

Kids' Chronicle

THURSDAY, March 24, 1994 VOLUME II, ISSUE NO. 6 BY JOE SARNICOLA

The plot against Jesus

The chief priests and teachers of the law wanted to have Jesus arrested and put to death. They knew they had to scheme in secret, because it was only two days until the Passover celebration. They fear that if they were to act publicly, the people may start a riot against them. Jesus was a very popular man.

Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' twelve disciples, met with the priests to betray the Lord. The priests promised to pay Judas money for his assistance. Judas waited for the right opportunity to spring his trap.

When the day of Passover arrived, one of Jesus' disciples asked him, "Lord, where will we be eating the Passover meal?"

Jesus answered, "I would like two of you to go to the city. When you find a man carrying water, tell him that the teacher wants to know where he and his disciples will eat the Passover meal. He will show you an upstairs room fully prepared for us."

The disciples found the man with the water, who showed them a furnished room. They began preparation of the food. Jesus and the other disciples joined them later.

Later, when all of the men were seated with Jesus around the table, Jesus said, "Tonight, one of you will betray me." The disciples were stunned, and each man vowed never to betray their Lord.

Jesus continued, "It is the one who will dip his bread in the dish at the same time I do. It would have been better if that man had never been born."

Jesus then picked up a loaf of bread, broke it and gave a piece to each man. After saying a prayer of



Illustration by Kathy Wilsh

thanks, he said, "This is my body. Take and eat it."

Jesus picked up his glass of wine, prayed again and said, "This is my blood which will be shed for all people. Drink it."

After singing a song of praise, the men left the table and went to the Mount of Olives.

When they arrived, Jesus said, "Peter, James, and John, come with me. The rest of you, stay here and keep watch." Jesus walked further into the forest, knelt down, and prayed with tears of sorrow. When he stood up, he saw his friends had fallen asleep.

"Wake up. Stay awake and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

A second time Jesus went ahead to pray and returned only to find the men asleep again.

"My Lord," said Peter, "we cannot keep our eyes open. We are ashamed."

After praying a third time and again finding his disciples asleep, Jesus said, "Get up! My time has come.

My betrayer is here."

Immediately Judas appeared leading a crowd of armed and angry men. Having given the signal that he would kiss the man who is Jesus, Judas greeted Jesus and kissed him. Then the soldiers came forward and arrested Jesus.

Jesus said, "I was with you daily, yet you never arrested me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled."

Jesus was brought before Pilate for sentencing. Pilate tried to persuade the Jewish leaders to free Jesus, because he had committed no crime. But the Jews demanded that Jesus be crucified. And the sentence was carried out.

Read more about it: MARK 14 and 15.

Q&A

1. What Jewish festival was being celebrated?
2. What did Jesus say about the bread and wine?

FILL IN THE BLANKS PUZZLE

Fill in the blanks built around the word passion. Answers can be found on page 12.

P _ _ _ _	DISCIPLE CALLED 'the ROCK'
_ _ _ _ A _	He betrayed Jesus
_ _ _ _ S _	Jesus died on this
_ _ _ _ S _	First Wednesday of Lent
_ _ _ _ I _	_____ OF THE JEWS
_ _ _ _ O _	soldier's gambled for this garment
_ _ _ _ N _	this sealed Jesus' tomb

Bible Accent

Although not as abundant now as they were in the Israel of Jesus' time, date palm trees have an important part in Jewish history. The long taproot of these trees allows them to find deeply buried water and survive the hot desert conditions.

These trees can grow to a height of eighty feet, bear fruit after thirty seasons, and continue to do so for three quarters of a century. Some palm trees have been recorded to live for as much as two hundred years.

An Arab proverb says that the palm tree has as many uses as there are days in the year. The leaves are used for roofs, rugs, and baskets, and its fibers are woven to make rope. Even the seeds and the sap are used to make useful products.

When the Jews laid palm leaves in front of Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem, they were honoring him as their king. This year, Palm Sunday is March 27.

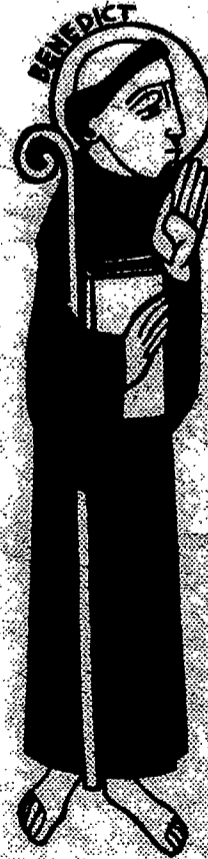
Saint Benedict

Saint Benedict wrote what is called a "rule," which is a code of conduct for monks who live in monasteries. He recommended a combination of prayer and meditation, humility and compassion, and hard work.

He was born in Rome in 480, but twenty years later, became a religious hermit in Central Italy.

His preachings and writings attracted many followers and he eventually founded twelve small monasteries.

When Benedict was 50 years old, he built the famous monastery of Monte Cassino. The monks here became well known for their works of art and literature. St. Benedict is honored on March 21.



Bible Trivia

Who was the man who buried the body of Jesus? (Mark 15)

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

All entries must be received by April 14, 1994. A winner will be selected at random from from all the correct entries submitted. The winner will be notified by mail and receive a gift.

Last month's winner was Marie Rose LoDolce of Webster State Road School who correctly identified Esau and Jacob as Isaac's twin sons.

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