

Kids' Chronicle

Jesus learns of John's arrest

BY JOE SARNICOLA

"Teacher, John the Baptizer has been arrested."

Jesus looked up at the man who had delivered the message.

"Do you know this to be true?"

"Yes, my Lord. I heard it from friends who were with him. Their word can be trusted."

Jesus sat down under a tree and let out a sigh. John. John the Baptizer. John, his relative. Jesus remembered the stories his mother used to tell him when he was little.

"When I had just learned that I would be giving birth to you," Mary would say, "I went to see my relative, Elizabeth. She was expecting a child as well. We knew from the beginning two very remarkable people were about to come into the world. Why, Zechariah, Elizabeth's husband, could not speak a word until the boy was born. And then he announced the boy's name would be John. That name had never been in that family, but we all knew it was the name God had chosen for him."

Jesus remembered the words spoken by the prophet Isaiah, which he knew were about John. "A voice will cry out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord! Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed."

"My friend," Jesus said. "Sit with me. John baptized me in the Jordan River. He is a good man. A humble man in the eyes of God. He did not feel worthy to baptize me, but I told him it was what my father wanted."

"What will you do now?" the man

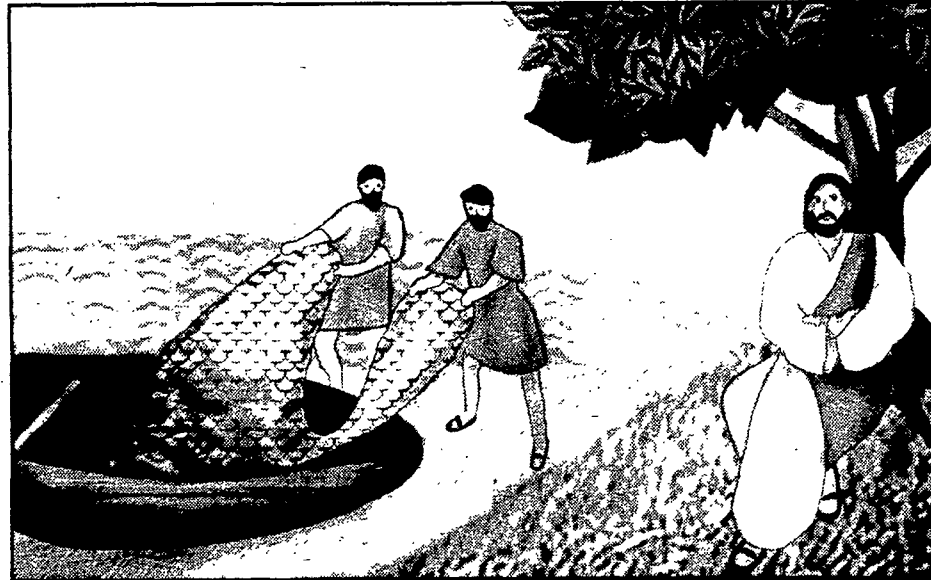


Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

asked.

"The Scriptures must be fulfilled," Jesus answered.

"What do you mean?"

"The prophet has said that beyond Zebulun, beyond Naphtali, beyond Jordan, to the sea, to Galilee, the land of the gentiles, will come a light for those who have been living in darkness. I must leave Nazareth now. Thank you for your kindness."

After a long journey, Jesus reached Galilee. He saw two men who were casting their net trying to catch fish. He started a conversation with them and found out they were brothers, Peter and

Andrew. Jesus gave them an invitation.

"Come with me and I will make you fishers of men."

The two brothers left their nets where they were and they went with Jesus.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Matthew 4

Q&A

1. What news did Jesus receive about John?
2. Where did Jesus decide to go?

Bible Accent

There are many animals that appear regularly in the Bible. These animals were important to the people of Israel and their neighbors.

Camels: Because camels are able to carry heavy loads while requiring little food or water, they became a valuable working animal to desert dwellers.

Donkeys: These sturdy animals were able to carry light loads, but they were also able to carry riders, so they were an important alternative to walking.

Horses: Horses were expensive and were therefore owned only by wealthy people and kings. They were commonly found in battles being ridden by soldiers.

Cows and bulls: These animals were used to plow the fields and to provide a source of meat and milk as well as goods made from their hides.

Sheep: Sheep provided wool, milk and cheese.

Lions, leopards and bears were dangerous animals that lived in the wilds of the Bible lands.

St. Angela Merici

St. Angela Merici was born in Italy in the late 15th century. Her parents died when she was young, then her sister died without receiving the sacraments. An angel appeared to St. Angela, assuring her her sister was loved by the Lord.

When she was still a young teenager, St. Angela joined the Secular Franciscans and became a teacher. She eventually built her own school with the help of a rich patron. A later vision of young women climbing to heaven on a ladder led St. Angela to found her own order, following the example of St. Ursula. St. Angela's followers usually wore black and spent most of their time caring for the sick or teaching religious education, especially to girls.

The Ursulines were not officially recognized by the pope until after St. Angela's death in 1540. We honor her on Jan. 27.



Kids' Club

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

Like Jesus and St. Angela Merici, we all lose people we care about. Who have you lost in your life, and how has your faith helped you to deal with losing that person?

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 Jan. 21, 1999. The winner will be notified by phone and be mailed the savings bond. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Kids' Chronicle*.

Last month's winner was Ryan Filipowicz, a fifth-grade student at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary School, Brockport. In response to the question **If Jesus had been born today and you were one of his first visitors, what gift would you bring and why?** he wrote:

"If I could give Jesus anything I would give him a dog. The reason I would give him a dog is because a dog is loyal and friendly. He would also get companionship. I think he would like a dog because a dog would always be with him and if he had a terrible day he could look forward to seeing his dog. Also, since he listens to our prayers and problems he would have someone to tell his problems to."

Puzzle

Match the kinds of people with the blessing Jesus promised them in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5). Answers on page 9

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Poor in spirit | a. mercy |
| 2. Mourners | b. will see God |
| 3. Meek | c. children of God |
| 4. Hungry for righteousness | d. kingdom of heaven |
| 5. Merciful | e. comfort |
| 6. Clean of heart | f. satisfaction |
| 7. Peacemakers | g. inherit the land |

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