

Kids' Chronicle

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The disciples realize who Jesus is

BY JOE SARNICOLA

The sun was hot and bright and a light breeze was blowing dust from the fields. On a small hill outside the village of Caesarea, a few trees offered some relief from the day's heat. Jesus often found this spot to be a quiet place to pray. He was praying when his disciples came to him with questions.

Andrew was the first to speak. "Master, when you first saw me, I was fishing with my father and brother. I knew you were a man of God and I left my life's work to serve you. But . . ."

"What is it that troubles you, Andrew?" Jesus asked.

"There is much talk among the people as to who you really are."

"And who do they say that I am?"

"I have heard them say you are John the Baptist, or Elijah, or one of the other prophets," said Philip.

Jesus looked at each one of his disciples and said, "I am glad you have brought your questions to me. It is important for you to know in your hearts who I am. I have given you the authority to heal the sick and to preach about the kingdom of God. I have told you that God will provide everything you need as you travel. Have you found that to be true as you have been preaching?"

"Yes," they all answered.

"Then who is it you think that I am?"

Peter replied, "You are the messiah."

"Well, spoken, Peter. You could not have known that on your own. My father in heaven has revealed it to you by his spirit. You are the rock that will be



Illustration by Kathy Welsh

the foundation of my church. The keys to the kingdom of heaven will be given to you. But I must ask one thing from all of you."

"Anything you ask, we will do," promised James.

"You cannot share this revelation with anyone else," Jesus said. "The time will come when I will be brought before the religious leaders. They will beat me and ridicule me. They will even kill me. But after three days I will be alive again."

The disciples whispered among themselves, but they were unable to grasp the meaning of what Jesus had told them.

Peter spoke to Jesus privately and said, "Lord, I will not allow such a thing to

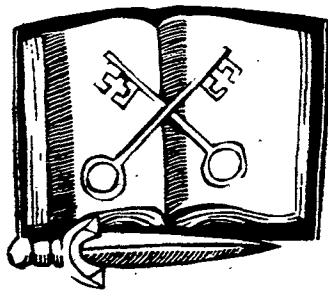
happen to you."

"Peter," Jesus answered, "it is the will of my father that these things happen as I have said. If you truly want to be my followers, you must forget your own selfish desires and carry crosses of your own. If you come to own everything at the loss of your life, what have you really accomplished? Yet anyone who dedicates his life to me will live forever."

Read more about it: LUKE 9: 1-6; 18-27.

Q&A

1. What did the apostles want to know about Jesus?
2. Who did Peter say Jesus was?



Bible Trivia

Jesus was a descendant of Judah. Who was Judah's father? (Genesis 35)

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

Last month's winner was Stephen Nicholson, a seventh-grade student at Northeastern Catholic Junior High. He correctly identified Greek as the language the words Alpha and Omega come from.

Patron Saints

Using an encyclopedia or a book of saints, how many patron saints can you correctly match with what they are the patrons of? Answers can be found on page 8.

Patron of:	Saint:
1. Accountants	a. Nicholas
2. Artists	b. Vitus
3. Brides	c. Agatha
4. Carpenters	d. Joseph of Cupertino
5. Dancers	e. Matthew
6. Editors	f. Cecilia
7. Firefighters	g. Maria Goretti
8. Musicians	h. Joseph
9. Students	i. Francis de Sales
10. Teenagers	j. Luke

Bible Accent

The word "messiah" comes from the Hebrew word which means to anoint. The Greek word with the same meaning is "christos," from which have the word "Christ."

The kings of the Old Testament were anointed with oil as part of their coronation. These anointings are also seen as prophecies that God will send an anointed one of his own to be ruler of all the earth. Genesis 49:10 says that the "royal scepter" will be held by the descendants of Judah. Matthew 1 documents Jesus as being a direct descendant of Judah, as was David. The Jews also knew the Messiah would be a descendant of David. Micah prophesied that the Messiah would come from Bethlehem, a small town in the country of Judah. David had also been born in Bethlehem.

After the day of Pentecost, Peter quoted Moses when he reminded the crowd that God promised to send a prophet who would be one of their own people. John includes in his Gospel a verse which reads, "These things have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the son of God." (John 20: 31)

St. Irenaeus

Irenaeus was born almost one hundred years after the death of Christ. He was an accomplished scholar and some of his religious instruction was from people who had themselves been taught by some of Jesus' own apostles.

During a period of Christian persecution in Europe, Irenaeus, then a priest, was sent to Rome with a letter to the pope. The pope was able to intervene and the persecution ended. Upon his return to his own home church, Irenaeus was made a bishop.

Irenaeus took advantage of his position in the church and the time of religious peace to write about theological issues. He wrote a series of five books which promoted the study of both the Old and New Testaments. He also encouraged people to examine their own lives and compare them with the life that Christ led.

One of his aims was to stop the work of various religious sects which had formed and which were teaching non-Christian principles. He was successful in breaking up some of the sects, many members of which joined the Catholic Church. Irenaeus died in the year 200. We honor him on June 19.



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