

Study Hints for Thinking Further

International Bible Lessons

Matthew 14:22-36

Sunday, December 28, 2014

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Questions for Discussion and 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?

Jesus probably wanted to show them that they could trust Him as the divine Son of God; furthermore, as the divine Son of God He had power over nature. He probably wanted to show them that He could be trusted in any situation. Jesus' saving them in the storm would teach them by words and action that He was the divine Son of God. Just telling them that He was the Son of God might not have been as convincing as proving it to them in a life experience, a threatening life experience where He saved them.

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?

I hope I would say that Jesus could help them and would eventually help them when the time was right, because that was the type of loving and powerful Person that He is. I hope I would not join in the complaining!

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

At the point Peter took his eyes off of Jesus and began looking into his troubles.

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?

A “little faith.”

A “little faith.”

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

They worshiped Jesus and declared that He really was the Son of God. And as the Son of God, Jesus accepted their worship without any correction. Now they had greater faith and truth, and their faith in Jesus kept growing.

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