

Kids' Chronicle

A dishonest manager

By JOE SARNICOLA

As was often his practice, Jesus was sitting in a quiet, shady places with his disciples. He would frequently use stories to illustrate the message he wanted them to understand. This is one of them.

Once there was a rich man who owned large amounts of land and livestock. Many money managers were hired to serve as overseers and investors of the rich man's property. The rich man had entrusted his wealth to the hands of his managers, and he expected them to care for his fortune and to invest his money wisely as if it were their own.

However, the man learned that one of his managers was spending money for his own pleasure. He called this manager before him.

"I have heard stories about you that have caused me to lose faith in your ability to serve as one of my managers," said the rich man. "I have no choice but to demand that you turn in an accounting of all of my money and what you have done with it. And you are fired."

The manager was shocked and frightened. He had been living very comfortably on his master's money. If he no longer had access to money, he would no longer be popular with his new friends. He was too weak to do manual labor and too proud to beg. Then he had an idea. He had loaned his master's money to many people, and he ordered all of these people to appear before him.

The manager asked each man in turn to pay his debt in full immediately. However, if someone owed one thousand, the manager told him to write "eight hundred" in the ledger; if someone owed one hundred, he told him to write "fifty." The



Illustration by Kathy Welsh

manger then kept the difference between what was collected and what was written as owed to the rich man. When the rich man learned of this plan as well, he was not angry, but pleased with the manager.

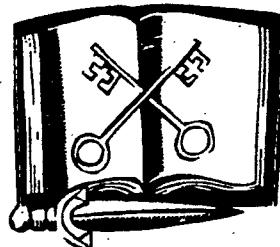
Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Be generous with your own wealth, because it will eventually be gone. After that only your treasures in heaven will have any value. If you cannot be trusted with the world's wealth, how can my father trust you with his true wealth? If you are faithful with small amounts, you will be faithful with more valuable things.

"If money is your master," Jesus continued, "that is what you will serve. You cannot love my father and be a servant to money at the same time."

READ MORE ABOUT IT: Luke 16.

Q&A

- Q: 1. What did the manager do when he was about to be fired?
2. What did Jesus say about being faithful?



Bible Accent

Herod had coins made in the Jerusalem of the time of Jesus, and he had the dates stamped into them. The Romans also had coins of small denominations for use in Jewish territory.

Most towns had money changers, who served as bankers and who made exchanges of foreign currency for local coins - for a fee, of course.

There were taxes on various transactions, and if they were not paid on time, additional charges were imposed. Most of the coins were made of silver, gold, or bronze. Roman coins for local use were often decorated with grapes and fruit. The Romans did not want to unnecessarily anger the people by putting Roman gods or other Roman religious symbols on their coins.

When the Jews made their own coins, they stamped Jewish religious symbols on them. The different symbols on these coins are useful in dating the time they were minted, and reveal the social conditions of the period.

St. Gabriel, St. Michael & St. Raphael

September 29 is set aside to honor three of God's archangels: Gabriel, Michael, and Raphael.

Gabriel announced the coming birth of Christ, and he stands close to God's throne in heaven. He is often referred to as "God's ambassador."

The Bible shows Michael to be a protector of Israel, and he led the charge against Satan's followers in the war in heaven. Michael is the patron of soldiers and others facing dangerous challenges.

Rafael is associated with healing and safety. He is traditionally believed to be the angel that watches over the pool of healing at the sheep gate in the Gospel according to John. He is the patron of travelers and blind people.

The Book of Revelation mentions that there are seven archangels who stand before God, but only Gabriel, Michael, and Rafael are mentioned by name anywhere in the Bible.



Bible Trivia

What was Saint Matthew's occupation? (Matthew 10)

Send your 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 Oct. 12, 1995. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was Stephanie DeLisio, a student at St. Michael's School in Newark. She correctly identified Hilki-ah as Jeremiah's father.



PUZZLE

Match the Bible characters with their occupations. Answers can be found on page 10

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. David (1 Samuel 16) | ___ fisherman |
| 2. Andrew (Mark 1) | ___ queen |
| 3. Noah (Genesis 6) | ___ carpenter |
| 4. Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1) | ___ Pharisee |
| 5. Nicodemus (John 3) | ___ boat builder |
| 6. Esther (Esther 2) | ___ priest |
| 7. Adam (Genesis 2) | ___ gardener |
| 8. Joseph, father of Jesus (Matthew 13) | ___ shepherd |

★ ★ ★ ★ MOVIE ★ TRIVIA ★ ★ ★ ★

WIN ONE YEAR OF RENTALS FROM



RULES: ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MIDNIGHT, October 6, 1995. Random drawing of correct entries to be held October 9 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.

Question: What movie, starring Dustin Hoffman and Morgan Freeman, deals with the spread of a killer virus?

Answer: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Last month's winner: **Lorayne K. Schomburg** correctly identified **The Jungle Book** as the Walt Disney Home Video which touted "great adventure, great thrills, great fun," and starred Scott Lee, Lena Heady, Sam Neill, Cary Elwes and a host of animals.

WEGMANS HOME VIDEO COUPON
2 FOR 1 MOVIE RENTAL

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