

Reasons for Hope in Jesus
International Bible Lesson
Matthew 14:22-36
Sunday, December 28, 2014
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God” (Matthew 14:33—KJV).

“Those in the boat worshiped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God’” (Matthew 14:33—NRSV).

The Bible gives many sufficient reasons to believe that Jesus is the unique Son of God. We have just celebrated His miraculous birth and remembered that the shepherds and wise men worshiped the baby Jesus. From His lowly beginning, Jesus grew to teach with an authority that amazed people. He healed all who came to Him and raised some from the dead. News about Him spread rapidly throughout Judea until even King Herod heard about Jesus and became disturbed. When Jesus preached by the seashore, sometimes the crowds pressed so heavily against Him that He needed to borrow a boat and teach from it. At the end of a grueling day, He would sometimes send His disciples on ahead, and He would begin to climb a mountain to pray to His Father, perhaps climbing higher

and higher until the last person following Him dropped behind exhausted and He could pray alone. Jesus inspired such faith in Himself that many who were sick could not wait for His healing touch; so they pushed ahead and touched the fringe of His cloak, and His divine power healed them immediately. Early one morning, Jesus walked against the wind upon the wild waves of the sea to reach His disciples in a boat. When Peter tried to walk on the water too, His faith turned to fear when He looked away from Jesus. Jesus immediately saved Peter from drowning, and when they stepped together into the battered boat the furious storm ceased. No wonder the disciples worshiped Jesus and called Him “the Son of God.” Later, Peter proclaimed, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16). – L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

— E-mail: lgp@InternationalBibleLessons.org : *You may be reprint or reproduce this International Bible Lesson for not-for-profit use. More Uniform Bible Lessons are available at InternationalBibleLessons.org. Read the verse by verse *International Bible Lessons Commentary* at: InternationalBibleLessons.com. See the recommended study and worship resources at SmallChurchResources.com.*

Thinking Further

1. Why do you think Jesus sent the disciples on ahead in a boat when He knew that the wind and the waves would fight against them all night?

2. If you were one of Jesus' disciples in the boat, what might you have said if another one of the disciples began to complain about their troubles in the storm while Jesus remained safely on the seashore?

3. When did Peter begin to sink in the sea?

4. How much faith in Jesus did Peter need for Jesus to save him? How much faith do some people have in Jesus when they first trust in Him to save them from sin and death?

5. What did the disciples do after Jesus saved Peter and calmed the storm?

— © Copyright 2014 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr. You may be reprint or reproduce this International Bible Lesson for not-for-profit use.