

Kids' Chronicle

Jesus preaches from a mountain

BY JOE SARNICOLA

After Jesus had carefully chosen 12 men to be his closest followers, he traveled all over Galilee. He would teach in the synagogues, he would spread the news of the kingdom of God, and he would cure the diseases and illnesses of the people who came to him for help. As a result, stories about Jesus were told as far away as Syria. And crowds of people would try to find him. They had many needs.

Those who were healthy would bring the sick, the injured, the weary. They would carry them if they had to. The sick, those in pain, those who had mental illnesses, those who were paralyzed. Jesus healed everyone who came.

And the crowds continued to follow Jesus. People from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and beyond the Jordan River. Once when such a crowd had gathered around Jesus, he went to the top of a mountain. The 12 disciples of Jesus were with him. Jesus stood before the people and preached to them.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemak-

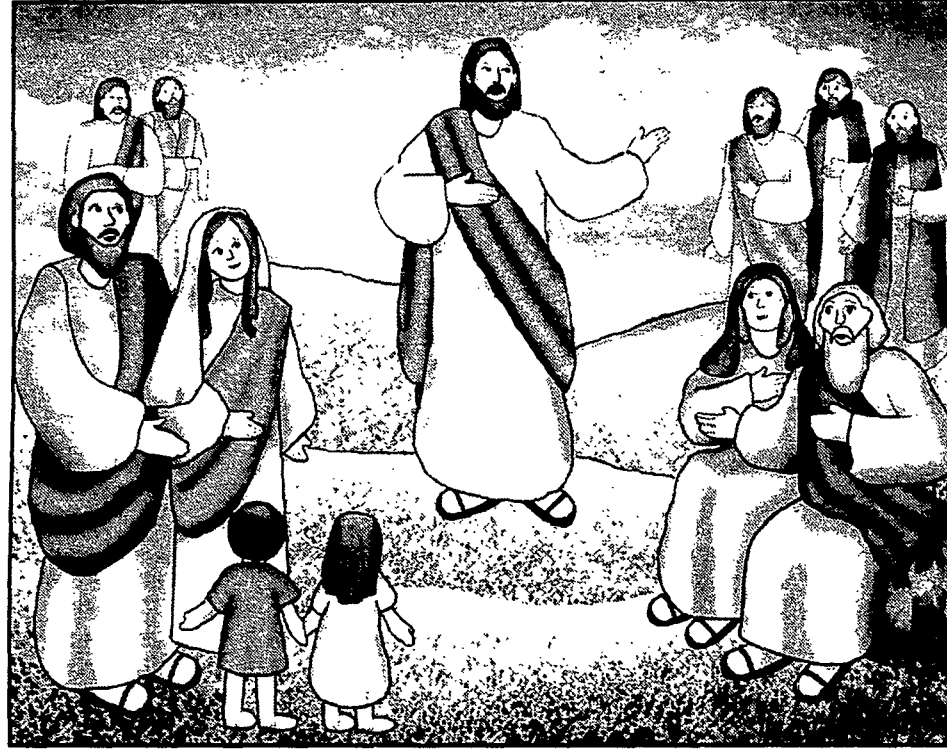


Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

ers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus preached that afternoon as if he were giving the most important sermon of his life. He told the people that if they were persecuted on earth because of their faith in God, they would be rewarded in heaven. He compared them to salt, which

is only useful when its flavor is fresh. Or a lamp, which cannot be seen if it is hidden under a bushel. But put that same lamp on a lampstand and the whole house is filled with light.

And there were always those who believed that some of the things Jesus did went against the laws of Moses and the prophets. To them Jesus said, "I have not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it." Jesus taught the people how to pray. He told them to ask God for the things they need because God loves them. And he taught them how to live when he said, "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Matthew 5

Q&A

1. Why did so many people come to see Jesus?
2. What did Jesus say about the law?

Bible Accent

Approximately four centuries after the death of Christ, St. Jerome, a priest and scholar, wanted to compile an official collection of the religious writings. This would be called the canon, a list of the books of the Bible that were approved by the church. He then translated the writings into Latin, which would enable the people who spoke Latin to study and understand the Bible.

The books of the Bible were divided into chapters 800 years later to make it easier to read them. The first English language translation of the Bible was published toward the end of the 14th century. In the 1500s, the chapters of the Bible were broken down into verses. Today the Bible is available in almost every country and language in the world. There are many reference books that have been written to help us understand it. Let us spend some time every day reading the Bible, which is the word of God.

St. Meinrad

St. Meinrad became a priest and joined the Benedictine monastery in Reichenau, Switzerland. Teaching was part of his life at the monastery but in his heart he longed to live a more solitary religious life. His superiors granted him permission to live in a part of a nearby forest to pursue his contemplation. People who heard about his devotions came to see him, which interrupted the solitude he desired. So Meinrad moved farther away to a place that has earned the name Einsiedeln, which means "hermitage." He spent the next 25 years of his life there. In January 861, two robbers came to his home, thinking he had valuables hidden there. Although Meinrad offered them food and drink, the robbers beat him to death with clubs. They ran away after they found nothing of value to steal. We honor Meinrad on Jan. 21.

Puzzle

Unscramble the following words, then transfer the circled letters on the line below to learn what we call the message Jesus preached in today's story. Answer on page 3.

1. b j o _ _ ()
2. t e a s e r () () _ _ _ _
3. t h u r t _ _ _ () _
4. t r i p s i _ _ _ _ () ()
5. u j e s s _ _ _ () _
6. c o n e a d () () _ _ _ _
7. t i a n s () _ _ _ _

Bible Trivia

Can you name the four Gospels of the New Testament? Send answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, PO Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Please include your name, address and school name.

All entries must be received by January 31, 2002. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winner to the last trivia question was Shannon Attridge, a student at Good Shepherd School, Henrietta. In response to "Joseph was the earthly father of Jesus. Who was Joseph's father?" Shannon answered, "Jacob was Joseph's father."

Catholic Schools Week

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As Catholic schools throughout the nation celebrate "Catholic Schools Week," this special edition salutes Catholic schools in the Diocese of Rochester for the vital role they play in faith formation, quality education, and ensuring a secure and disciplined learning environment.