

# Kids' Chronicle

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BY JOE SARNICOLA

## Jesus describes heaven

The Mount of Olives is a hilly region on the eastern side of Jerusalem, rich in palm and olive trees and myrtle. The breathtaking view of the city combined with the fragrant scent of the trees and plants made this one of the most beautiful spots in Israel.

Jesus often walked here when he wanted to be alone in a quiet place. One day, Jesus' disciples found him under a shady tree. They wanted to ask him some questions.

"My Lord," said Peter, "it is very difficult to talk privately with you, because you are followed by crowds wherever you go."

"We are alone now," said Jesus. "What is it you wish to know?"

"What are the signs of your coming and the end of time?"

Jesus looked at each of his disciples. They were sitting in a semicircle at his feet. He could see the desire to learn in their eyes and their loyalty to him in their hearts. He raised one arm, finger pointing, and began to answer their questions.

"Watch out or you may be fooled. There will be people who will claim to be the messiah. Do not believe them. There will be wars, earthquakes, and famines, but do not be afraid. Whoever is faithful to me will be saved."

John interrupted. "Does anyone know when this will happen?"

"No one knows, not even the angels in heaven. Only the father knows."

"What can you tell us about the

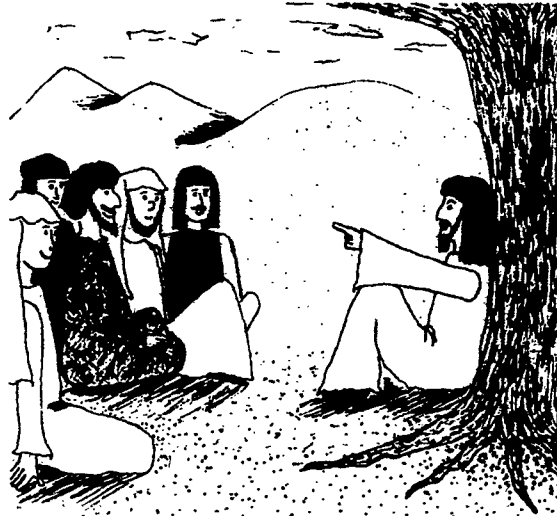


Illustration by Kathy Welsh

kingdom of heaven?" asked Andrew.

In answer to Andrew's question, Jesus told this story:

Once there was a man who was going on a long journey. Before he left, he called his three chief servants and put them in charge of his property, according to their abilities. He gave them gold coins with which to perform their duties; to the first he gave five thousand, to the second he gave two thousand, and to the third he gave one thousand.

The man was gone for a long time, but when he came back he called his servants to report on their performance in his absence.

The first servant said, "Sir, I invested the money you gave me and I earned 5,000 more gold coins for your treasury."

"Well done, loyal servant," said the man. "Because you have been faithful with a small amount, I am going to put you in charge of a large part of my business."

The second servant said, "Sir, I also invested the money you gave me and have earned an additional 1,000 coins."

"Well done. You, too shall be in charge of a part of my business."

The third servant said, "Sir, I was afraid of your anger, so I hid your money in the ground. Here is the exact amount you gave me."

"You lazy servant! You could have at least put the money in the bank to earn interest. I am going to take what you have and give to my first servant. You are no longer my employee."

Then Jesus said, "This is what the kingdom of heaven will be like."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:  
Matthew 25:14-30

### Q&A

1. Who knows when the end of time will come?
2. Why was the man angry with the third servant?

## Bible Accent

The olive tree is an important symbol of both the Old and New Testaments. It was an olive branch brought back by the dove that told Noah that the flood waters were receding. Jesus often met with his disciples on the Mount of Olives.

This tree grows throughout Israel and the entire Mediterranean region. It can grow in dry, rocky soil and can even withstand several droughts.

Although it is slow growing and may take up to 10 years to produce its first good fruit crop, an olive tree is very durable. Olive trees have been known to live several hundred years, and if they are cut down, they may produce as many as five new shoots from the roots that remain.

Reaching to heights of over 40 feet, olive trees blossom with thousands of delicate flowers in May and yield fruit in the fall. More valuable than the olives themselves is their oil. One tree can produce 10 to 15 gallons of olive oil in a season.

David said that children were like "young olive trees around your table. A man who obeys the Lord will surely be blessed like this." (Psalms 128:3, 4)

### SPOTLIGHT ON SAINTS

All Saints' Day honors all Christian saints, especially those who do not have a particular day in their honor.

It was first celebrated in May of the year 610 A.D. when Emperor Phocas gave the ancient Roman temple of the Pantheon to Pope Boniface IV for use as a church. Originally called the Feast of All Holy Martyrs, the day gradually honored all saints, whether martyred or not.

All Saints' Day is a holy day of obligation and on it unnecessary work is discouraged. The date was eventually changed to November 1. October 31, Halloween, takes its name from "All Hallow's Eve," or the night before All Saints' Day.

### The Pentateuch

Check the box next to the five books of the Old Testament that are called "The Pentateuch," or the books of the law. Answers on page 13.

- |                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalms   | <input type="checkbox"/> Numbers     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus   | <input type="checkbox"/> Job         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah   | <input type="checkbox"/> Deuteronomy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joel     | <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis  | <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ezekeiel | <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus   |

## Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 words or fewer) that answers this question:

Jesus often used parables to explain a lesson. Which parable is your favorite and why?

Send your essay — including your name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to *Catholic Courier* 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Deadline for entries is November 26, 1993. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Kids' Chronicle*.

Last month's winner was Jeremiah Harmon, a sixth-grade student at Fairport's Johanna Perrin Middle School. In response to the question "If you were asked by a slave, 'What does it mean to be free?' what would your answer be?" he wrote:

Freedom means I can say what I want. I can worship or preach about my Father, God, and His Son, Jesus, when I want and wherever I choose.

No one can legally hurt or abuse me; no one can even touch me if I don't want them to. I am owned only by God, never by a man. I have the privilege to get an education, therefore a good job when I get older.

Because I am free, I can visit whomever I wish, and travel at my will. When old enough I can vote for my government officials. I'm glad I'm free!

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