

Kids' Chronicle

Jesus speaks in his hometown

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Jesus demonstrated the power of God that was with him in Galilee by healing people who were sick and by preaching the word of God with authority to the crowds that followed him around.

After Jesus returned to his hometown of Nazareth, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath. When he stood up to read from the Scriptures, one of the elders gave him a scroll bearing the words of Isaiah. Jesus unrolled the scroll and read out loud from it.

"The spirit of the Lord is within me," Jesus read. "I have been chosen to deliver a message of joy to the poor of this world. Those who are imprisoned will be set free, and those who are blind will have their eyes opened. Even more, now is the time God has ordained for the salvation of his people."

Jesus rolled the scroll back up, handed it back and sat down. Because Jesus had read the passage with such confidence and emotion, everyone present continued to watch him. Aware of this Jesus said, "As I read to you from the prophet, the passage of Scripture was fulfilled before your eyes."

The people began to whisper to each other.

"Isn't this Jesus, son of Joseph the carpenter?"

"Wasn't this man raised here in Nazareth?"

"I knew this man as a child. What is he saying?"

Jesus stood up again and said, "I know you will probably ask me to do some things here that I did in Capernaum, because of your lack of faith. Remember the stories of Elijah and Elisha. There were many widows in Israel who were in need. There had been famine and drought for almost four years, yet God sent Elijah to a widow in Sidon. There were many who were in need of healing in Israel, yet Elisha healed only Naaman, who was from Syria. A prophet is never accepted in his own country."



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

These last words of Jesus angered the people.

"Who are you to say such things?" they demanded. "Do you consider yourself better than Elijah and Elisha? You have insulted us in our own synagogue! You blaspheme!"

They all stood up and seized Jesus. They carried him out of the syna-

gogue by his arms and legs and up to the top of the hill on the edge of Nazareth. They would have thrown him off the cliff in their anger, but something moved them to put him down. Jesus miraculously walked back to his home unharmed.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Luke 4

Q&A

1. From what Scripture did Jesus read?
2. What did Jesus say about prophets?

I am delivering God's Message

Bible Accent

The word "prophet" comes from the Greek word "propheta," which means "one who speaks out" or "one who speaks before others."

There are many stories by and about prophets in both the Old and the New Testaments. In some cases, the spirit of God would empower the prophet to deliver a message to a particular person or group of people. The prophets did not always feel comfortable delivering God's words, sometimes they were just afraid. However, God would also help the prophets and give them the courage they needed to do what God wanted them to do.

God's messages were always for the good of his people, whether warning them to turn away from disobedience or to reassure them not to be discouraged.

St. Gildas

St. Gildas the Wise was born in sixth-century Scotland, but as a monk he spent most of his time in Ireland and Wales. He also wrote instructional letters to monks in monasteries throughout Europe and Asia.

He believed the wars and social turmoil that beset the British Isles were due in part to the moral corruption of the religious and political leaders. In order to speak out against the situation, he wrote *De excidio et conquestu Britanniae*. This document gained the attention of the religious scholars of the day.

St. Gildas spent some time on the islands of Flatholm and Rhays in order to write and to develop his ideas through the study of the Scriptures and other documents. His teachings attracted many followers. We honor St. Gildas on Jan. 29.

Bible Trivia

Today's story comes from the Gospel of Luke. Which other Gospels tell versions of the same story?

Send Answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name, address and school name.

All entries must be received by Feb. 5, 1998. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

There were no correct entries submitted for December's trivia question: In what city did the wise men find Jesus? The correct answer was Bethlehem.

Puzzle

Answers on page 7.

Using your Bible as a guide, unscramble the names of these Old Testament prophets.

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. aashii | 2. likzee | 3. alined |
| 4. eosha | 5. lejo | 6. maso |
| 7. chaim | 8. human | 9. gaigah |
| 10. kkkbauah | | |

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