

Kids' Chronicle

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BY CINDY BASSETT

Peter and John are put on trial

"Where are you taking us?" Peter asked the guard who came to unlock the prison door.

"Annas, the high priest, has called a meeting of the entire Hebrew Council to hear your case," the guard replied as he motioned for both Peter and John to follow him.

The two apostles had been arrested yesterday after the miracle. A large crowd had gathered in the Temple courtyard to learn how the beggar, who had been crippled for more than 40 years, was suddenly able to walk. As soon as Peter started talking about Jesus, however, the Temple guards jailed him and John.

John tapped Peter's arm and whispered. "We'll be questioned by all 71 members of the Council."

"Don't worry," Peter said, "this time I'm ready."

The last time Peter appeared before the Council was the night Jesus was condemned to death. But, Peter was so afraid that he had run away and pretended that he didn't know Jesus.

As Peter and John entered the courtroom, the high priest was looking at them with extreme annoyance. "Which of you would like to answer our questions first?" Annas asked.

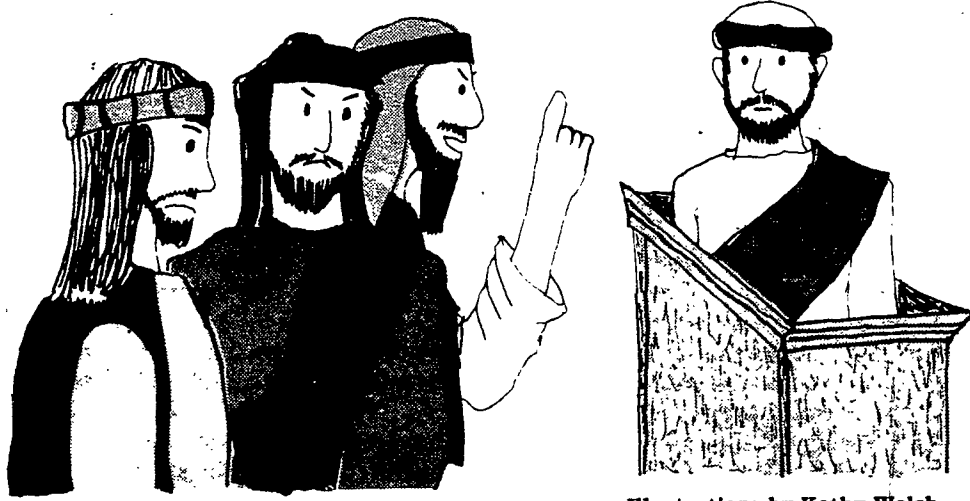
Peter nodded and stepped boldly up on the witness stand before the Council.

"You have not been charged with anything yet," Annas warned. "How did the supposed miracle happen?"

"If you are talking about the healing of the cripple, it was through my faith in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth," Peter said without hesitation.

Annas ignored Peter's words and turned instead to the Council saying, "As you recall, we arrested this Jesus and found him guilty of trying to overthrow the government. He was crucified and died a couple of months ago."

"Jesus was the Son of God," Peter



Illustrations by Kathy Welsh

interjected. "And after three days, he rose from the dead! We are his witnesses. Anyone who believes in Jesus will be given eternal life."

"That's blasphemy and against our law to say such a thing!" one of the Council members shouted.

A disturbance was overheard at the courtroom door as a man pushed his way through the Temple guards.

"You cannot deny this miracle!" the man shouted as he ran to the front of the room. "I am living proof!"

"Remove these men from the courtroom!" Annas ordered, pointing at all three of them. "We will discuss this matter in private."

As soon as the guards had done so, Annas said, "We would look foolish if we denied this miracle. Everyone in Jerusalem is talking about it."

"Nevertheless, these men must be stopped from telling lies!" a teacher of the law interrupted.

Another Council member added, "I advise caution. There are people outside marching in support of these two men. If we don't release them, I fear a riot."

"And if we let them go, we're saying that we agree with them," said Annas. "We are deadlocked then."

Since the Council was not able to

come to any decision, Peter and John were released later that same day. Annas warned them never to speak about Jesus again. He noted this in the official court records.

Read More About It: Book of Acts, Chapter 4:1-23.

Q & A

1. How did Peter change from Holy Thursday night when he denied knowing Jesus to now?

2. Could you still be Jesus' follower if you had to risk arrest?

The Bible Times

33 A.D.

Jerusalem — The Hebrew Council was deadlocked in the case of two men arrested after a disturbance in the Temple courtyard.

The two followers of Jesus Christ of Nazareth claimed that the healing of a crippled beggar occurred through their faith in the name of Jesus.

According to the two men, Jesus is the Son of God and He rose from the dead after being put to death by crucifixion.

During the trial, the healed man forced his way into the courtroom. He and the two prisoners were removed from the courtroom so the Council could debate in a closed session.

Throughout the hearing, a group of demonstrators marched outside to support the two men.

Although the men were released because of the deadlock, the high priest Annas warned, "If they are caught telling lies again, they will be arrested and severely punished."



Talking to God

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for being with me in all of my trials and testing. I know that I can call on you to guide me in what I say and do. Help me to be a faithful witness for you.

King Solomon's Wisdom



"God rescues good people from danger while letting the wicked fall into it."

Proverbs 11:8

Kids' Club

Write an essay and win a \$50 Savings Bond!

If you had to stand trial like Peter, what would you say about Jesus?

Write an answer of 100 words or less. Include your name, home address, telephone number, school and grade. The winner will earn a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond. The winner will be notified by phone; the essay will be printed in an upcoming edition of *Kids' Chronicle*. Send your entry to: Cindy Bassett, c/o *Catholic Courier*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, New York 14624.

Deadline for entries is July 23, 1992.



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Phrase Scramble

Jesus never promised a trouble-free life for his followers. But he did say something to remember when troubles come. Unscramble Jesus' words from John's Gospel. Answer on page 4.

"NI STIH ROLDW OYU LIWL EVAH BOURLTE.

UTB EKTA RTAHE! I AEHV EMOCVERO EHT

DRWLO."

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