

Kids' Chronicle

THURSDAY, March 11, 1993

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BY JOE SARNICOLA

Jesus creates enough food for 5,000

Jesus leaned against the ship's bow and stared out into the Sea of Galilee. He had just been told of the death of his cousin, John the Baptist, and had set sail with his disciples in search of a quiet place to pray.

As the ship approached the shore, someone who recognized Jesus became excited and shouted, "Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming!" A crowd quickly formed as people left their jobs and their homes to see Jesus. Everyone had heard how he could make the crippled walk and the blind see.

"Jesus, Jesus!" they chanted as he stepped off the ship and onto dry land. "Help us, heal us." Putting his own grief aside, Jesus had compassion on the people and spent the whole day talking with them and healing the sick.

The disciple James, anxious about the crowd's size and the lateness of the afternoon, touched Jesus on the shoulder and said, "My Lord, it is starting to get dark. You should order the people to leave now, so that they may go to one of the nearby villages to buy food for their supper."

"There is no need to send them away," Jesus answered. "You will feed them."

Philip, another disciple, spoke up. "We would need eight months'



Illustrations by Kathy Welsh

wages to buy enough food for all these people. We don't have that kind of money."

"How much food is available?" Jesus asked calmly.

Andrew, Peter's brother, said, "Here is a boy who wants to give us the two fishes and five loaves of barley bread he has in a basket. This is all the food we can find."

Jesus looked at the boy and smiled. "We will have more than enough," he said. "Invite the people to sit down in groups of 50."

After everyone was seated according to his instructions, Jesus took the bread and fishes from the boy, looked up to heaven, and prayed, "Father, thank you for giving us the food we need today, and for show-

ing mercy on your children by healing their diseases."

The disciples distributed the bread and fish until every person had enough to eat. Five thousand men were present, plus many more women and children. No one went hungry.

After the meal, Jesus said, "Now gather up any remaining food, and be sure nothing is wasted." More than 12 baskets of uneaten food were collected from the original two fish and five barley loaves the boy had given to Jesus. All the people were amazed by the miracles Jesus had performed for them that day.

"Now, my dear friends," Jesus said to his disciples. "Sail on ahead to Bethsaida, while I dismiss the crowd. I will join you later."

As the disciples sailed away, the people went back to their homes, marvelling at the things Jesus had done. Jesus walked into the hills to be alone and to pray.

References: Matthew 14:13-23, Mark 6:30-45, Luke 9:10-17, John 6:1-14

Q & A

1. Why were so many people waiting to see Jesus?
2. Name a place in the world today where people do not have enough to eat.



WORD SEARCH

God wants us always to think about the people around us. Find the answers to the questions below in the puzzle. Words may run in any direction. Answers on page 16.

R S H E A L I N G T
U M O A A B S Y D R
G A L I L E E R G O
H Y T I O R W G P Z
B G S H I P N N Z S
F S H A R E D U F A
I N V S H L R H I Y
V O G O S P E L S D
E U X G B H C O H N
B G D A E R B R L G

1. What sea did Jesus sail?
2. What did the boy do with his food?
3. How many thousand men were fed?
4. What is another word for "curing" someone?
5. What do we call the books written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John?
6. What was one of the foods the people ate?
7. What was the other food?
8. What is another word for a big boat?
9. How did the people feel before they were fed?



February Essay Winner

Congratulations to Tom Rauchfuss, a fifth-grade student at St. Theodore's School. He is winner of a \$50 Savings Bond for the best essay in the February Kids' Club Contest. His essay is reprinted below.

February Essay Question: Why does God test you?

God tests us to see if we truly love Him. In Biblical times, Abraham was asked to kill his only son, Isaac, for God. God, however, sent an angel to tell Abraham not to kill Isaac. Abraham showed God he truly loved Him. Today we are tested in our everyday lives by God to see if we truly love Him! Drugs, alcohol, and crime are all around us, and we must be strong, and say "NO!" God is still testing our love for Him!

Kids' Club

Win a \$50 Savings Bond!!!
How can you help feed hungry people?

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 *Kid's Chronicle*. Send your entry to: *Catholic Courier*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

The deadline for essays is March 25, 1993.



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The Bible Times

AD 30 Galilee — More than 5,000 witnesses reported yesterday that the healer and miracle worker known as Jesus performed his greatest miracle to date.

Upon hearing the news that He was coming, people stopped what they were doing, gathered their families together, and hurried off to see Him.

Apparently, no one had brought any food to the gathering except for a young boy who had come directly from the market. Sources confirmed that the boy had only two fishes and five loaves of barley bread to feed thousands. After Jesus prayed over the food, however, his followers gave the provisions — as much as desired — to everyone present.

Twelve full baskets of leftover fish and bread were collected after the feast. Nothing like this has been seen in modern times.

Many reports of Jesus' healing miracles — including the cure of a man blind from birth who can now see, and a woman with a blood disease — have been made. Yet the latest reported miracle was experienced by all present.

Although his disciples were seen leaving on the ship that brought them, an eyewitness claims that he saw Jesus walking off alone into the hills of Galilee.

Talking to God

Talking to God:
Dear Jesus,

Like the boy who gave you his food to share with others, give me the courage to use the talents and abilities I have to help others, too.

"The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O Lord, endures forever."

Psalm 138:8 NIV

King Solomon's Wisdom



"Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity, and honor."

Proverbs 21:21 NIV

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