

# Kids' Chronicle

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## Jesus outsmarts some enemies

By JOE SARNICOLA

The Pharisees and some of King Herod's soldiers were jealous of the popularity of Jesus and they did not like his criticism of them. They held a secret meeting and decided to send a few men to ask Jesus some questions in an attempt to trick him. If he said anything that sounded like an insult to the government, they would be able to have him arrested.

When the men chosen for the assignment found Jesus, he was talking with people from the town under the shade of a few trees. The spies joined the group by sitting in different spots, as if they were genuinely interested in what Jesus was saying.

When there was an opportunity, one of the spies, asked, "Teacher, we know you speak your true feelings according to God's will. Please tell us whether by law we are required to pay taxes to the Romans."

Jesus immediately knew the question was an attempt to trap him, so he replied, "Why do you try to trick me with such things? Bring me a coin, and I will teach you a lesson."

A man handed him a coin and then Jesus held it up for everyone to see. "Whose face is on the front of this coin?" he asked.

"The Roman emperor," the people said.

"Then there is also the answer to your question. Pay to the emperor what is his, and pay to God what is God's." Even the spies were astonished at the wisdom of Jesus' reply.

A member of the religious sect called the Sadducees was also in the crowd listening to Jesus. He asked, "What is the most important com-



Illustration by Kathy Welsh

mandment?" The Sadducees believed in strict obedience to the laws given by Moses, and they, too, resented some of the teachings of Jesus.

Jesus answered, "Moses told us the greatest commandment is to love the one true God with your heart, mind, and soul. The second most important commandment is to love your neighbor as much as you love yourself."

The Sadducee stood up and said, "Well spoken. What you have said is true. There is one God and we are to love him first and love our neighbors as well. To do this is better than to offer sacrifice."

Jesus smiled at the man with compassion. "There is much wisdom in your words. You are not far from the kingdom of God."

The spies did not ask Jesus any more questions because his answers were impossible to criticize, so they left the crowd and reported back to the Pharisees and soldiers.

Jesus continued talking to the peo-

ple. "Be careful of people who try to pretend to be something they are not. Even some of the teachers of the laws of Moses who wear the finest robes and sit in the most important seats in public take advantage of the poor or make long, but meaningless prayers. Their punishment will be the severest of all."

Jesus pointed to the temple entrance where people were leaving offerings. "Look over there. There are those who can afford to leave large offerings, but give very little. Yet, that old woman who at this minute is giving two small coins has given more than any of the others, because she has given all she has left."

Jesus visited with the people and told them about the love of God until the sun started to go down.

Read more about it: Mark 12

1. Why did the Pharisees send spies to hear Jesus?

2. Why did Jesus say the old woman's offering was the best?

### Bible Trivia

Who were the twelve tribes of Israel names after? Exodus 1:1-6; Revelations 7:8

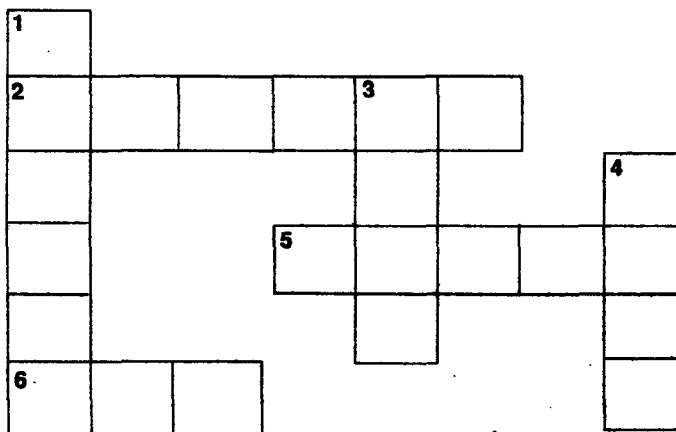
Send answer to: *Catholic Courier Bible Trivia*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y., 14624. Please include your name, address and school name.

All entries must be received by November 10, 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 Katie Monnat of Johanna Perrin School in Fairport. She knew Jesus was 12 years old when he spoke with the Jewish teachers.

### Crossword Puzzle

Find the name of the correct family members to solve the puzzle. Answers found on page 2.



**DOWN**

- 1. Samuel's mother (1 Sam 1:20)
- 3. Jacob's twin (Gen. 25:25)
- 4. Eve's husband (Gen. 3:4)

**ACROSS**

- 2. Peter's brother (Luke 6:14)
- 5. Father of Absalom (2 Sam. 18:33)
- 6. A son of Noah (Gen. 6:9)

### Bible Accent

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed a document which we now call "The Ninety-five Theses" to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther was a Catholic priest who was concerned that some church leaders were abusing their authority. He also believed that salvation was a gift of God, not something to be bought or earned.

Because of his opinions, Luther was excommunicated from the church. He protested that it was his duty to speak out because he felt some church teachings were contrary to Scripture. Without meaning to, Luther had started a reformation of the church, and became one of the founders of the Protestant faith.

More than 400 years after his death, some of Luther's ideas were adopted by Vatican II. One of them was that the Mass be said in the language of the people, such as English, and not just in Latin.

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