

# Kids' Chronicle

## Jesus talks about God's generosity

BY JOE SARNICOLA

A large crowd of men, women and children had gathered around Jesus to hear him preach. As on many occasions when the people followed Jesus, there was a question about the Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus talked about so often. Jesus looked at the people with compassion and attempted to answer the question with a story.

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace. He said to them, 'Go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.'" Then Jesus explained that the landowner still needed workers for the vineyard, so he went out looking for more laborers to hire at noon, at three o'clock and at five o'clock.

Jesus looked around at the people. Most of them appeared to be listening carefully. Some of the children were playing quietly in the back, and one old man was asleep under a tree. Jesus smiled and continued his story.



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

"When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Summon the laborers, and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.'" Jesus explained

that those who began working at five o'clock, and three o'clock, and at noon received the same pay as the workers who started at dawn. This made the first workers angry. They thought they should receive more pay, since they had worked a longer time.

One of them complained to the landowner. "These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who bore the day's burden and the heat."

The landowner saw the situation differently. Jesus said these were his words to the workers who had started at dawn. "Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. Am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?"

Then Jesus paused and said to people in the crowd, "Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:  
Matthew 20

## Q&A

1. Why did the landowner go into town?
2. What did the landowner say about his money?

## Bible Accent

People who lived during Old and New Testament times had simpler lives than we do today, but parents still had to provide for their families. Most of the jobs that people worked at were agricultural, which means they farmed and raised sheep and cattle. Fishing was also very important, and there were craftsmen skilled in carpentry, masonry and other building trades.

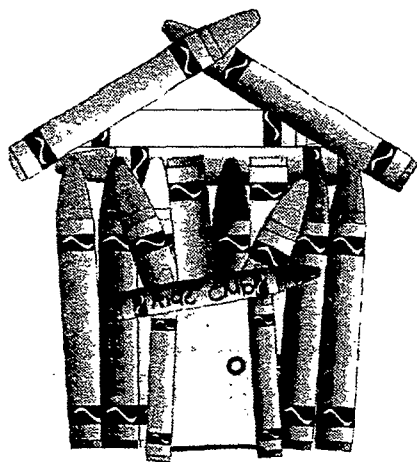
A farmer could not just climb onto his tractor and plow the fields. That work was done by hand or by having an ox or other work animal pull a plow blade through the hard ground. A long-handled sickle was often used to cut down stalks of ripe corn. Farmers who raised sheep, cattle and goats had to keep a careful watch out for animals that might kill their herds, because they needed those animals to produce milk, wool, leather and meat. The woman's role in the work world involved mostly baking, preparing food, gathering water and making clothes for the family.

## St. Driethelm

St. Driethelm lived in Northumbria, England. He loved God and taught his children to follow his example.

A powerful sickness once afflicted Driethelm. His family and friends thought he had died. The next day he sat up, fully healed. Everyone there, except Driethelm's wife, ran away thinking they had seen a ghost. He told his wife not to be afraid. He had been allowed to continue his life, but there would be some changes for him. After spending the rest of the day in prayer, Driethelm gave one-third of his property and possessions to his wife, one-third to his children and the other third to the poor. He then told the king his story. The king contacted the Abbot of Melrose, who allowed Driethelm to live among his monks. He only told his experience to those who would use it to deepen their faith. Driethelm would sometimes pray standing in the icy water of the Tweed River. When people asked him how he could stand it, he would tell them he had seen worse cold. His faith inspired many people. We honor him on Sept. 1.

## Kids' Club



You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question: **Why do you think it is important to attend Mass on a regular basis?**

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to *Catholic Courier*, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Deadline for entries is Sept. 19, 2002. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Kids' Chronicle*.

Last month's winner was Nichole Adiletta, a fifth-grader at St. Joseph School

in Penfield. In response to **Why do you think Paul wrote his letters to the early Christians?** she wrote, "My grandparents live far away from here and I can't always go to visit them so I can write them letters to tell them what I'm doing. So that's what Paul was doing, he couldn't go to Spain so he wrote them letters to tell them about God and how to live in his way and to be kind, just, fair and peaceful. The letters helped Paul to spread the word even though he couldn't be there. Just like what I'm doing now. I'm writing a letter to you to tell you what I think."

THANKS TO OUR SAVINGS BOND DONOR  
651 Plymouth Ave. N., Rochester, NY 14608 (585) 546-1740  
Quality Sausage and Meat Products Since 1880



Visit Kids' Chronicle  
on the Web

[www.catholiccourier.com](http://www.catholiccourier.com)

## Puzzle

Match the people with the job that they did.  
Answers on page 13.

- |   |       |                |
|---|-------|----------------|
| 1. I built a big boat ( <i>Gen. 6:14</i> )                  | _____ | a. Simon Peter |
| 2. I was a tent maker ( <i>Acts 18:3</i> )                  | _____ | b. Saul        |
| 3. I collected taxes ( <i>Luke 5:27</i> )                   | _____ | c. Levi        |
| 4. I was the first king of Israel ( <i>1 Samuel 11:15</i> ) | _____ | d. Noah        |
| 5. I was a fisherman ( <i>Luke 5:8</i> )                    | _____ | e. David       |
| 6. I was a shepherd boy ( <i>1 Samuel 16:19</i> )           | _____ | f. Paul        |