

Kids' Chronicle

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BY JOE SARNICOLA

Jesus heals the sick

Jesus and his disciples were in a fishing boat crossing the Lake of Galilee. Before they had even reached the opposite shore, they could see that a huge crowd of people had gathered. Everyone had heard about the miracles performed by the man named Jesus.

Many sick people were there hoping to be healed by him. Others wanted to hear him preach about God's love. Even some church leaders came to see the man who some were saying was the promised messiah. Each person there had a reason for wanting to see Jesus.

Before the disciples could pull the boat up onto the dry land, the crowd pressed in toward Jesus. Jesus stepped out of the boat and began talking to the people and listening to their needs. Jesus had a gentle way of dealing with the people that kept them from getting too excited so that there would not be a riot where someone could get hurt accidentally.

A well dressed man with several servants made his way through the crowd toward Jesus. Recognizing him as an official of the synagogue, everyone stepped aside and let him pass. Jesus could see the man was very upset about something. "What is your name, and what do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked.

The man knelt down at Jesus' feet and started to cry. "Master, my name is Jairus. I have heard how you can cause the blind to see and the crippled to walk. I have a twelve year old daughter who is very sick. I am afraid she might die. If you would only come with me and lay your hands on her, I know she would be completely healed."

Jesus touched the man on the shoulder. "Because you have asked with a sincere heart, I will come with you."

Jesus stood up and started to walk to-

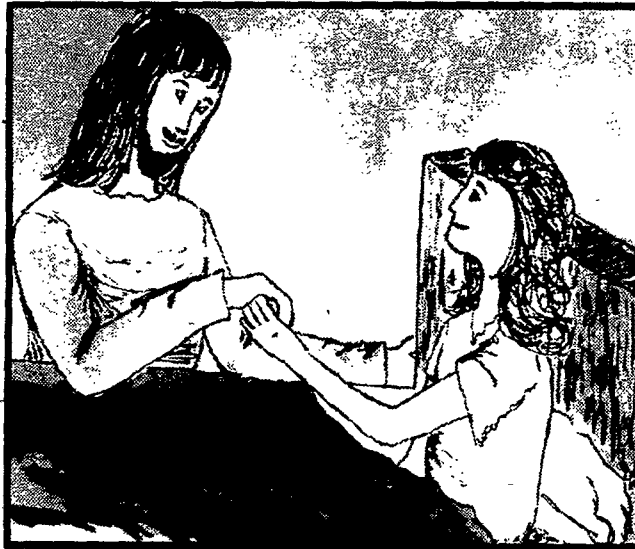


Illustration by Kathy Welsh

ward the home of Jairus. The crowd followed. There were so many people that they were pressing tight against each other in their efforts to be near Jesus.

Trying to force her way through the mass of people was a frail woman dressed in tattered clothes. She had been plagued with blood disease for years. She had spent all of her money on doctors, but she only got worse. And now she was poor besides. She had only one thought in her mind. "If I can only touch his robe, I know I will be healed."

With that little strength she had left, she reached out and grabbed Jesus' robe. Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt a surge of power flood through her whole body. She knew, too, that she had been totally cured.

Suddenly Jesus stopped and asked, "Who touched me?" He had felt power leave him when he had been touched by the woman.

Peter looked at Jesus in amazement and asked, "My Lord, you are sur-

rounded by thousands of people and you want to know who touched you?"

The woman came forward, crying and shaking with fear. "I touched you," she confessed.

Jesus said, "Woman, your faith has made you whole. Go in peace and suffer no longer."

At the same time, several servants arrived who had been sent to give Jairus a message. "Your daughter is dead," they told him. "There is no need to bother the teacher any longer."

But Jesus said to Jairus, "Believe and do not have fear." Then Jesus left the crowd taking only Peter, James, and John with him to see Jairus' daughter. When they arrived there, Jairus' family was crying because of the death of the young girl.

"What is everyone crying about?" Jesus asked. "I assure you, she is not dead. She has only fallen asleep."

Some of the people there laughed at Jesus and thought he was foolish for what he had said. Jesus told everyone to leave the girl's room except her parents and the three disciples. Then he touched the girl's hand and said, "Wake up, my child." The girl sat up to the amazement of the witnesses. Jesus told everyone not to reveal what he done and to feed the girl. Then he returned to Galilee with his disciples.

Read more about it: Mark 5

Q&A

1. What did Jesus say had healed the sick woman?
2. How did Jesus know someone had touched him?

Bible Accent

Baptism means to submerge in or wash with water. In the Old Testament priests often washed before certain religious rituals and sacrifices. This washing has come to symbolize cleansing from sin, asking for forgiveness from God, or a willingness to obey God's law. In the New Testament John the Baptist baptized many people as a sign of their repentance, and the disciples often baptized new Christians when they joined the church.

Saint Paul tells us that with baptism we are buried with Jesus and are then able to also rise from the dead with him. Catholics today know that baptism is the first sacrament of initiation, the other two being Eucharist and confirmation. Children of Catholic parents are usually baptized as babies, and new church members or converts are baptized after completing the RICA program, which means the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.



John the Baptist

One of the oldest celebrations of a saint is that for John the Baptist. And, although most saints are remembered on the anniversary of their deaths, John is honored on June 24, the traditional day of his birth. This special distinction is made because John was called by God before he was even born.

John was the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth. His mother was a cousin of Mary, the mother of Jesus. An angel of the Lord told Zechariah that Elizabeth would have a son, but he did not believe it. As a result, the angel made him speechless until John was born, at which time Zechariah announced what the boy's name would be.

John travelled across Israel baptizing and preaching that a savior would be coming. He later baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. John was put in prison by King Herod for the message he preached. At the request of Salome, a dancing girl, Herod cut off the head of John the Baptist.

Bible Trivia

What kind of a bird landed on the shoulder of Jesus when he was baptized?

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

Last month's winner was Joy Liberi of Rochester's Buckman Heights School who identified Jericho as the fortified city conquered by Joshua and the Israelites.

Old Testament characters

Based on Hebrews 11, match the Old Testament characters to the events in their lives. Answers on page 17.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Abraham | a. built the ark |
| 2. Sara | b. father of Jacob and Esau |
| 3. Abel | c. offered a good sacrifice |
| 4. Jacob | d. hid the Israelite spies |
| 5. Isaac | e. found the promised land |
| 6. Enoch | f. did not fear Egypt |
| 7. Rahab | g. had a son when she was old |
| 8. Moses | h. crossed the Red Sea on dry land |
| 9. Noah | i. was taken up into heaven |
| 10. Israelites | j. blessed Joseph's sons |

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