

Kids' Chronicle

Jesus learns about John's death

BY JOE SARNICOLA

When Jesus was with a few of his disciples, a man asked for permission to approach.

"My name is Simon," the man said. "I have news of John."

"Come to me," Jesus said. "Tell me what you know."

"King Herod knew John to be a man of God," Simon said. Then he bowed his head and looked away from Jesus in silence.

Peter stood up and said, "What is it you are trying to tell us? Out with it, man!"

Jesus put his hand on Peter's arm to silence him.

"Please go on," Jesus said gently.

"John is dead," Simon said.

The disciples said it could not be true. Finally, Andrew, Peter's brother, said, "What has this to do, with Herod?"

"A woman named Herodias hated John because he told her it was not lawful for her to marry Herod, since she had been married to the brother of Herod," Simon explained. "She had her daughter dance for Herod. Herod was pleased and said he would grant anything the girl asked for."

"And what was it she asked for?" Jesus asked.

"The head of John on a silver platter."

Jesus remembered the many times he played with John as a boy, for their



Illustration by Zoe Maves

mothers were related. And he remembered when John baptized him. A tear trickled down his cheek.

"Thank you for your honesty," was all Jesus could say.

As Simon bowed and left, some of the other disciples returned from preaching around the country. Unaware of the news Jesus had just received, they told him about sick people being cured and how many people had come to believe in God.

Finally, Jesus said to them, "You have done well, my friends. But our brother John has gone to be with my

father in heaven. Let us remember his faithfulness to God."

As word of the death of John spread through the nearby towns, many people came to express their sorrow to Jesus. But Jesus wanted to be alone.

"Let us board our ship and find a place to pray and eat in peace," he said to his disciples.

As Jesus and his disciples approached the opposite shore of the lake, people recognized them and even bigger crowds formed to meet Jesus. They brought their sick and injured to Jesus and he healed them all.



Bible Accent

Coins have been found dating back as far as 700 years before the birth of Christ. Due to the Roman occupation of Israel, Jesus would have been familiar with coins used by the Jews, the Greeks and the Romans.

The most common materials used to make the coins were copper, bronze, silver and gold. Larger cash values were represented by weights of silver and gold in denominations called minas and talents.

According to Scripture, a typical field worker would have earned about one denarius for a day's work. It is difficult accurately to translate the value of this coin in terms of modern money, but traditionally a silver denarius was considered the same as a penny, and a gold denarius as worth 25 cents.

St. Camillus de Lellis

St. Camillus de Lellis was born in Italy in 1550. He grew to be a large man, 6-foot-6-inches tall. He went off to fight in a war with the Turks, but was forced to return home after he contracted a leg disease that would remain with him the rest of his life.

When he was 25, St. Camillus began to work in the hospital of San Giacomo, and eventually became the superintendent. He founded the Ministers of the Sick, and oversaw the establishment of eight hospitals before he died in 1614.

St. Camillus is the patron saint of the sick, nurses and nursing associations. We honor him on July 14.

Q&A

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Mark 6

1. Who baptized Jesus?
2. What did Jesus do when he saw the people who were waiting to see him?



Kids' Club

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

If Jesus asked you what kind of a person would make a good disciple, what would you tell him?

Send your essay - including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade - to Catholic Courier,

P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Deadline for entries is July 24, 1997. 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 Lauren Goetz, a sixth-grade student at Mother of Sorrows School, Greece. In response to the request Jesus helped his disciples when they were afraid. Describe a time when Jesus did the same for you. she wrote:

I remember the day when Jesus helped me. It was July 22, 1996. My Grandmother had just died. I felt so empty, alone, and afraid. Jesus gave me the courage to get through it. My life just fell apart. I always knew that Jesus was there to comfort me.

After my Grandmother died, I realized how important life was. I learned that you shouldn't be afraid when someone you love dies. Jesus taught me a valuable lesson that everyone should learn in their lifetime - to value and treasure life. I will never, ever forget that day.

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Puzzle answers on page 2

Decode this passage from John Chapter 10. Substitute the letters in the code with the letters that come after them in the alphabet. Examples p = q, c = d. The one exception is z = a.

h zl sgd fnnc rgdogdq.

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