

Kids' Chronicle

THURSDAY, August 12, 1993

Volume 11, Number 3, 15

BY JOE SARNICOLA

The woman at the well

Because of their hatred of the Samaritans, most Jews traveled along the eastern side of the Jordan River and not through Samaria, even though it added many miles to their journey.

But to show his love for everyone, Jesus passed directly through Samaria on his way to Galilee.

The sun was very hot, so Jesus stopped at a public well in the city of Sychar. He knew his mule needed water, too. A Samaritan woman was approaching the well to draw water at the same time Jesus arrived.

"Dear woman," he asked her. "I have no container. Would you share some water with me?"

The woman could tell by the way Jesus talked and dressed that he was from Israel. She said, "How is that a Jewish man asks a Samaritan woman for water? Jews and Samaritans have nothing to do with each other."

Jesus answered, "If you knew who I am, you would have asked me for a drink, and I would have given you living water."

"Sir," replied the woman, "I do not know who you are, but I know the well is deep, and you have no bowl. Where would you find this living water?"

"Whoever drinks from this well will be thirsty again. Whoever drinks the water I give will never



Illustrations by Kathy Welsh

thirst."

The woman filled a bowl of water for Jesus and poured some on the ground for the mule and said, "As I give you the water you have asked of me, give me this water you speak of. I would like to drink it."

Jesus said, "God the Father is looking for people who will worship him in spirit and in truth."

"I have heard of Christ, the Messiah, who will tell us about God. Is that you, sir?"

"I am that man."

The woman picked up her water pots, bowed to Jesus, and returned home as fast as she could. She called her family and friends together, and said, "I met a man at the well who spoke of the wonders of God. Do

you think he is the Messiah the prophets said would come?"

The woman's father spoke. "I will not know if he is the Messiah unless I see him for myself."

Everyone else agreed, so they all went back to the well to see if Jesus was still there. They found him sitting under a tree feeding a carrot to his mule.

Jesus looked up and said to the woman, "Have you brought to the well others who are thirsty?"

"Did you not tell me of God and living water?" asked the woman.

"I spoke as you have said."

Someone asked, "If you have living water, what food do you offer?"

Jesus answered, "My food is to do the will of my father who sent me."

The people were astonished by the wisdom of his answer and they asked him to stay and speak with them.

Jesus remained in Sychar for two more days and many Samaritans came to believe because of his words and the testimony of the woman who met him at the well. Then Jesus continued on to Galilee.

Read more about it: John 4:1-43

Q & A

1. Why did Jesus stop in Sychar?
2. What did Jesus say he would give to the woman?

The Bible Times

Samaria AD 30—A man claiming to be the promised Messiah stopped for a drink of water in the city of Sychar last week.

A woman who spoke with him says he knew everything about her, even though they had never met before. Some members of her family tell the same story.

One city official said that although he did not know who the man was, he did not believe the man was the Messiah.

"The stranger was obviously a Jew," the official said. "Messiah or not, why would a Jewish man ask a Samaritan woman for a drink? He must be an escaped criminal."

Many residents of Sychar profess to believe what the stranger said, and have even raised the issue of making peace with Israel. However, other people do not want to make peace with the Israelites. City leaders are trying to prevent arguments from breaking out.

The traveller was last seen alone on a mule, heading toward Galilee. Although he claimed God was his father, he never told anyone his name.

King Solomon's Wisdom



"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."

Proverbs 16:3

Talking to God

Dear God,

Thank you for the promises you keep with me, the shelter you provide for me, and the love you give to me.

"The Lord is my refuge and my fortress; my God in whom I trust."

Psalms 91:2

John's Easy Winner

John, a fourth-grade student at St. Joseph's School, won the contest for the most creative and original drawing of a boy who would be the best man to be the Pope. His drawing is reproduced here.

If everyone loved each other and followed God's commandments, there would be no anger and no wars. People would help each other and not hurt each other. There would be no wars because the countries would be united. The world wouldn't be polluted and damaged by war. People would not dislike others because of their color or by where they came from or by religion. Everyone would go to heaven and be with God because they followed his commandments. People would be happy and die in peace.

The importance of water

Fill in the blanks to see how important water is in many stories about Jesus. Look for answers on page 7.

1. John _____ Jesus in the _____.
2. Peter and Andrew were _____.
3. Jesus _____ on the lake.
4. Jesus said to the _____, "Follow me, and I will give you _____."
5. Jesus changed water into _____.
6. Jesus said he would give _____ to the _____.
7. Jesus _____ the Samaritan woman.

Kids' Club

Win a \$50 Savings Bond!!!

Jesus was kind to the Samaritans. How can we follow his example to be friends with people of other colors, nationalities, and religions?

Write an answer of 100 or fewer words. Include your name, home address, telephone number, school and grade. The winner will earn a \$50 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: *Catholic Courier*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

The deadline for essays is August 26, 1993.



THANKS TO OUR SAVINGS BOND DONOR:
851 Plymouth Ave. N., Rochester, NY 14608
(716) 546-1740
Quality Sausage and Meat Products Since 1880

Our Kids' Chronicle is sponsored in part by the following Catholic High Schools

THE AQUINAS INSTITUTE
A Tradition of Excellence
(716) 254-2020
1127 Dewey Ave., Rochester 14613

BISHOP KEARNEY HIGH SCHOOL
"An Education For Life."
342-4000
125 Kings Hwy. S. Rochester, 14617

DeSales Regional High School
In our 80th year of providing quality Catholic Education to young adults in the Finger Lakes.
315-789-5111
90 Putney Street, Geneva, 14456

MCQUAID HIGH SCHOOL
DESIGNED AS AN "EMPIRICAL SCHOOL" BY THE U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION
1800 S. Clinton Ave., Roch. 14618
(716) 473-1130

NAZARETH SCHOOLS
The Hall—The Academy
A Tradition You Can Trust
458-8583
458-3786

Mercy
Educating Today's Young Women for Tomorrow's World
Our Lady of Mercy H.S.
1437 Blossom Rd., Roch. 14610
288-7120