

Looking Unto Jesus

a chronological study of the life of Christ

Matthew 14:13-21; Matthew 14:22-34; John 6:22-39

Lesson 23

The beginning and ending stories in this lesson deal with Jesus' interaction with *the multitudes*. The middle story deals with an encounter with His disciples, especially Peter, that was life changing. Jesus revealed that He has power over bread, tumultuous seas, and life itself. Glory in the wonder of that!

Matthew 14:13-21

OVERVIEW

1. Read the verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). As you mark key characters, remember to mark any personal pronouns.

Key Characters: *Jesus*, the *disciples*, and the *multitude(s)*

3. The contrasting word *but* occurs two times in this section. Mark the word. Choose one; record what is being contrasted.

APPLICATION:

1. *When Jesus heard it (that John the Baptist had been beheaded), He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself.* Mark 6 relates the parallel account. Record the words of Mark 6:31.

- a. What are some benefits of time alone?

2. Matthew 13 also described what happened *when the multitudes heard it*. They followed Him on foot from the cities. What happened when Jesus saw the multitude?
 - a. Throughout our study this year, we have seen Jesus *moved with compassion* several times. What have you learned about Jesus regarding *compassion*?

3. When evening came, the disciples were concerned about the late hour. The people had not eaten. According to verse 15, what was their solution?
 - a. What have you learned about solving a problem before you have prayed and sought God's solution?

4. Consider Jesus' response in verse 16. He told them to do something that was impossible for them to do. What did He say?
 - a. Now consider the response of the disciples in verse 17. These men had watched Jesus turn water into wine and many other miracles. Yet, they considered their own resources. Reflect on the phrase *we have here only*. What is limiting about that statement?
 - b. The Israelites proved their lack of faith many times in their wilderness journey. What does Psalm 78:19 reveal?

5. Jesus said to them, *Bring them here to Me*. How might the words of this conversation in Matthew 14:15-18 apply to situations in your life?

6. Jesus took the loaves and fish that were brought to Him, blessed them, broke them, and gave them to the disciples to give to the multitudes. Using verses 20, 21, describe the result.
 - a. Thoughtfully write the words of Ephesians 3:20.
 - 1.) In what ways have you discovered the value of remembering this promise?

Matthew 14:22-34

OVERVIEW

1. Read the verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). As you mark key characters, remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them.

Key Characters: *God, Jesus, the disciples, and Peter*

3. The contrasting word *but* occurs three times in this section. Mark the word. Choose one; record what is being contrasted.

APPLICATION

1. Although Jesus' alone time had been interrupted by the *multitudes*, Jesus had not forgotten its importance. What lesson can we learn from this?
2. Jesus not only sent the multitudes away, but He also dismissed *His disciples*, sending them in a boat to the other side of the Galilee. Using verse 24, describe the condition of the sea.
3. When evening came, Jesus saw the disciples straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. At about the fourth watch (3:00 a.m.) Jesus came to them. According to verses 25,26, how did Jesus come to them?
 - a. What was the disciples' response?
 - 1.) What should they have remembered?
 - b. What does Job 9:8 declare about God?
 - 1.) How might you have reacted if you knew this verse and saw Jesus *walking on the water*?

4. Bask in the word *immediately* in Matthew 14:27. How have you learned to trust God's timing in your life?
 - a. Jesus did not act *immediately*; Jesus *spoke to them immediately*. Although we do not have Jesus' physical presence with us, what access do we have to His words?
 - 1.) Describe how Jesus' words to you:
are words of *good cheer*

help you to *not be afraid*
5. Matthew 14:29-31 records a precious interaction between Peter and Jesus. Share two things that impact or challenge you.
6. *When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshipped Him.* What did they say?
 - a. Do you remember when you personally came to that realization about Jesus? Record a few thoughts about that time in your life.

John 6:22-29

OVERVIEW

1. Read the verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). As you mark key characters, remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them.

Key Characters: *God the Father, Jesus, the disciples and the people*

3. The contrasting word *but* occurs three times in this section. Mark the word. Choose one; record what is being contrasted.
4. The term of conclusion *therefore* occurs in verse 24. Mark the Word. Record the conclusion and what it was based on.

APPLICATION

1. *On the following day*, the people did not see Jesus where they had left Him. They had seen the disciples leave without Jesus on a boat. According to verse 24, what did *the people* do?
 - a. Verse 24 reveals that the people were *seeking Jesus*. Jesus challenged their purpose for *seeking* Him. What did He say to them in verse 26?
 - b. Why is it important to *seek* the Lord with the right heart?
 - c. Bask in the words of the following Psalms and record the kind of *seeking* that the Lord *seeks*.
Psalm 9:10

Psalm 14:2

Psalm 27:4

Psalm 27:8

Psalm 105:4

a. In what ways is asking ourselves, why we pray (*seek* the Lord) important?

1.) Describe the heart of God as you meditate on these verses:

Proverbs 8:17

Jeremiah 29:13

2. What are some wrong reasons people *seek Jesus* that are similar to the error of the people in this story?

3. According to John 6:27, rather than *labor for food that perishes*, what were the people to *labor for*?

a. Jesus had proved to the people that He was able to give them *bread that perishes*. Now, He told them that He is about to give *food that endures to everlasting life*. What question did the people ask in verse 28?

1.) What was Jesus' answer?

a.) Rather than *doing*, Jesus calls us to *believe* Him. Explain His desire as you might to someone you were witnessing to.

REVIEW

1. How has this lesson challenged you about your purpose for *seeking* the Lord?

*Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.
But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly,
his faith is accounted for righteousness,*

- Romans 4:4,5

Observation Worksheet

Matthew 14:13-21 When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. ¹⁴ And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." ¹⁶ But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." ¹⁷ And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ He said, "Bring them here to Me." ¹⁹ Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. ²⁰ So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. ²¹ Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Matthew 14:22-34 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. ²³ And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there ²⁴ But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. ²⁵ Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸ And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." ²⁹ So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." ³⁴ When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

John 6:22-29 On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had gone away alone--²³ however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks--²⁴ when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. ²⁵ And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. ²⁷ Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him." ²⁸ Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."