

Carry the Light

Jn. 6:16-21

“When the Beacon Shines”



Jn. 6:16 And when even was *now* come, his disciples went down unto the sea,

17 And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them.

18 And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew.

19 So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid.

20 But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid.

21 Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.



Review

Our new theme for 2017 is “Carry the Light.”

The conduct of a true Christian, one who is genuinely “born again,” is the outcome of a doctrinal foundation.

We are “living out our faith,” and our testimony indicates the quality of it, be it good or bad.

As I believe, therefore I live.



A couple of weeks ago we began a short series on “The Beacon of Light.” A beacon, by definition:

Beacon (noun)

1. A guiding or warning signal, as a light or fire,
2. especially one in an elevated position.
2. A tower or hill used for such purposes.
3. A lighthouse, signal buoy, etc., on a shore or at a dangerous area at sea to warn and guide vessels.
4. A person, act, or thing that warns or guides.
5. A person or thing that illuminates or inspires:

The Bible has been our beacon during this trouble.



I. THE TIMING OF THE STORM

Jn. 6:16 And **when even was now come**, his disciples went down unto the sea,

A. The Will of God

Why were the disciples in the ship?

John's Gospel doesn't tell us, but the disciples were following God's will:

Obedience – Mt. 14:22, Mark 6:45

Mt. 14:22 “And **straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship...**”



What was Jesus doing? John doesn't give us a clue.

Jn. 6:16 And **when even was now come**, his disciples went down unto the sea,

17 And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And **it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them.**

B. The Way of God

Mt. 14:22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, **while he sent the multitudes away.** (Mark 6:45)



- The Lord was ministering to others.
- John doesn't record it, but Jesus got alone to pray.

Mt. 14:23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, **he went up into a mountain apart to pray:** and when the evening was come, he was there alone. (Mark 6:46)

II. THE TURMOIL ON THE SEA

Jn. 6:18 And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew.

- John gives blunt details, but doesn't indicate more than simple facts.
- John's Gospel is written to show that Jesus is God, and is in control of all things!



Col. 1:16 For **by him were all things created**, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and **by him all things consist.**

A. The Storms Hit When You're in the Middle of Something

Mt. 14:24 But **the ship was now in the midst** of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.



- The disciples were in the middle of God's will.
- Being in the middle of God's will does not always mean smooth sailing!

B. The Savior Has Sight of Us Wherever We Are

Mark 6:47 And when even was come, **the ship was in the midst** of the sea, and he alone on the land.

48a And **he saw them toiling in rowing**; for **the wind was contrary unto them**:



III. THE TESTING OF THE SAINTS

Jn. 6:19 So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid.

20 But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid.

Mark 6:48b “... and **about the fourth watch of the night** he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea...”

A. The Obstacles are for Learning

Jn. 6:18 And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew.



Mt. 14:24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, **tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.** (Mark 6:48a)

- An obstacle in our life is an opportunity for the Lord to show Himself strong.

2 Chron. 16:9a “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, **to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart is perfect toward him...**”

Rom. 8:28 And we know that **all things work together for good to them that love God,** to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.



B. The Obscurity of the Lesson

Jn. 6:19a “So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs...”

- The storm was not a surprise to the Lord.
- The disciples were on the sea at least nine hours.

Mark 6:48b “... and **about the fourth watch of the night** he cometh unto them...”

- “**He saw them toiling** in rowing...”



Original Word: βασανίζω

Transliteration: basanizó

Definition: I examine, as by torture; I torment; I buffet, as of waves, toiling.

basanízō (from *básanos*, "a tormenting trial") – properly, to examine (literally by using *torture*).

<http://biblehub.com/greek/928.htm>

Mat 8:29 And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to **torment** us before the time?



Rev 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be **tormented** day and night for ever and ever.

- The disciples rowed for about three miles – “...about five and twenty or thirty furlongs...”
- Even as expert, professional fishermen, they did not get very far.
- The Lord did NOT give them immediate help.



Mt. 14:25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

- The Lord's solution scared them:
- The Lord's intervention was unconventional.

Jn. 6:19b "...they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship..."

Mt. 14:25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

- The Lord's tactics were incorrectly understood.

Mt. 14:26a "And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, **they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit...**"



- The Lord's presence caused different reactions among the disciples.

Jn. 6:19c "...and **they were afraid.**"

Mt. 14:26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, **they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.**

Mt. 14:27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

28 And **Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.**

29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

30 But **when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid;** and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?



- When afraid, we need to listen for His voice.
- If He leads us out of our comfort zone, we need to keep our eyes upon Him!
- If we find ourselves sinking in the sea of life, cry out to Christ.
- When we are sinking, due to our lack of faith, expect to be delivered, but also to be rebuked for our lack of faithfulness!

C. The Objective of Life

Mark 6:51 “And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased...”



- When the Lord enters the ship, the toiling and turmoil cease on the outside, but not always on the inside.

Mark 6:51b “...and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.

52 For they considered not *the miracle* of the loaves: for **their heart was hardened.**”

- A believer can see, and know about the Lord’s power and presence, but still be confused and unaware WHO HE IS!

Prov. 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and **he shall direct thy paths.**



Heb. 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.***

Gal. 3:11 “...for, The just shall **live by faith.**”

IV. THE TRANQUILITY ON THE SHIP

Jn. 6:21 Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.

A. The Decisive Action – “Then **they willingly received him** into the ship...”

B. The Destination Achieved – “...and **immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.**”



Mt. 17:32 And when they were come into the ship,
the wind ceased.

Mark 6:51 And he went up unto them into the ship; and **the wind ceased**: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.

- Utilizing their own expertise, the disciples went nowhere fast.
- When Jesus was “willingly received...immediately the ship was at the land...”
- Storms will come – the Lord Jesus will be aware – He may be testing us, correcting us, or preparing us – but, He will never leave us, nor forsake us!





Conclusion

Isa. 40:28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? *there is* no searching of his understanding.

29 **He giveth power to the faint**; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength.

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

31 But **they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength**; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; **they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.**