

Kids' Chronicle

Zacchaeus finds a way to see Jesus

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Jesus traveled all over the country with his disciples, preaching, teaching, and performing miracles. Everywhere he went, crowds of people would gather. Some of them would bring their sick children or friends, others wanted to hear Jesus teach about God's love. A few came just out of curiosity.

The first word that Jesus was traveling through Jericho came early in the morning when Jesus was still many miles away. While out in his boat, one of the fishermen had seen Jesus coming. He hauled in his net before he had even caught any fish and headed for shore. He had seen Jesus before, and was excited that Jesus was visiting Jericho.

Before he had even secured his boat on the shore, the fisherman began shouting, "Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming!"

Word traveled quickly, and hundreds of people lined up by the city gate waiting for Jesus. Scouts were sent out to look for him and to attend to his needs. An inn keeper loaned one of his donkeys so that Jesus would not have to walk into town.

The people were so close together that not everyone would be able to see Jesus when he arrived.

One man who knew he would have a hard time seeing was Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a very short man. He tried jumping, but the crowd was too dense,

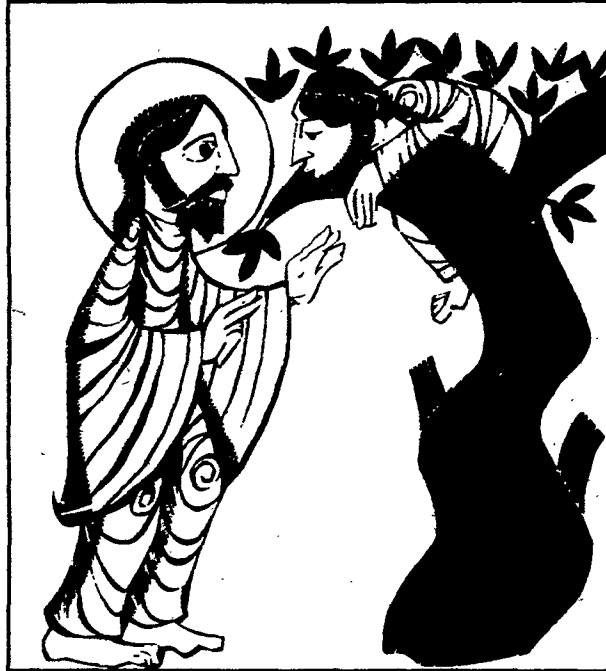
and people were angry because he kept landing on their toes. He tried climbing the gate, but there were too many people with the same idea. He knew he would have to make his way through the crowd and run ahead of them if he wanted to see Jesus. He pushed and wiggled his way through and eventually found a way out. He ran as fast as he could.

When Zacchaeus saw several tall sycamore trees, he knew what to do. He climbed one of the trees, just like when he was a boy. He held on to the branches and looked around. He could see the people waiting at the city gate. But he could also see Jesus riding on the donkey, surrounded by his disciples and the welcoming committee that had been sent to meet him.

When Jesus passed under the sycamore tree, he stopped. One of his disciples asked, "Lord, is something wrong?"

Jesus did not answer the question, but looked up into the tree and said, "Zacchaeus, come down out of that tree. How can I be a guest in your house if you are up in a tree?"

Zacchaeus jumped down out of the tree. "Jesus wants to be a guest in my house?" he exclaimed.



Some of the people around complained, "Jesus will eat with a tax collector and a sinner."

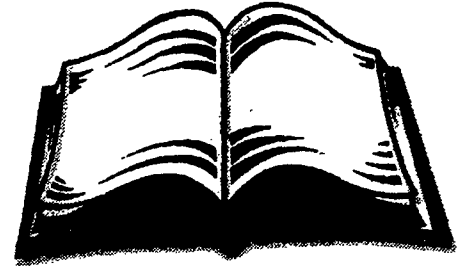
Jesus quieted them and said, "This man also had Abraham for his grandfather. Today salvation will visit his house."

Q&A

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Luke 19: 1 - 10

1. What city did Zacchaeus live in?
2. What did Jesus say about Zacchaeus?

Bible Accent



November 13, 1995, is the first day of this year's National Book Week.

In 1919, Franklin Matthews, a writer, and Frederic Melcher, an editor, successfully launched the first National Children's Book Week. Two years later, Jessie Smith designed a poster for the event with the caption "More Books in the Home." Book Week is now promoted by publishers, editors, libraries, and schools across the country. They know how important reading is, and they want to share that knowledge.

This year, let's each promise to read one religious book for Book Week. Maybe we could read to our parents or grandparents each night. There are many good books about Bible characters, saints, angels, feast days, and more. Ask your teacher or librarian for help. Check to see if your church has a lending library. Good reading is a good habit.

Saint Leonard

Leonard of Noblac was born into a French aristocratic family in the early sixth century. He entered a monastery as his first religious vocation. Wanting to live closer to nature, Leonard built a modest shack in a forest and lived on the fruits and vegetables he grew himself.

Legend says that the king asked him to pray that the childless queen would be able to bear children. Leonard prayed and within a year, the king had a son. The king gave Leonard land on which to build an abbey.

Leonard taught at his abbey and is reported to have performed miracles of healing. He also worked to have prisoners of war released and sent home. He is their patron saint. We remember him on November 6.



Puzzle

Using a map, underline the cities that were in Israel of the time of Jesus. Answers can be found on page 14.

- Jericho
- Rochester
- Bethlehem
- Eohippus
- Caesarea
- Platypus
- Emmaus
- London
- Nazareth
- Damascus



You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question:

What are some of your family's traditions for celebrating Advent?

Send your essay - including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade - to Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Deadline for entries is Nov. 23, 1995. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of Kids' Chronicle.

Last month's winner was Nicole Sieminski, a sixth-grade student at Mother of Sorrow's School. In response to the question, **If you were invited to speak to the United Nations about God's will for peace on Earth, what would you tell them?** she wrote:

If I were invited to speak to the United Nations about God's will for peace on Earth, I would encourage them to care for the elderly, sick, poor and the homeless in every country throughout the world. I would also encourage them to talk to governments about making the sale and use of drugs illegal. If drugs were illegal, there would be less violence, crime and broken homes.

When the pope visited New York City a few weeks ago, he encouraged all people to take responsibility for their actions as Christians. I would include this message in my speech to the United Nations as I believe if all people did this, God's will for peace on earth would prevail.

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