

Kids' Chronicle

Peter declares Jesus is Messiah

BY JOE SARNICOLA

The Pharisees, experts in the religious laws, and the Sadducees, who believed that the laws established by Moses were the only true laws, did not always agree with each other. But they did agree on one thing: They did not like the things Jesus was doing and the things he was teaching the people.

One day some Pharisees and Sadducees stopped Jesus in the street and asked him a few questions.

"Jesus, you claim to be the son of God. Show us fire from heaven or some other mysterious sign, so that we, too, can see and believe."

Some of the men laughed at the question, knowing that they were making fun of Jesus. Peter, one of the disciples who was with Jesus, became angry and wanted to argue with them. Jesus held him back with his arm.

"There are always signs in the heavens," Jesus answered the questioners. "You know if the sky is red at night, the next day will bring good weather, and if the sky is red in the morning, there will be storms. An evil and unfaithful generation seeks a sign. The only sign you will be given is the message written by Jonah. I will pray that my Father will reveal the Scriptures to you."

Then Jesus turned away from the Pharisees and Sadducees, who were unable to make any response to what Jesus had said, and he headed west with his disciples.

Jesus and his disciples walked in silence for a few miles, but as they ap-



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

proached the region of Caesarea Philippi, Jesus stopped and asked his disciples a direct question: "What have you heard the people say about who the son of man is?"

Philip answered first.

"I have heard them say he is Elijah or Jeremiah, or even John the Baptist."

"And who do you, as my friends, say that I am?"

Peter immediately stepped forward and said, "You are God's son. You are the Messiah."

"Bless you, Peter," Jesus said. "You did not know this by your own thoughts,

but by a revelation from my Father in heaven."

Then Jesus put his hands on Peter's shoulders and said, "Your name means 'rock,' and on this rock I will build my church. It will be solid as a fortress and no enemy will be able to conquer it. And to you I will give the keys to my kingdom."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Matthew 16

Q&A

1. What did the Pharisees ask Jesus to do?
2. What was revealed to Peter?

Bible Accent

Messiah was an ancient Hebrew word that meant "the anointed one." Isaiah 11:2 predicts that an anointed person will appear in the future who will be "a shoot from the stump of Jesse." Jesse was David's father and Matthew tells us that Joseph, the husband of Mary, was descended from David. "Of her (Mary) was born Jesus who is called the Messiah." (Matthew 1:16).

Jesus is often called Christ, or the Christ. Christ is a Greek word that had the same meaning as Messiah. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Jesus received a three-fold anointing from the Holy Spirit: that of priest, prophet and king. Jesus, whose name means "God saves," was also described by Isaiah as "wonderful, counselor, prince of peace." Jesus was given a name with many meanings.

St. Rose of Lima

St. Rose of Lima, Peru, was born into a middle-class family in the late 16th century. She was devoted to St. Catherine of Siena, a young Italian woman who had spiritual visions and who ministered to the sick.

St. Rose could sometimes be severe in her treatment of herself. She was very attractive, but she would wear drab clothing and would sometimes rub pepper on her cheeks to give her face a sickly color. However, she was very hard-working, and she prayed for many hours every day.

Following the example set by St. Catherine, St. Rose opened a clinic where poor people could obtain medical care without cost. Because she also spent much time in her garden, she was called "the flower of Peru." She died shortly after her 31st birthday. We remember her on Aug. 25.

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Last month's winner was Nathan Matusick, a seventh-grader at Corning Free Academy Middle School, Corning. In response to the question **Which story about Jesus from the Gospels is your favorite, and why?** he wrote:

In the holy gospel according to Matthew, 17:14-21, Matthew tells of Jesus healing a young boy who is possessed by the demon. I really enjoy this reading for two reasons. Numerous times in the Bible, Satan appears and it reminds us that Satan is everywhere and we must be extremely careful. In the last part though, Jesus teaches his disciples about faith saying, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to the mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20-21.

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Puzzle

Identify whether the following books from the Bible are in the New Testament or the Old Testament. Answers on page 8

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Acts of the Apostles _____ | 7. James _____ |
| 2. Amos _____ | 8. Mark _____ |
| 3. 1 Chronicles _____ | 9. Joshua _____ |
| 4. 1 Corinthians _____ | 10. Numbers _____ |
| 5. Galatians _____ | 11. Titus _____ |
| 6. Genesis _____ | 12. Psalms _____ |