

Kids' Chronicle

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The Apostles begin preaching

BY JOE SARNICOLA

By the power of the Holy Spirit, the apostles were able to cast out devils, heal people, and perform other miracles. Every day many people became Christians. Families would put sick relatives on cots in the street when the apostles were coming. On some occasions, just the passing of Peter's shadow over a sick person would bring healing.

The people rejoiced at the miracles, but the religious leaders and high priests were jealous. So they had some of the apostles arrested and thrown in jail.

In the dark dampness of the jail at night, an angel of the Lord appeared to the apostles. The cell doors were thrown open and the angel said, "Follow me." The angel led the men safely out of the jail. "Now go and tell others about the new life God has given to you."

At the first light of the next morning, the apostles went to the temple and began preaching to the people.

At the same time, the religious leaders sent word to have the imprisoned apostles brought before them.

A soldier returned and reported, "We went to the jail as you asked, and when we got there we found the jail locked and secure. But all of the cells were empty. Yet none of the guards saw or heard anything during the night."

A second soldier came in and said, "The men you are looking for have been preaching about their God in the temple

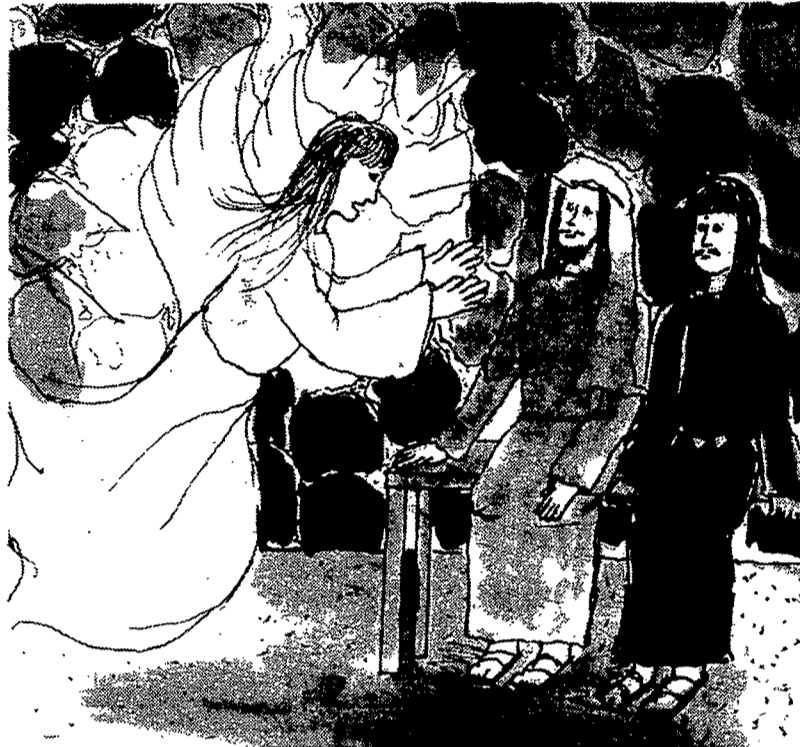


Illustration by Kathy Welsh

since early this morning."

The priests ordered the soldiers to fetch the apostles to have them questioned. The soldiers obeyed, but were careful not to use force. They were afraid the people would stone them.

When the apostles stood in front of the religious council, one of the priests said, "We commanded you not to speak in the name of this man Jesus, yet you have filled the city with your preaching. Worse, you are blaming us for his death!"

Peter was one of the apostles there. He said, "We obey God, regardless of what any man may tell us to do. You killed Jesus on a cross, but our God raised him from the dead. He is our Savior and offers us forgiveness for our sins. We have seen these things and know

them to be true. And we have received the gift of the Holy Spirit."

"We should have you put to death for such blasphemy," said one of the priests.

Gamaliel, a Pharisee, had the apostles taken to a separate room so that he could address the council.

"Do you remember Theudas?" he said. "He thought he was a great person and he had a following of

several hundred people. But when he died, his followers went their own ways and bothered no one. It may be the same way with the followers of this man Jesus. However, if he truly is the son of God, you will never be able to stop him."

The council agreed with Gamaliel. The apostles were whipped, ordered never to speak of Jesus again, and released. The apostles rejoiced that he had shared in the suffering of Jesus and continued to teach and preach every day.

Read more about it: Acts 5

Q&A

1. How did the apostles get out of jail?
2. What did the apostles do after they were ordered not to preach again?



Bible Accent

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples to go throughout the whole world to preach, baptize, and make disciples in his name. Beyond that he promised to send the Holy Spirit to enable them to carry out their mission. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would fill them with power and they were to wait in Jerusalem until he arrived. Then Jesus vanished before their eyes. Immediately two angels in white appeared before the disciples.

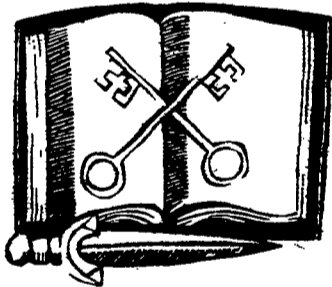
"Why do you men stare into heaven?" they asked. "The same Jesus you saw rise into heaven will return one day in a similar manner."

The disciples waited and prayed as Jesus had said as they prepared for the feast of Pentecost. On that day, the Holy Spirit descended on the men as tongues of fire.

Because of their faith and obedience, we celebrate the day of Pentecost as the day the Holy Spirit empowered people to be followers of Jesus. For more information, read Matthew 28 and Acts 1 and 2.

Michael Ghislieri

Born in 1504, Michael Ghislieri joined a Dominican order when he was fourteen years old. He became a teacher of theology and philosophy. He was later named as an administrator of the order and appointed inquisitor general in 1557. Pope Pius IV made him a cardinal, and in 1565 he became Pope Pius V. Pius V quickly worked to stop corrupt political practices, he gave money to the poor and to struggling convents and monasteries. He campaigned against prostitution, cruelty to animals, and crime. He is considered an important figure in church reformation history. We honor him on April 30.



Bible Trivia

Who was the first Christian martyr? (Acts 7)

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 May 11, 1995. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was Ann Logan a fifth-grade student at Hornell's St. Ann's School. She correctly identified Solomon as the son of David who succeeded him as king.

Fathers and sons

Match the fathers or foster fathers with their sons.
Answers can be found on page 11.

- | | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| 1. David | a. Jesus (Matthew 1:16) |
| 2. Joseph | b. Absalom (2 Samuel 3:3) |
| 3. Isaac | c. Seth (Genesis 5:3) |
| 4. Adam | d. James (Matthew 4:21) |
| 5. Nun | e. Esau (Genesis 25:26) |
| 6. Zebedee | f. Kaiah (Isaiah 1:1) |
| 7. Hilkiah | g. Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:1) |
| 8. Amoz | h. Joshua (Joshua 1:1) |

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