

Kids' Chronicle

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1995

Love your enemies

By JOE SARNICOLA

Jesus was teaching on the Sabbath day when he was approached by a man with a paralyzed hand. The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law were jealous of Jesus. They were hoping he would give them an opportunity to blame him for breaking the laws of Moses. If Jesus healed the crippled man on the Sabbath day, the Pharisees would tell everyone he had disobeyed the laws.

Jesus knew what the Pharisees wanted to do, but he called the man forward anyway. The man stood next to Jesus, and Jesus spoke to the crowd. "What is the intent of the law? Is it to do good or to hurt others? Is it to save or lose a life?"

Jesus then turned to the man and said, "Straighten out your arm."

For the first time since he had been paralyzed, the man stretched out his arm and was completely cured. The man rejoiced that God had blessed him. The Pharisees became even more jealous of Jesus and promised among themselves to plot for revenge.

Later that night Jesus found a quiet place in the hills to pray. In the morning, after praying all night, Jesus found a clearing at the foot of the hills where he was joined by his disciples. A crowd of people from all over Judea, Jerusalem, and several of the nearby coastal cities



Illustration by Kathy Welsh

quickly gathered around Jesus. They wanted to hear him preach and they brought their sick family members, hoping Jesus would heal them. Jesus healed them all, even those who had been troubled by evil spirits.

When the people were seated and ready to hear Jesus speak, he said, "Listen, all of you. Do not hate your enemies, love them. Show kindness to those who hate you. Pray for those who would do you harm. If someone steals something from you, do not try to get it back. Treat others the way you would like to be treated."

Jesus paused to look at the faces of the people. They had never heard a message quite like this one and many of the people appeared confused. "Less than this," Jesus said, "a sinner could easily

do. Follow my example and God, your father, will reward you. He will treat you as his beloved children. Show mercy to others as he shows mercy to you."

A man stood up and said, "All of our lives, we have followed the laws of Moses. What you tell us now seems to be a new way of life."

Jesus smiled at the man and answered, "Judge others and God will judge you. Condemn others

and God will judge you. Give to others and God will give to you. Let me give you an example. If you have a log in your eye that blocks your vision, what position are you in to try to remove a tiny sliver out of someone else's eye? When your own vision is clear, then you will be able to help someone else see."

After teaching for the rest of the morning, Jesus dismissed the crowd and he traveled on with his disciples to Capernaum.

Read more about it: Luke 6

Q&A

1. How did Jesus say we should treat our enemies?
2. How will God treat us if we show mercy to others?



Bible Accent

Jesus often used parables in order to teach his lessons. A parable is a story that has more than one meaning.

The story of the trees and their fruit from the last part of the Gospel of Luke, chapter 6, is one example. The healthy tree bearing good fruit can mean a healthy apple tree yielding prize apples. But it can also mean faithful Christians may have a positive effect on the people around them. There are more references to parables in the Gospel of Luke than in any other book.

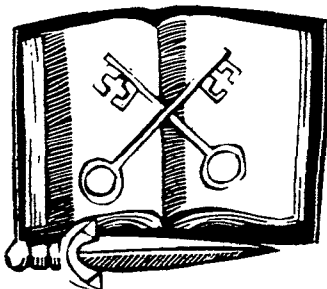
Jesus understood that the people who came to hear him were like children who wanted to hear stories told by their father. He used these opportunities to convey his message of the kingdom of God and the benefits of Christian living.

St. Gabriel

St. Gabriel Possenti was the son of an Italian lawyer. Gabriel's mother died four years after his birth, leaving his father to raise thirteen children alone.

Gabriel's father tried to bring his children up in a good, Christian manner and stressed the importance of a proper education. Before completing his formal schooling, however, Gabriel contracted an illness that threatened his life. He promised God he would follow a religious life if he lived.

Gabriel recovered from his illness and kept his promise to God. In 1856, at the age of eighteen, Gabriel became Brother Gabriel. He lived a simple life and was known for having a pleasant and compassionate personality. He pursued his studies and was devoted to serving God. However, six years after he had joined the religious order, Gabriel died of tuberculosis. We honor his memory on February 27.



Bible Trivia

What other New Testament book is believed to have been written by Luke?

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 February 9, 1995. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was Joy Liberi of Buckman Heights School in Rochester. She knew the name of Ezra's father was Seraiah.

Crossword

Find the names of the Bible characters in the puzzle box. The names may run in any direction. Answers on page 5.

- | | |
|--------|-------|
| Paul | Peter |
| Jesus | Moses |
| Thomas | Adam |
| Ruth | Noah |
| James | Aaron |
| David | |

P U D A V I D Y
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T B L G S R A O
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Question: What "Our Gang" star opened the swimming pool in "It's a Wonderful Life?"

Answer: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
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Last month's winner: **Lois Crane** of Rochester correctly identified **Jack Skellington** as the Pumpkin King of Halloween Town.

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RULES: ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MIDNIGHT, MARCH 3, 1995. Random drawing of correct entries to be held March 6 by Catholic Courier Representatives. Entries must be returned by mail to: Catholic Courier, Movie Trivia, 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, NY 14624-1899. Winner will be notified by mail. Prize is one year of Wegmans Video Rentals, membership is free and is required. Prize is not exchangeable for cash or other merchandise.