

Kids' Chronicle

Jesus heals the young and old

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Jesus looked out from the boat toward the shore. It seemed as though there were as many people waiting for him as there were grains of sand on the beach. He knew there were many who were sick and who needed his touch. There were many more who had injuries or deformities or other health problems. It was the same everywhere. When the boat pulled up onto the shore, Jesus stepped out.

Immediately, a man knelt down at the feet of Jesus and said, "Jesus, my name is Jairus. I am an official in the synagogue. But that is meaningless to me now. My daughter is home. She is so sick I am certain she will die. Please, come to my house. I know you have only to touch her and she will be well again."

"Rise, good man," Jesus said. "Take me to your daughter." Jesus followed the man who pushed his way through the people. The crowd followed the two men to see what would happen. But there were so many people, Jesus had difficulty walking behind the man without being pushed by someone.

Then Jesus felt some of his power flow out of him for a moment. "Who touched me?" he asked.

The disciples, who were also with Jesus, were puzzled by what he said. "My Lord," said one of them, "there are thousands of people here, and you want to know which one touched you?"

A woman raised her hand toward Jesus. She was afraid, but she approached him. She could not help crying as she said, "Good sir, I touched you.

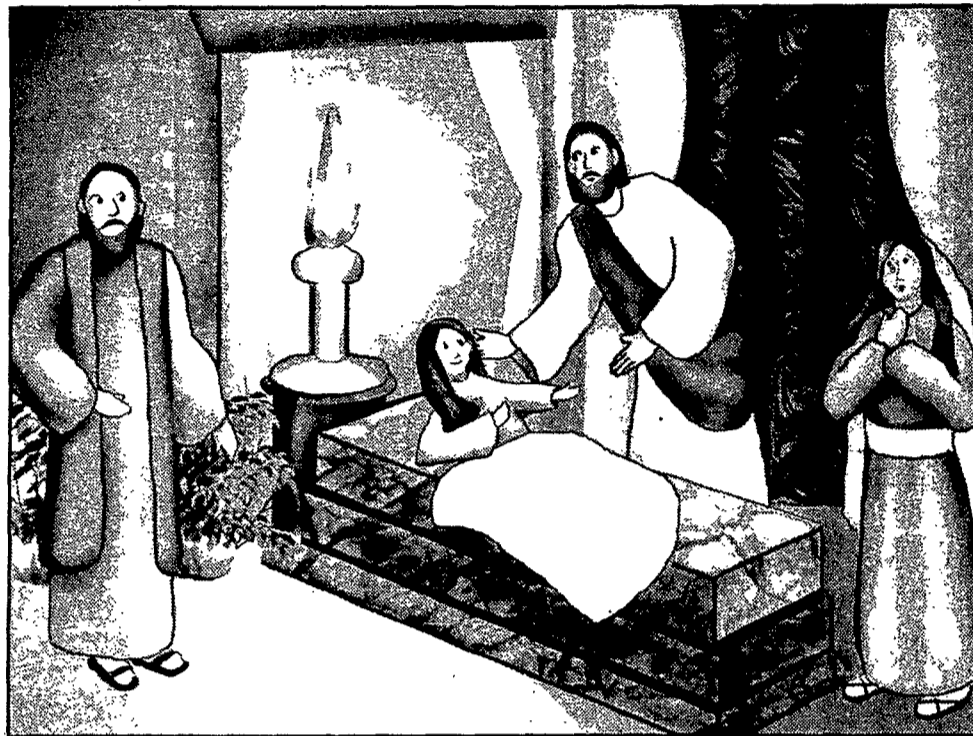


Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

You were my only hope. For twelve years I have had a blood illness. I spent all of my money on doctors and medicines, but I did not get better. I only got worse. Then I heard about you. I knew I only had to touch your cloak and I would be healed."

"Woman," Jesus said, "your body is weak, but your faith is strong. Be healed of your illness. It will not trouble you again."

Jesus continued on to the house of the synagogue official. Some of the man's friends and family members were outside. They were crying. One of them said

to the man, "There is no need to take up the teacher's time any longer. Your daughter is dead."

Jesus looked at the man and said, "Do not be afraid. Believe. Have faith like the woman did." Jesus went into the room where the child was and said, "Arise, little girl." The girl stood up, alive and in perfect health. Everyone was astounded.

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Mark 5

Q&A

1. What happened to the woman who touched Jesus?
2. How did Jesus help the man's daughter?

Bible Accent

Jesus was very concerned about the health of his people, and the Gospels tell many stories about how Jesus healed people who were sick or injured. He also encouraged those who were well to care for those who were sick. He healed many people, and he often tried to explain that believing in him was important to being healed by him. Because of his love for us, Jesus took our infirmities and bore our diseases. When the early Christians were filled with the Holy Spirit, God used them to heal people as well. James wrote that if sick people seek out the elders of the church, the prayer of faith will heal the sickness. Today, through the church, we have a sacrament where priests pray for the sick to be healed. This is called the sacrament of anointing of the sick.

St. Juliana Falconieri

Juliana Falconieri was born into one of the wealthiest families in Florence, Italy, in 1270. With their own money they had built a beautiful church because of their devotion to God. Juliana's parents were no longer young when she was born and her father died when she was still a child. Her uncle Alexis helped to raise her and teach her about God. Juliana wanted to pursue a religious life, joined the Servite order when she was a teenager. She worked with several other women who were committed to serving God and their communities. They asked her if she would become their superior. She did not want the position, but she agreed and wrote a code for them to abide by. Because of this code, Juliana is now considered the foundress of the Servite order. She was canonized in 1737, and we honor her on June 19.

Puzzle

There are seven sacraments, which are divided into three types: sacraments of healing, initiation and service.

On the line next to the words, label the sacraments by writing "I" for initiation, "H" for healing, or "V" for service.

Answers are on Page 9.

1. baptism _____
2. reconciliation _____
3. marriage _____
4. anointing of sick _____
5. Eucharist _____
6. holy orders _____
7. confirmation _____

Bible Trivia

What is the name of the Bible book in which God used his disciples to heal people after Jesus had gone to heaven?

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 June 29, 2000. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

Last month there were no winners to the question: On which feast day did the Holy Spirit first visit the disciples in Jerusalem?

The answer was Pentecost.

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