

miracle seems to have specially impressed them, perhaps, because, as sailors, they felt the utter hopelessness of their situation; and also, because the peril and the deliverance were their own. "Have ye not yet faith." Ask for instances and applications.

## For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

By Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, M.A.

The Lesson Title and the Golden Text, in the present case, conduct us straight to the head of the Lesson: Jesus calms the storm—that is the whole story. To make it so vivid that it will be realized as thrillingly as the tempest through which some of your class passed in the canoe or little boat, when the storm-cloud suddenly burst upon you in your holidaying; and then to have them hear Jesus speak His word of power; yes, to have that word of power reach every restless, fearful heart, and bring it peace; that is to teach the lesson.

Begin with *The Embarkation*. A Sunday evening "song service" of a group of campers or cottagers gives the picture—a group of little boats, afloat on the gently swelling bosom of the lake. Jesus and His disciples in one of the boats? Why there? See v. 1. He had been teaching, teaching, teaching, His whole soul in His work—for did He not long, with a holy passion, to save men's souls? Now He is weary, not of His work, but in it; for was He not a man like our-

selves? He needs rest. He wants to be alone with God. He has some things, too, to tell His disciples, that only they are far enough on to hear. (Impress the thought that the more we know of God's truth, the more He can still impart to us.) The disciples took Him "even as He was in the boat" and those of the crowd, who were also in boats, eager to hear more, follow.

*The Storm*. Its suddenness and violence: "a great storm" (see Light from the East). Every one familiar with an inland lake can verify the description from observation, and likely from experience:—work out the details vividly of v. 37. All the while, in the stern, out of the way of the rowers, Jesus, asleep! What utter trust in God, just lying in the hollow of God's hand! His trust; their fear, v. 38.

*The Calm*. Imagine the happenings of v. 39 in any storm in which you may have been caught! No wonder the disciples were dumb! What power! Surely it is God who is in the boat. And what a Godlike look into their hearts, v. 40: they trusted neither God nor Himself. But the words are gentle (Isa. 42: 3). Oh yes, they ought to have had faith—so should we; but they had not. Yet He will win, not crush. How perverse they were, v. 41. What better are we, when tempests or calamity makes us tremble, instead of leading us to cling closer to our Heavenly Lord and Saviour.

## ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found, under several headings, further assistance to the teacher.

### Lesson Outline

#### A STUDY OF JESUS

- I. *His Human Needs*.
  1. Of rest after a busy day.
  2. Of the disciples' boat and seamanship.
  3. Of sleep to refresh Him.
  4. Of God's providential care.
- II. *His Divine Authority*.
  1. Over men—shown in His teaching.
  2. Over the forces of nature—shown in the miracle.
- III. *His Claims*.
  1. Upon the confidence of men.
  2. Upon their reverence.

### Lesson Points

By Rev. J. M. Duncan, B.D.

We may be weary in, but should never be weary of, well-doing. v. 35.

To serve the Saviour is the highest honor. v. 35.

The quickest in the quest of quiet is the best armed for action. v. 36.

A life without a storm would be stripped of strength. v. 37.

Since we cannot prevent, we should be prepared for trial. v. 37.

Strenuous service alone deserves the reward of refreshing rest. v. 38.

Human need is heaven's opportunity. v. 38.