

Kids' Chronicle

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BY CINDY BASSETT

The beggar's tale

The streets of Jerusalem were always crowded in late afternoon with people going to the Temple for the daily prayer service. And with a little luck, the beggar was certain he could scrounge up a few coins from those who passed his mat. This was the life of a person who had been crippled for every bit of his 40 years.

"Do you have a small offering for me?" he asked the well-dressed man who crossed the street to avoid him.

"Get away from me, you dirty beggar!" the man retorted angrily.

"I have a name, it's Joel!" the beggar shouted after him. "It's not my fault that I must depend on your charity!"

Joel quickly shifted his attention to the two men who were approaching. At first glance, they didn't seem like they would have much to give.

"Can you spare one small coin for me?" Joel asked anyway.

The two men slowed their pace and Joel waited eagerly. Perhaps they would have several coins for him after all.

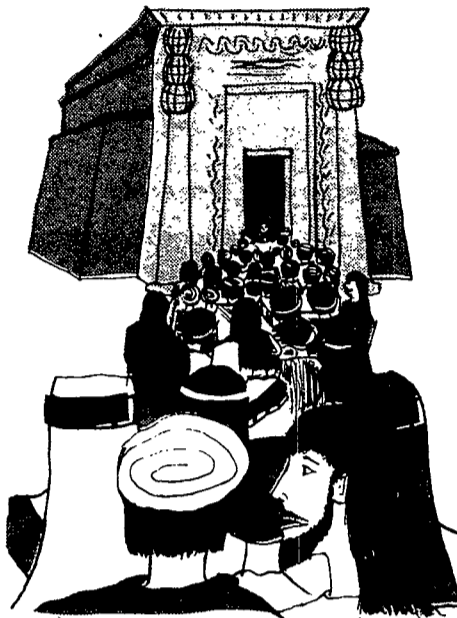
"Look here at me!" one of them said.

The man who made this statement was staring at Joel so intently that it made him flinch nervously.

"We have no money to give you," his companion added. Joel had already looked away with disappointment as the man continued, "I have something much more to offer you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!"

Joel was stunned motionless. It wasn't until one of the two strangers had firmly grasped his hand and pulled him to his feet that he realized what had just happened. He felt as if he had passed through a doorway to a whole new world.

He slowly took his first step, then



Illustrations by Kathy Welsh

another, still not certain he wasn't imagining it. And then Joel was prancing and leaping after the two men who continued toward the Temple, shouting as he went, "Who is this Jesus of Nazareth?"

Joel caused quite a commotion when he entered the Temple courtyard. Everyone recognized the nameless beggar who snatched the few coins that were tossed his way every afternoon. When he finally caught up with the two men, a large crowd gathered around all three of them.

"Who is Jesus?" Joel asked a second time.

"Jesus Christ of Nazareth was the long-awaited Messiah," said Peter, one of the men.

"And it was through faith in His name that this miracle happened. Jesus was put to death on a cross by our religious leaders because they didn't believe in him," he added just as the chief priests and Temple

police joined the onlookers.

"But Jesus rose from the dead after three days," continued Peter despite the priests' disapproval. "Now all who believe in Jesus will have eternal life."

One of the chief priests stepped forward from the crowd and ordered, "Arrest these men! They are preaching lies!"

Peter and his companion, John, were put into jail until the council could hear their case the next day. For his part, Joel continued to tell everyone who entered the Temple courts about his healing. A great many of those who heard his story decided to join the new church.

Read More About It: Book of Acts, Chapter 3-4:4.

Q & A

1. Why did Peter heal the beggar?
2. Do you think people with handicaps are sometimes looked on with suspicion? How can you help?

Talking to God

"I was overcome by trouble and sorrow.

Then I called on the name of the Lord:

"O Lord, save me!"

The Lord is gracious and righteous;

our God is full of compassion.

The Lord protects the simple-hearted;

when I was in great need, he saved me."

Psalm 116:3-6.

King Solomon's Wisdom



"He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy."

Proverbs 14:21

Bible Trivia

By the time of Peter and John's arrest, how many men had come to believe in Jesus?

Send answers to *Catholic Courier Bible Trivia*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name and address with your entry.

All entries must be received by July 9, 1992. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winner will be notified by mail and receive a gift courtesy of The Olive Branch.

Last month's winner was Marie Barney who correctly identified Matthias as the apostle who was chosen to take the place of Judas.

Jesus of Nazareth crossword

Peter cured the beggar in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Many other names are used to refer to Jesus in the Bible. Use the scripture references listed below to help you fill in the crossword with some of these other names. Answers on page 2.

ACROSS	DOWN
1. John 1:36	5. Isaiah 9:5
2. John 14:6	6. John 6:25
3. Isaiah 59:20	7. Isaiah 55:4
4. John 1:9	8. John 12:13
	9. John 10:7
	10. Romans 11:26
	11. John 20:28
	12. John 6:35
	13. 1 Corinthians 10:4

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