

Beloved of the Lord:

Many spiritual lessons can be learned from the dispensational Gospel of Matthew. Our scripture clearly portrays our Saviour's present intercession for us in heaven, and the stormy experiences on earth during His absence. Let us meditate on the lesson -

- 1 - THE SAVIOUR'S INTERCESSION IN HEAVEN - It is typified by the words of v. 23 - "He went up into a mountain to pray", spending the night in the presence of His Father. He is our great High Priest, Intercessor and Advocate - Heb. 4:14-16; Heb. 7:25; 1 John 2:1, 2. Rejected by the world, now He prays for His own who are in the world - see John 17:9.
- 2 - THIS PRESENT EVIL AGE - While Christ is in heaven, His testimony on earth, the Church, is passing thru a dark and stormy night, for "the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves; for the wind was contrary" - v. 24. The god of this age, Satan, opposes the divine testimony on earth - see 2 Cor. 4:3, 4; 1 Pet. 5:8, 9, increasing the darkness - Eph. 6:12 - morally and spiritually. The stormy waves and contrary winds seek to shipwreck the believer and contrary winds of false doctrine from many directions lead astray - note 1 Tim. 1:19; Eph. 4:14; 2 Tim. 3:13. How many professing Christians today are being tossed by waves of false teaching!
- 3 - THE FOURTH WATCH OF THE NIGHT - v. 25, 26. This was from 3 a.m. to 6 a.m., not daybreak, but intense darkness before the dawn. We must be in the fourth watch of the Church's history on earth! Definitely the watch when we must be "looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and Saviour Jesus Christ" - Tit. 2:13. It is the time when the Lord would seek to present HIS PERSON and the blessing of HIS PRESENCE to our hearts, assuring us of His Words - "Behold, the Bridegroom Cometh, go ye out to meet Him" - Matt. 25:6.
- 4 - THE MANIFESTATION OF HIS PRESENCE - "Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea" v. 25. Superior to all waves and winds of circumstances, to the terrified disciples He speaks through the storm and darkness - "Be of good cheer; it is I, be not afraid" - v. 27. In the midst of ALL our circumstances today He wants us to experience - THE GOOD CHEER OF HIS PRESENCE! Some believers may know how to live above circumstances, many do not. Nevertheless, His presence never leaves us! Be occupied with His Person and His Word.
- 5 - PETER'S WALK OF SEPARATION - v. 28-31. Peter hears the Lord say "COME", in answer to his question - "If it be Thou, bid me come unto thee on the water". He leaves the ship without any natural support. The waves continued, the winds not hushed, but Peter had heard Jesus say "Come". That was enough. His blessed Person and His Word was all he needed, for Jesus was before his heart, His word was in his heart, making him safe from all danger! Faith prompted obedience and separation to Christ alone! How needful for us today! Peter failed when he took his eyes off Jesus and "saw the wind boisterous", but immediately the Lord caught him when "afraid and beginning to sink", rebuking him. Yet he walked TO Jesus and had the joy of walking WITH Jesus! So can we, in faith and obedience, Separated unto HIM!
- 6 - THE CONSUMMATION - "When they were come into the ship the wind ceased" - v. 32. The night of darkness and stormy seas were over! It was sunrise; all was peace! "Then they that were in the ship - WORSHIPPED HIM!" - v. 33. So will we!

"Sunrise tomorrow! Sunrise tomorrow! Sunrise in glory is waiting for me.
Sunrise tomorrow! Sunrise tomorrow! Sunrise with Jesus through eternity!"

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

