

Kids' Chronicle

Jesus resists temptation

BY JOE SARNICOLA

After Jesus had been baptized, the Holy Spirit led him into the desert. For 40 days, he had nothing to eat, and now he was very hungry. The devil knew that Jesus needed food, so he appeared in front of him.

"If you are the Son of God," the devil said, "command this stone to become bread."

Jesus may have been hungry enough to eat a rock, whether or not it had been turned to bread, but he knew the devil was just trying to tempt him into obeying him, instead of God. Jesus answered the devil by quoting from the Scriptures. "It is written, 'One does live by bread alone.'"

The devil was unable to trick Jesus the first time, so he tried again. He brought Jesus to a place that was so high, they were able to see all of the kingdoms of the world. The devil pointed to everything Jesus could see and said, "I shall give to you all this power and their glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I may give it to whomever I wish."

Jesus would not let the devil take advantage of him, even though he was weak and tired. To defeat the second temptation, Jesus again quoted from the Scriptures. "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve.'"

Thwarted a second time, the devil brought Jesus to Jerusalem and told him to sit on the high wall that protected the city. The devil thought that, since Jesus had refused him twice by quoting the



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

Scriptures, maybe he could trick Jesus if he used the Scriptures as part of his temptation. So the devil said, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,' and 'With their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"

But Jesus would not be outsmarted by the devil, even if he used the Scriptures to try to trick him. So he quoted more Scriptures to fight against the devil's third temptation. "It is also written, 'You shall

not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'"

The devil knew he had lost, so he left Jesus alone, hoping to try to trick him at some time in the future.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Luke 4

Q&A

1. Why was Jesus so hungry?
2. How did Jesus fight against the temptations?

Bible Accent

To fast means to go without food, usually as a sign of self-sacrifice. Fasting is frequently combined with times of prayer to God. In the Gospel of Matthew (chapter 6), Jesus advised people "do not look gloomy like the hypocrites." Instead he told them to look clean and neat, because only God needed to know they were fasting. And Jesus promised a reward, "Your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you." The fifth precept of the church demonstrates the importance of fasting, "You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence." The church also considers fasting to be one of the three forms of penance, the other two being prayer and almsgiving. As we experience Lent this year, let us honor God with our prayer and fasting, just as Jesus did.

St. Romanus

When he was 35 years old, St. Romanus decided to live as a hermit. He packed only a few simple tools and seeds to plant and he found a secluded spot under a large tree in the mountainous area between Switzerland and France. He spent many hours every day in prayer, and he cared for the field in which he had planted his seeds. But even in such a remote place, others heard of him, and came to join him in his life of devotion to God in nature. His brother became his partner, and his sister also worked with them.

When it seemed that more permanent dwellings were needed, Romanus and his brother founded a monastery for the men and a convent for the women. The religious community lived simply, often enduring hardship from the weather. Romanus once made a pilgrimage to where the Theban Legion had been martyred and healed two lepers along the way. Romanus died in 460, and we honor him on Feb. 28.

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Puzzle

Using the clues, cross out the name or word that does not belong with the other two. Answers on page 11.

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| 1. MATTHEW | MALACHI | MARK | CLUE: Gospels |
| 2. EZEKIEL | ISAIAH | JOSHUA(X) | CLUE: prophets |
| 3. PAUL | BENJAMIN | JOSEPH | CLUE: sons of Jacob (Genesis 35) |
| 4. JAMES | MINOA | JOHN | CLUE: disciples of Jesus (Mark 1) |
| 5. MEEK | MEAN | MERCIFUL | CLUE: the beatitudes (Matthew 5) |
| 6. NEW BETHLEHEM | NEW HEAVEN | NEW EARTH | CLUE: things John saw (Revelation 21) |
| 7. HORN | LYRE | PIANO | CLUE: musical instruments in Psalm 150 |

Bible Trivia

Which Gospel does not include an account of the temptation of Jesus? Send your answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Deadline for entries is March 1, 2001. The winner chosen at random for last month's question was Stephen Albonesi, a home-schooled student in Lima. In answer to "In Matthew 16 Jesus told Peter he would build something on the rock, which is what the name Peter means. What was it?" he wrote, "Jesus told Peter that he was going to build a church on the rock."

Tapestry of Faith

"Faith...must be woven into the fabric of our lives not only through prayer and good works, but also through continued reflection stimulated by frequent reading of Catholic publications."

— Archbishop John P. Foley

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