

Kids' Chronicle

Salvation comes to Zacchaeus

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Jesus arrived at the city of Jericho, intending only to pass through it without stopping for the night. When word spread that Jesus was there, a crowd of people who wanted to see him quickly formed. In that crowd was a man named Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was the chief tax collector and a very wealthy man. He was also very short. Too short, in fact, to see Jesus over the other people in the village.

Zacchaeus had an idea. He would run ahead of the people and try to find a tree. He found a sycamore tree up the road that was directly in the path of Jesus. Up the trunk and across the branches, Zacchaeus climbed. He could see Jesus coming now. Jesus would be walking under the tree very soon.

Jesus walked closer and closer. Then he stopped for a moment. He was directly under Zacchaeus. Jesus looked up. He looked directly into the eyes of Zacchaeus and said, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house."

Many thoughts passed through Zacchaeus' mind. How did Jesus know he was in the tree? How did Jesus know his name? And why did he want to stay in



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

his house, when he was free to stay with anyone he wanted to?

Many thoughts also went through the minds of the people in the crowd. Tax collectors were not the most popular people in the city, especially those who may have been dishonest, as they believed Zacchaeus to be. They voiced their opinions loud enough for both Jesus and Zacchaeus to hear. "Jesus has gone to stay at the house of a sinner."

But the kind of man who climbed down from the tree was not the same kind of man who climbed up into it. Zacchaeus looked at the people, then he turned to Jesus. He gave Jesus a hug of gratitude. "Lord," he said, "I shall give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over."

The people were astonished at what Zacchaeus had said. Half his possessions to the poor? Repaying people four times over? What had happened to the tiny tax collector?

Jesus placed his hands on Zacchaeus' shoulders and said, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man, too, is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."

The Mass

The Mass has four main sections: the introductory rites, the Liturgy of the Word, the Eucharist, and the concluding rites. The introductory rites include the entrance procession, the penitential rites, the Gloria and prayer. The Liturgy of the Word contains the readings from the Bible, the homily, the creed and the prayer of the faithful. The Eucharist involves the preparation and offering of the gifts, prayer, the memorial acclamation and Communion. The concluding rites end the Mass with a closing prayer, a blessing and dismissal. Prayer is an important part of every section of the Mass. Our understanding of the church and its teachings can only improve by our regular participation in the Mass.

St. Luke

St. Luke was more known for what he wrote than for what he did. His Gospel tells us about the origins of our salvation through the teaching and deeds of Jesus. The Acts of the Apostles, which he also wrote, recounts the lives of some of the early Christians, especially Paul, and the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit first came down from heaven. Luke was a doctor and a traveling companion of Paul. It is very likely that Luke was with Paul when he was thrown into prison. Scholars believe that Luke was a gentile, probably a Greek. When Paul was near the end of his life, he wrote, "Only Luke is with me," a tribute to the friendship of the two men. Little has been verified about Luke's life after the death of Paul, but he may have lived to the age of 84. We remember him on Oct. 8.

Bible Trivia

How many men did Jesus choose to be his first disciples?

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. 1, 2001. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winner to the last trivia question was Kayly Irene Phelps, a student at Watkins Glen Elementary School. In response to "Which book of the Bible is a large collection of songs and prayers?" Kayly answered, "Psalms."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Luke 19

Q&A

1. Why did Zacchaeus climb the tree?
2. What did Zacchaeus tell Jesus he would do?

Puzzle

Fill in the blank with the correct word from the list to complete the Lord's Prayer. Answers on page 8.

FATHER, TEMPTATION, BREAD, HEAVEN, DELIVER, EARTH, AGAINST, NAME, FORGIVE, KINGDOM

Our _____, who
art in _____,
hallowed be thy _____.
Thy _____ come.
Thy will be done on
_____ as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our
daily _____, and
_____ us our
trespasses as we forgive those
who trespass _____ us.
And lead us not
into _____, but
_____ us from evil.

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