

Kids' Chronicle

Jesus does good works on the Sabbath

BY JOE SARNICOLA

It was the Sabbath day. Jesus and his disciples were making a path through a field of grain that was almost ready for the harvest. There were areas where the grain had spread across the path, so the disciples were picking the wheat. There were other people walking on the path, and some of them were Pharisees.

Now the Pharisees did not like Jesus' ways. They wanted people to think that they were the holiest people in Israel. They spent most of their time studying the laws of Moses and the other Scriptures. To them the law was the greatest of God's creations. They were very critical of anyone they felt was breaking one of the laws. Especially Jesus. The law said that man was to do no work on the Sabbath day, and that meant the disciples of Jesus should not be picking grain.

The Pharisees said to Jesus, "Look, why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"

Jesus replied, "Do you not remember the story told by Samuel about David and the high priest?" Jesus watched the eyes of the Pharisees open wide as they wondered what Jesus was going to say. Jesus continued.

"When David and his men were hungry, they went into the house of God. The only food there was the bread that had been blessed, and only the priests were permitted by law to eat it. Yet David and his men ate of the bread, with the blessing of the high priest. The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."

The Pharisees grumbled among themselves, but they did not know how to answer Jesus. So they followed him on his



Illustration by Linda Jeagne Rivers

way to the synagogue. A man with a crippled hand was outside the synagogue. Jesus called the man over to him. Again the Pharisees grumbled. "Surely, he would not help this man on the Sabbath."

Jesus, knowing their hearts, said to the Pharisees, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath, rather than to do evil? To save a life, rather than destroy it?" Jesus turned to the crippled man and said, "Hold out your hand." The man's hand was immediately healed. And the Pharisees went away grumbling.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Mark 2

Bible Accent

Sabbath comes from the ancient Hebrew word "shabba," which means to "stop." The observance of the Sabbath day as a day to rest from work is based on the story of creation, where God blessed the seventh day and rested from work, and one of the Ten Commandments, which said, "Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy."

The laws of Moses declare the Sabbath to be a day when people must also extend the day of rest to their servants and other employees. Even the animals that were used for work were to be allowed to rest. God told Moses that the Sabbath day was a "sign between you and me throughout the generations."

Christians observe Sunday as the day to rest from our work. We often call Sunday "The Lord's Day," so as David wrote, "let us rejoice and be glad in it."

St. Amand

St. Amand joined a French monastery when he was in his early 20s, around the turn of the seventh century. After his ordination, he lived as a religious hermit for the next 15 years. His devotion to the Lord and to a selfless life was rewarded by his appointment as a bishop, although he was not assigned to any particular church.

Instead, he became a missionary with the goal to preach the word of God in lands where Christianity was not practiced. He was successful as a preacher, and he established several monasteries in ancient Belgium where new clergy could be trained. Toward the end of his life, he served as the abbot of a monastery in Elne. He also used his time to write a paper called "The Testament." Amand died at the monastery in 679. We remember him on Feb. 6.

Q&A

1. On what day did today's story take place?
2. What men did not like what Jesus was doing?

Bible Trivia

What was the name of the mountain on which Moses was given the Ten Commandments? (Hint: Exodus 31)

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 March 2, 2000. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month's winner was James Grotke Jr., a sixth-grader at St. Lawrence School, Greece.

A typographical error occurred in the question. Can you name two deeds (the word should have been creeds) that are the professions of our faith?

James, however, offered the answer, "The two deeds that are the professions of our faith are to give glory and honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

Puzzle

Arrange the following books of the New Testament in the order in which they appear in the Bible. Answers on page 13.

Matthew, Acts, James, Luke, Hebrews

1 Corinthians, Jude, Timothy, Romans, Revelation

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

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