

Kids' Chronicle

Be a light to the world

By Joe Sarnicola

After Jesus began preaching in Galilee, he started to attract huge crowds of people who came from all over to hear him. One day when such a crowd gathered, he went up on a mountainside to speak to them.

"Do not be discouraged when you are insulted, when you are persecuted, when people lie about you or try to make the good that you do look as if it is evil because of your love for me," Jesus said. "Do not be sad: Rejoice. The prophets who lived before you were treated in the same way, but my Father has a great reward for you in heaven.

"When you are in your homes sharing a meal consider the salt that seasons and keeps your food. How important is it to you? You are the salt of the earth. But salt that has gone stale and lost its flavor is good only to be thrown away.

"And what of light, without which we would all be in darkness? You are the light of the world. No one lights a lamp only to place a basket over it so that the light cannot be seen. Instead, the lamp is placed on a stand where the light fills the house. In the same way, you must shine as lights in the world, so that everyone will give credit to God for your goodness, which came from him.

"There are those among you who say that I have come to do away with the law or to disregard what the prophets have

told us. Nothing could be further from the truth. I have come to fulfill what has been foretold by the prophets and written in the Scripture.

In fact, not even the most insignificant part of the law will fade away until everything that was prophesied has taken place, when heaven and earth shall also fade away.

"If you break any of my father's commandments, your example shows to others that disobedience to him is acceptable, and you will be considered the lowest in the kingdom of heaven. If, however, you obey my Father and teach others to do the same, you will be considered the greatest in the kingdom. If your righteousness is like that of the Pharisees and the scribes, hypocrites,



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

"It is said you should love your neighbor and hate your enemy. I say rather, love your enemies. If there are those who would wish you harm, pray for them. The sun will rise in the sky and will shine on everyone, whether they are good or bad. So, too, with the rain."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Matthew 5

Q&A

1. What should we do when people insult us?
2. Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

Bible Accent

Salt had been used as a food preservative and a flavor enhancer for centuries before Jesus was born. In ancient Israel, salt was used to season the temple incense, and any offerings made by the Israelites had to be seasoned with salt. It was also an important commodity to sell or to trade for other goods.

Salt is created by rainwater that dissolves minerals containing sodium and chlorine in rocks and soil, and then washes them into the sea. The salt deposits that are now being mined are the products of seas that evaporated millions of years ago. Much of the salt in the Bible regions came from the Dead Sea.

The phrase, "the salt of the Earth," implies that God thinks we are very important indeed.

St. Antony

St. Antony was born in the middle of the fourth century to wealthy Christian parents in Egypt. After the death of his mother and father, he sold some of his property to raise money in order to care for himself and his younger sister. He also gave generously to other families who were in need.

After feeling called to a life devoted to prayer, fasting and charity, St. Antony placed his sister in the care of some devout women and lived as a hermit in an abandoned fort. His example of selflessness and generosity attracted the attention of young men who wanted to follow him, and they convinced him to create his own monastery. St. Antony later in life returned to a hermit life, and spent many of his last years living in a cave. We honor him on Jan. 17.

Puzzle

Find the names of the following Bible characters in the box below. Names may run in any direction.
John, Joseph, Herod, Peter, Stephen, Noah, James, Mark, Paul, Esther, Dan, Jesus, Abram, Saul. Answers on Page 3.

J	O	S	E	P	H	A	L
O	O	T	S	D	E	B	U
H	P	E	T	E	R	C	A
N	A	P	H	S	O	M	S
E	U	H	E	E	D	A	N
G	L	E	R	M	A	R	K
K	H	N	O	A	H	B	F
S	U	S	E	J	J	A	I

Bible Trivia

Matthew's book is one of the four Gospels. Can you name the other three? 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. 4, 1999. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted and given a prize. Last month's winner was Chelsea Condon of Canandaigua. She correctly answered that Jacob had 12 sons and Jesus had 12 Apostles.

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