

Kids' Chronicle

Jesus advises disciples to watch the sky

BY JOE SARNICOLA

The disciples had many questions about the end of the world and about how they would know the time was approaching. Jesus told them to watch out for themselves and to watch the city of Jerusalem.

"When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies," he said, "know that its desolation is at hand. Let those who are within the city escape from it, and let those in the countryside not enter the city."

Thoughts of a destroyed Jerusalem filled the heads of the disciples. Jerusalem, the ancient city where David ruled as king of Israel, where Solomon built his great Temple. The walls of the city protected the people, but what could protect them if the entire city were in ruins?

Jesus continued, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves."

Now James, John, Peter, Thomas and the other disciples were afraid. Not only would Jerusalem be ruined, but the stars and the seas would be in turmoil. Where would they be safe? Where could they hide from a power that could affect the heavens and the earth? But Jesus



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

knew their fears and he reassured them that the time he speaks of is not something to fear, but to watch for, because everything will take place according to his Father's plan for his people.

Jesus put a finger against his lips and said, "When these signs begin to hap-

pen, stand erect and raise your hands because your redemption is at hand."

The disciples did not realize how stiffly they had been sitting as Jesus talked, but after Jesus told them of their redemption they all exhaled deeply in relief. Then Jesus told them a story, as he often did when he talked with them or when he preached in public.

Jesus pointed toward the hills outside the city and said, "Consider the fig tree and all the other trees. When their buds burst open, you see for yourselves and know that summer is now near." Then Jesus pointed at each of his friends in turn and said, "In the same way, when you see things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Luke 21

Q&A

1. What did Jesus say about Jerusalem?
2. What did Jesus say so that his disciples would not be afraid of what would happen?

Bible Accent

The new church year begins with the first Sunday of Advent, the four-week-long season that brings us to Christmas. During Advent, we should take time to think of the ancient Israelites who waited for the Messiah to come. How would our world be different if Jesus had not yet come? Like our ancestors in faith, we would wonder when would the Messiah come? What would happen when he did? Would he come in the clouds with an army of angels ready to fight? Or would he come upon us quietly when we were not watching? Maybe we would not even recognize him when he came. But Jesus did come, to be our savior. He was born miraculously, he lived, he died in love, he died for our sins, he rose from the dead. And someday, he will return. So, let this Advent season be a time of waiting and expectation, and let this Christmas have a deeper meaning as a result.

St. Catherine Labouré

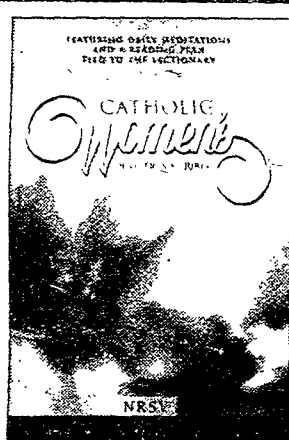
Catherine Labouré (1806-1876) was the daughter of a French farmer, with the given name of Zoe. Because she never went to school, she did not learn how to read or write, and when she was 8 years old, her mother died. After her sister left home to join the Sisters of Charity, Catherine had to take over the duties of her sister, which were being a housekeeper and helping her father. When Catherine was 13, she also wanted to join the Sisters of Charity. Her father was initially opposed to the idea, but eventually her father gave his consent. At this time, Zoe changed her name to Catherine. Catherine soon began to have a series of visions of a "shining child" and of Mary. One of these visions was of a medal with the letter M beneath a cross and two hearts. One of the hearts wore a crown of thorns, the other was pierced with a sword. The bishop gave permission for 1,500 medals to be made, and many miracles have been attributed to them. The medal is now known as the "miraculous medal." We honor Catherine on Nov. 28.

Puzzle

Unscramble the words to find musical instruments that were played during biblical times. Answers on Page 4.

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| 1. slelb | 2. mysclab |
| 3. nogg | 4. phar |
| 5. tule | 6. peip |
| 7. ronh | 8. rely |

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Bible Trivia

Fill in the blank:

The last Sunday of the church year celebrates Christ as our _____
Send answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Please include your name, address and school name. All entries must be received by Nov. 30. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. Thomas G. Kolb, 5, a member of St. Patrick's Parish, Macedon, won last month's trivia contest. In answer to What is the word used by the church to describe the first five books of the Bible? He wrote "Torah." Another term is Pentateuch.

See Kids' Chronicle on the web
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