, Could Jesus be an _____, as the Pharisees asserted?” (DA 380)
2. Why did Jesus allow the storm to overtake the disciples? “They were in the midst of troubled _____. Their thoughts were _____ and unreasonable, and the Lord gave them something else to _____ their souls and _____ their minds. . . . They forgot their _____, their unbelief, their _____.” (DA 380)
3. What did the storm teach the disciples? “In storm and darkness the sea had taught them their own _____, and they longed for the _____ of their Master.” (DA 381)
4. Who’s eye was on the disciples as they struggled with the tempest? “Jesus had not forgotten them. The _____ on the shore saw those fear-stricken men battling with the tempest. Not for a _____ did He lose sight of His disciples. With deepest solicitude His eyes _____ the storm-tossed boat with its precious burden; for these men were to be the _____ of the world.” (DA 381)
5. What did the storm do for the disciples? “When their hearts were _____, their unholy _____ quelled, and in humility they _____ for help, it was given them.” (DA 381)

Peter Walks on Water and Sinks

1. What allowed Peter to safely walk upon the stormy waters? “_____ unto Jesus, Peter walks _____.” (DA 381)
2. What led Peter to sink into the furious waters? “But as in _____ he glances back toward his _____ in the boat, his eyes are turned from the Savior. . . . For a moment Christ is _____ from his view, and his faith gives way. He begins to sink.” (DA 381)

Note: The most vulnerable moments in our spiritual life come when we take our eyes off of Jesus and place them on ourselves. Even a momentary distraction will often lead us to put our eyes on the storms of life rather than on Jesus. These are the times when we sink into discouragement and depression.

3. **Thought Questions:** Can you think of other episodes in Peter’s life where he yielded to the same weakness? Can you recall moments in your own life when you experienced the same problem?
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4. What agonizing cry did Peter utter and how did Jesus respond? “Lord, _____ me.” “_____ Jesus grasps the outstretched hand, saying, O thou of _____ faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?” (DA 381)
5. According to Ellen White, how does Peter’s experience compare with ours? “When trouble comes upon us, how often we are like Peter! We look upon the _____, instead of keeping our eyes _____ upon the Savior. Our footsteps slide, and the proud waters go over our _____.” (DA 382)
6. What did Jesus seek to teach Peter through this experience? “He desired to reveal to Peter his own _____—to show that his safety was in constant dependence upon divine _____. Amid the storms of _____ he could walk safely only as in utter _____ he should rely upon the Savior.” (DA 382)
7. What does God seek to teach us through the experiences of daily life? “By circumstances of daily life He is _____ them to act their part upon that wider _____ to which His providence has appointed them. It is the issue of the _____ test that determines their victory or defeat in life’s great crisis.” (DA 382)
8. **Thought Question:** Which experience in Peter’s life particularly reveals the truthfulness of Ellen White’s statement in question # 7? _____
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9. How does Satan seek to gain an advantage over us? “But Satan is planning to take advantage of our _____ and _____ traits of character, and to blind our eyes to our own necessities and defects. Only through realizing our own _____ and looking steadfastly unto Jesus can we walk securely.” (DA 382)