

## Fourth Quarter : Studies in the Lives of Peter and John

**LESSON FOREWORD**—Jesus did not call perfect men to be his disciples. They were men with faults that needed correction and virtues that needed development. So we see in our lesson to-day Peter receiving a much needed lesson in the matter of over-confidence. Notice how practical Jesus was in his way of correcting Peter.

## Lesson IV.

## A LESSON IN TRUST

October 26, 1919

## THE LESSON PASSAGE—Matt. 14 : 22-33.

22 And straightway Je'sus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

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.

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

25 And in the fourth watch of the night Je'sus went unto them, walking on the sea.

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.

27 But straightway Je'sus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer ; it is I ; be not afraid.

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

29 And he said, Come. And when Pe'ter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Je'sus.

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

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

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

33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God

**GOLDEN TEXT**—I believe ; help thou mine unbelief.—Mark 9 : 24.

**SENIOR AND HOME DEPARTMENT TOPIC**—An Ever Present Helper.

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

## I. THE SILENT MOUNTAIN.

—22, 23. *Straightway . . . constrained.* Jesus compelled the disciples against their will. John tells the reason of this. The multitude, stirred by the miraculous feeding of the five thousand, were determined to make Jesus king, while the disciples, thinking another great opportunity was presenting itself to Jesus, were unwilling to depart. *Into a ship ;* on the eastern shore of the sea of Galilee. *To go before him.* Doubtless Jesus intended to walk round the shore and meet them on the western shore. *Sent the multitudes away ;* thus suppressing their shallow enthusiasm. Jesus understood the mob thoroughly. He understood the meaninglessness of temporary popularity. *A mountain apart to pray.* Jesus went from the low shore of the sea to the high land. He felt the need of communion with God. *Alone ;* away from disciples and multitude, but with God.

II. THE STORMY SEA.—24-27. *In the midst of the*

CHRIST AND PETER

*sea ;* far from the shore, and therefore impossible to return. *Wind was contrary ;* blowing against them. Galilee was noted for its sudden and fierce storms. *Fourth watch ;* between three and six in the morning. The darkness was not wholly lifted. *Jesus went unto them.* Jesus was not forgetful of them, or ignorant of their plight. *Walking on the sea.* Jesus always finds his children in the storm, not on the safe shore. *It is a spirit.* The morning mists hide Jesus so that their fears are only augmented. *Je'sus spake ;* so that they would recognize his voice. *Be of good cheer.* Christ has no other

message. *It is I.* The reason for good cheer is himself.

III. THE STRENGTHENED DISCIPLES.—28-33. *Peter answered.* Peter is usually first to speak and first to act. *Lord ;* not merely "Master." but a title due to one who is more than human. *Bid me come ;* to do the same miraculous thing that Jesus did. *Come.* There was no need that