

Kids' Chronicle

Jesus cures a blind man

BY JOE SARNICOLA

When Jesus was walking with his disciples, they passed a man who had been blind since birth. He was being led by two young men. One of the disciples asked, "My Lord, was this man's blindness caused by the sins of his family?"

"The man's blindness was not caused by anyone's sin," Jesus said. "His blindness is meant to show the power of God. I am the light of this world while I walk on it. But the night is coming."

Jesus spat on the ground and smeared the mud on the blind man's eyes, saying, "Now go and wash your eyes and face in the Pool of Siloam, the water of Jerusalem."

The blind man and his companions were confused, but Jesus spoke with such authority, they did as he told them to do.

When the blind man washed his eyes, he immediately rejoiced. "I can see! I can see!"

There were other people by the pool who heard the man shouting.

"Isn't this the man who used to beg for coins?" someone asked. There was disagreement among the people as to his identity.

Then the man said, "I am the man who used to beg. I am the man who was blind."

"How did this happen?" people asked.

"Jesus wiped mud on my eyes and told me to wash in the Pool of Siloam," he replied. "I can see."

"Where is he now?"

"I don't know," the man answered.

A crowd of people formed to discuss what had happened. The day was the Sabbath, so they took the man to the Pharisees. They asked the blind man to tell them again what Jesus had done.

Some of the Pharisees said, "If Jesus were truly from God, he would not have



Illustration by Amy Sundstrom

performed such an act on the Sabbath day."

Others said, "How could he have done such a thing, unless he was from God?"

They argued among themselves and could not come to agreement. Then they all looked at the man and asked, "How would you describe this Jesus?"

"He most certainly must be a prophet," the man answered.

The Pharisees did not like the man's answer, so they had his parents brought to them. "Is this your son, and was he born blind? If so, how is it he now sees?"

The man's father, who was afraid of the Pharisees, said, "Yes this is our son, and yes, he was born blind. We do not know

how it is possible for him to see. He is old enough to speak for himself. Ask him."

The Pharisees said to the man, "Tell us that the man who healed you is a sinner."

"I do not know that. I only know I was blind, but now I can see."

The Pharisees became angry and ordered the man and his family out of the temple.

When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked him, "Do you believe in the son of man?"

"Whatever you say, I will believe."

"I am the son of man," Jesus said.

The man knelt down and said, "I believe."

Q&A

READ MORE ABOUT IT: John 9

Q: 1. Why did the disciples think the man was blind?

2. How did the Pharisees feel about Jesus?

Bible Accent

Jesus performed many miracles. He demonstrated God's power over serious illnesses, hunger, blindness, and even death. These miracles had at least two positive effects. The people who were



healed were free from the problem that made their lives difficult. The people who observed the miracles saw that God could heal any problem, so their faith was made stronger. This would include those of us who read about the miracles of Jesus in the Bible.

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples to wait until they received the Holy Spirit. Then they would be able to carry on with his work. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled the disciples and they were empowered by God to do what Jesus had commissioned them to do. "Go throughout the world and preach the Gospel to all mankind." (Mark 16:15)

Saint Louise

Louise de Marillac was a scholarly and religious aristocratic woman. Her husband, an advisor to the French government, died at an early age. Louise never remarried. Instead, she devoted the rest of her life to helping people in need and training others to do the same.



Some of the young women who studied under Louise became the first Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, often called the Daughters of Charity.

Louise often was in poor health, but she traveled frequently to visit the poor and the sick or to meet with other religious women throughout Europe. By the time of her death in 1600, she had helped to build more than thirty orphanages, charitable relief centers, and medical clinics. She is the patron saint of social workers. We remember her on March 15.

Puzzle

Identify the following Bible characters with the miraculous events that were performed through them. Answers can be found on page 13.

Choices

1. I interpreted the king's dreams (Genesis 41)
2. My walking stick turned into a snake (Exodus 7)
3. My strength came from my long hair (Judges 16)
4. I defeated Goliath (1 Samuel 17)
5. My wet altar burned (1 Kings 18)
6. I asked God for wisdom (2 Chronicles)

- a. Elijah
- b. Elisha
- c. Aaron
- d. Joseph
- e. Solomon
- f. Samson

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

What is your favorite miracle story from the Old Testament and why?

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 March 28, 1996. 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 Michael Howie, a second-grade student at Mother of Sorrows School in Greece. In response to the question Who is your favorite Bible character, other than Jesus, and why? he wrote:

My favorite Bible character is St. Joseph. I like Joseph because he was Jesus' earthly father. Joseph was a carpenter. Joseph taught Jesus how to make things and to use tools. He was a kind father. We named my baby brother after Joseph.

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