

Kids' Chronicle

Jesus talks about wealth

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Jesus looked around. There were so many people, they were bumping into each other. Many of them had to stand because there was no room to sit. Sitting close to the feet of Jesus were his disciples. Jesus held out his arms and motioned for everyone to be quiet. Then he spoke.

"My friends and neighbors, I must begin with a warning," Jesus said. "Watch out for the leaven, by which I mean the deceit, of the Pharisees. Anything spoken in secret will be made public. Whatever is whispered will be shouted. And do not be afraid of those who may be able to take your life, but whose power over you ends with your death."

A man from the crowd asked, "If a man has killed us, what more is there to be afraid of? What worse thing could happen to us?"

"After death, there is one who has the power to send you into Gehenna," Jesus replied. "And that is something to be feared, indeed. Yet my intent is not to frighten you, but to warn you for your own safety. A few sparrows may be bought for next to nothing, yet my father watches over his creation. He knows how many hairs are on the heads of each of you. He values you much more than many sparrows."

Another man raised his hand. When Jesus nodded to him, he said, "When my father died, my brother, being the oldest, received all of my father's land and



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

possessions. Will you command him to share his fortune with me?"

Jesus looked at the man and said, "Am I the judge of your father's estate?"

Then Jesus addressed everyone.

"Do not let greed determine your actions," he said. "Whether you are rich or not, there is more to life than wealth. Let me tell you a story. Once there was a man who wondered what to do with the abundant harvest his land had yielded in one season. So he decided to tear down all of his barns and build bigger ones to store his crops. He thought he would live a life of pleasure knowing he would never go hun-

gry. But that man was a fool. That night his life was required by my father. What good were his possessions then?"

"What are you trying to tell us?" someone asked.

"My father will provide for all of your needs," Jesus answered. "Do not worry about those things."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Luke 12

Q&A

1. What was Jesus' warning about the Pharisees?
2. What did Jesus say about wealth?

Bible Trivia

This week's story is from the Gospel of Luke. What does the word "Gospel" mean?

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 July 30, 1998. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

There was no winner for last month's question, "What is the name of the Bible book that tells the stories of some of the early Christians after Jesus had returned to heaven? The answer: Acts of the Apostles."

Puzzle

To find the mystery phrase from Luke 18:22, cross out the letters B, C, F, G, and O and fill in the blanks with the remaining letters. Answers on page 8.

	T	R	F	E	G	A	
S	F	U	R	E	C	S	O
I	G	N	H	B	E	O	A
	C	V	B	O	E	N	

Bible Accent

Most of the writings of the New Testament were collected between 50 and 100 years after Jesus had ascended into heaven. During the time when the earliest disciples were teaching about the Kingdom of God, no one felt there was a need to write anything down in a permanent record.

Eventually collections of some of the things Jesus had said were written and added to songs and prayers. As the writings were formed into a narrative form, the first Gospel, which is believed to be that of Mark, was completed. Paul added a considerable amount of material to Christian literature with his letters to the different churches.

As the Apostles aged or died, more written records of the life and teachings of Jesus and additional letters by some of the followers of Jesus were produced to create a written text to which everyone could refer.

St. Mary

Mary Magdalene, who most likely received her name for the town of Magdala on the Sea of Galilee, was freed from seven demons by Jesus (Luke 8:2). She became a supporter of Jesus, helping to supply him and his followers with money and material assistance.

Mary was present when Jesus was crucified and she was the first person to see him after he rose from the grave. She is the patron saint of penitents and we honor her on July 22.

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