

# Kids' Chronicle

## Jesus tells the parable of the rich fool

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Jesus looked out at the crowd of people that had gathered to hear him preach. There were so many that they were stepping on each other. They pushed and shoved each other so they could hear and see Jesus. Then Jesus whispered to his disciples, "Beware of the leaven, that is, the hypocrisy, of the Pharisees."

A man in the crowd called out to Jesus. He had a problem he hoped Jesus would be able to help him resolve. "Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me."

Jesus pointed to the man and asked him, "Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?" In order to use the man's request as a lesson for everyone who was there, Jesus stood up and said, "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."

Jesus wanted to tell the people more about the problems that greed can cause, so he told them a story. "There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. But the man was upset because he did not have enough room in his barns to store the crops once they had been picked. So he decided to tear down his barns and build bigger ones. Then he would be able to store his harvest and many of his other possessions for safe-keeping. He said to himself, 'You have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink and be merry!'"



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

Before he continued, Jesus looked around to see if everyone was paying attention. He knew barns full of crops would be as valuable to most of the people who were listening as if they were filled with gold or silver. "But God said to the rich man," Jesus said, "You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?"

Jesus paused again before he finished his story by saying, "Thus it will be for the one who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich in what matters to God." But, since it was not his intention to frighten the people, Jesus said, "Do not worry about your life and what you will eat, or about your body and what you will wear. Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:  
Luke 12

## Q&A

1. What did Jesus say about greed?
2. What did God call the rich man who wanted to build more barns?

## Bible Accent

The most common metals used for making coins in the time of the New Testament were silver and bronze, and occasionally gold. Herod had coins minted that were inscribed with the phrase "herodou basileos," which meant, "belonging to Herod the king." He also included the date the coin was made. The Romans in Israel printed coins for their own use. Instead of decorating them with religious symbols, which they preferred, they used images of plants and other items that would not offend the Jewish people. The face of Caesar, the Roman emperor, was also on the Roman coins. It may have been the Roman coin called a denarius that was the coin Jesus used when talking about giving Caesar what belongs to Caesar. The 30 pieces of silver paid to Judas for betraying Jesus were probably silver shekels.

## St. James

St. James, called James the Greater so as not to be confused with the other disciple named James (called James the Less, because he was the younger of the two men), was the brother of John and the son of Zebedee. Jesus first saw James and his brother when they were fishing with their father. Jesus called them to follow him and become fishers of men. They immediately left their father and went with Jesus.

James and John were often present when Jesus performed his miracles. They were the only witnesses who were with Peter for the Lord's transfiguration. They were also with Jesus when he was in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before his crucifixion. James died a martyr for his faith under the persecution of King Agrippa, and we remember him on July 25.

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## Puzzle

Solve the math riddle using the clues. The answer should tell you how many chapters there are in the Book of Luke.

Answer on Page 4.

1. start with the number of plagues in Egypt (Exod ch. 7-11) \_\_\_\_\_
2. add the number of scouts in Numbers 13 \_\_\_\_\_
3. multiply by the number of persons in the Trinity \_\_\_\_\_
4. subtract the number of beasts Daniel saw (ch. 7) \_\_\_\_\_
5. take away the number of disciples Jesus had \_\_\_\_\_
6. divide by the number of testaments in the Bible \_\_\_\_\_
7. subtract 1 \_\_\_\_\_

## Bible Trivia

What do we call the stories Jesus would tell to explain a lesson?

Send answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, P.O. Box 14624, Rochester, NY 14624. Please include your name, address and school name. All entries must be received by Aug. 2, 2001. A winner will be selected at random from all correct entries submitted. The winner to the last trivia question was Steven, a student at Groton Central School. In answer to "What does the word Gospel mean?" he wrote: "The word Gospel means good news of the Lord."