

Kids' Chronicle

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BY CINDY BASSETT

Jesus is betrayed by his friends

Peter paused, still cowering in the shadows of the high priest's house. The same soldiers who had arrested Jesus now stood warming their hands by a fire in the courtyard. He shuddered as he recalled Jesus' words at dinner.

"Tonight, all of you will fall away because of me," Jesus had said solemnly, looking around the table into the faces of his apostles.

Peter had insisted, "No, Lord, your closest friends would never betray you. Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will."

Jesus had said one more thing, but Peter now brushed it from his mind as he approached the soldiers. "What's going on in there?" he asked, pointing to Caiaphas' house.

"We arrested Jesus of Nazareth," one of the guards replied. "The chief

priests have him on trial."

"What have they charged Jesus with?" Peter queried.

"Conspiracy to overthrow the government by claiming to be a king," he replied. "If he's found guilty, he'll get the death sentence."

"Jesus is a man of peace," Peter stammered.

"There are plenty of witnesses in there testifying against Jesus," the guard said. "It was one of his friends who turned him over. This friend, Judas, was only paid 30 pieces of silver for his information. Not even enough to buy a decent coat."

"It's all a mistake!" Peter cried. "Jesus' followers were confused and afraid."

While they were still talking, a servant girl emerged from the house with food for the guards. She was within earshot when someone asked Peter, "Why do you care so much about this Jesus anyway?"

Before Peter could answer, the servant girl said, "This man is one of Jesus' followers."

"That's not true!" Peter lied.

The guards took the food and ignored Peter until this same servant returned with one of her friends.

"Yes, I'm certain that's him," her companion agreed, pointing at Peter.



Illustrations by Kathy Welsh

"I've seen him with Jesus before."

"I told you once that I don't know Jesus!" Peter shouted.

"Your own accent gives you away," one of the guards commented. "You must be one of his followers."

"I swear that I don't know Jesus!" Peter said and stomped angrily away. Just as a rooster announced the dawn, he remembered again Jesus' last words to him at dinner.

"Peter, tonight, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times."

Read more about it: Matthew 26:20-75.

Q & A

1. Do you think Jesus forgave Judas and Peter?
2. How do we deny Jesus?

The Bible Times

33 A.D.

Jerusalem — Jesus of Nazareth was found guilty Thursday of conspiracy to overthrow the government.

The decision followed a trial before priests called together by Caiaphas, the high priest.

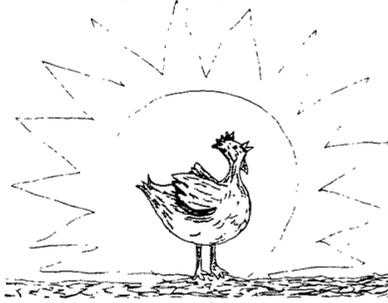
Under Roman law, a conspiracy conviction carries a sentence of death by public crucifixion.

Jesus had been arrested earlier Thursday evening in the Garden of Gethsemane, a secluded spot near the Mount of Olives.

Because of the accused's considerable following, officials feared a riot if the arrest was made in the city.

Following the priests' decision, Jesus was taken to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate offered to pardon Jesus in honor of the Hebrew feast of Passover.

When pressured by the unruly crowd in the city square, however, he released the prisoner, Barabbas, instead. In a symbolic gesture, Pilate washed his hands and stated, "I am innocent of Jesus' blood. It is your responsibility!"



Talking to God

Dear God,

I am sorry for the times I have betrayed our friendship by doing the wrong thing. But I know you are always there to forgive me when I turn back to you in sorrow for my sins.

"Have mercy on me, O God, because your love never fails. You will not turn away a broken and contrite heart."

Psalm 51:1,17.

King Solomon's Wisdom



"A person who gives false testimony against a friend is like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow."

Proverbs 25:18

Congratulations to Joanna Alberti, age 11, a fifth-grade student at St. Theodore's School. She is the winner of the \$50 Savings Bond for the best essay in the March Kids' Club contest! Her essay is reprinted below.

March Essay Question: Do you believe in angels?

Yes, I believe in angels because they are a part of our faith and are recognized in the Bible, both in the Old and New Testament. The word, "angel" means "the messenger." The Angel Gabriel was sent by God to tell Mary she would be the Mother of Jesus. There are also angels who heal. Angel Raphael came down and helped Tobias with his travels. On their way, they caught a fish to cure his father's blindness. I do believe that everyone has a Guardian Angel who watches over them each day through their journey in life.



The chief priests found Jesus guilty of claiming to be God's Son. Ironically, their charges were the things that proved Jesus was the Messiah. Fill in the charges below by unscrambling the words and placing them on the lines provided. The answers can be found on page 16.

1. S E V R O G I F S N I S

2. S E S P R O M I L A N R E T E I F E L

3. L A E S H N O E T H H T A B B A S

4. S A C T S T O U E M D O N S

5. S M P E R R O F R A S L E C I M



Kids' Club

Your answer could win a \$50 Savings Bond! Does God forgive even the worst criminal? Why or why not?

Write your answer in 100 words or less. Include your name, home address, telephone number, school and grade. The winning essay will earn a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond (winner will be notified by phone and be printed in an upcoming edition of Kids' Chronicle. Send your entry to: Cindy Bassett, c/o Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Roch., N.Y. 14624. Deadline: April 23, 1992.

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