

Kids' Chronicle

Jesus marvels at a woman's faith

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Jesus and his disciples sailed a small fishing boat across the Sea of Galilee and landed near a town named Gennesaret. Some of the fishermen there recognized Jesus, and word quickly spread that he was in the area.

The sick people who were able to walk or ride to the sea lined up waiting to see Jesus, in hopes of being healed. The more seriously ill were carried by family or friends.

And Jesus healed them all. Some were healed just by touching the hem of Jesus' garment.

After spending the day healing the sick people of Gennesaret, Jesus walked with his disciples toward Canaan. The men avoided the main travel routes so that Jesus would not be surrounded by crowds all along the way. This added several miles to the trip, but Jesus and his friends were able to talk privately and sleep undisturbed in their camps.

Eventually, Jesus had to use the main road to Canaan, and almost as soon as he did, he was recognized and people began to follow him. One of the people who followed Jesus was a woman from one of the nearby towns. She was very persistent. Even though she was held back from Jesus by the size of the crowd, she pushed her way closer to him calling out to him as she did.

"Jesus! Jesus!" she said.

But Jesus did not answer her.

"Jesus, Jesus." The woman continued to call out. "My daughter is tormented by an evil spirit. I know you can heal her."

By this time, even the disciples were getting annoyed with the woman. One

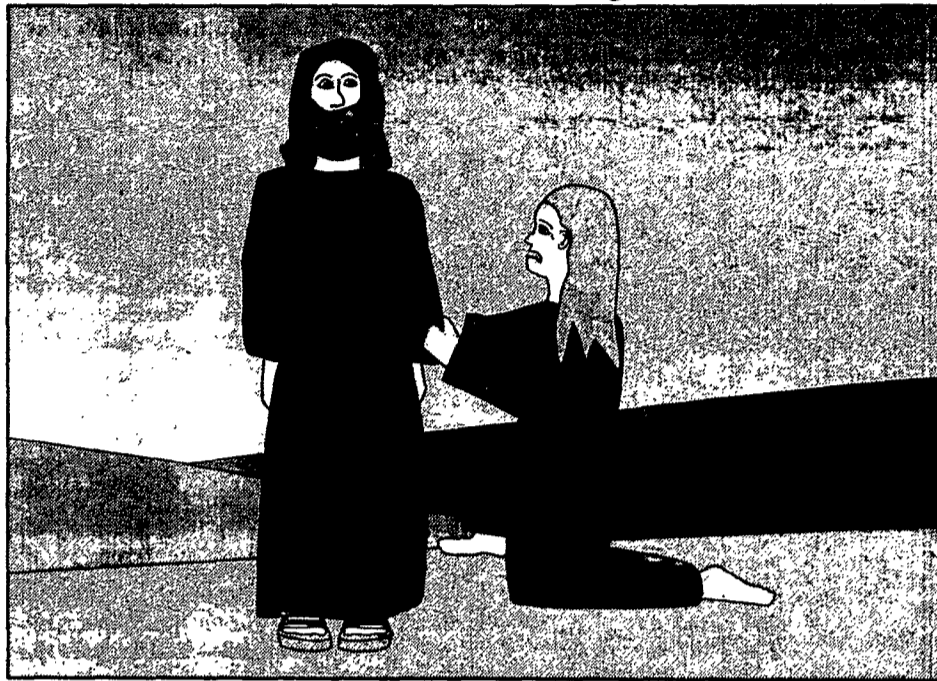


Illustration by Amy Sundstrom

of them said to Jesus, "Send this woman away. She is making so much noise, we can't even hear some of the things you are saying."

Jesus stopped and said to her, "It is only the lost sheep of my people Israel who need to be saved."

As Jesus said this, the woman reached him and knelt down, clutching his robe. "Please, sir. Help me."

"Should I take the food prepared for the children's meal and give it to the dogs?" Jesus asked.

"Feed the children," the woman answered, "but save some scraps of food and crumbs for the dogs."

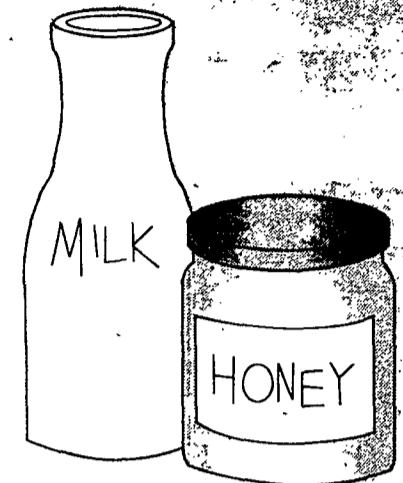
Jesus reached down to the woman and helped her to stand up.

"You have faith as strong as anyone I have met," he said. "What you desire from me has been granted. Your daughter is healed."

Q&A

READ MORE ABOUT IT: Matthew 15

1. What country was the woman from?
2. Why did Jesus heal the woman's daughter?



Bible Accent

The name Canaan comes from the Hebrew word for humility.

After they had wandered in the wilderness for 40 years after their escape from Egypt, the ancient Israelites were led into Canaan by God.

Canaan was the land of milk and honey the Lord had promised them. Canaan was also important in Jesus' day as a major route of trade and travel between Asia and Egypt. Although Canaan's chief commercial products were agricultural, several cities on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea became prosperous seaports.

When God picked Canaan as the homeland of his people, he chose a region that was rich with fertile soil, was close to the sea, and was an important and valuable trade center. Ezekiel called Canaan "the crossroads of the world." (Ez. 38:12)

St. Oswald

St. Oswald was 29 years old when he became king of Northumbria in what is now England in 633.

Before he led his soldiers into battle just a year later, he built a cross and instructed all of them, Christian or not, to kneel and pray that God would protect them and give them victory over their enemies. Oswald's men won, even though they were outnumbered.

In order to help bring peace back to his kingdom, Oswald traveled from one end of it to the other and preached about Jesus.

Almost 15 years passed without any war, but eventually non-Christian forces challenged Oswald and defeated him. They killed him and publicly displayed his dead body.

Oswald is recognized as a martyr. We honor him on August 9.

PUZZLE

Circle the names of the people listed below who are mentioned in Hebrews 11 because of their faith in God.

Answers on page 5

Abel John

Enoch Noah

Phillip Paul

Abraham Ezra

Jacob Moses

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