

Kids' Chronicle

Jesus tells about a landowner's son

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Jesus was very fond of telling stories to illustrate his messages when he taught or preached. When a number of people had gathered to listen to him, he said, "Hear another parable." The men, women and children leaned forward to hear what Jesus had to say.

"There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey. When the vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce."

Jesus paused and looked around. He wanted to use an element of mystery as he told his story. He wanted the people to wonder what was going to happen. Then he took a breath and continued his story.

"The tenants seized the servants, and one they beat, another they killed and a third they stoned. Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones, but they treated them in the same way."

Jesus looked around again, making eye contact with some of the people who were there. "Finally," he said, "he sent his son to them, thinking, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

the son, they said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.' They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him."

This time when Jesus stopped telling his story, he asked the people a question. "What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?" Without waiting for anyone to answer, but allowing them time to think about it, Jesus said, "He will put those wretched men to death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper time."

Then Jesus quoted from one of the Psalms. "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes. I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."

There were chief priests and Pharisees in the crowd, and they knew that Jesus was talking about them. They did not want to try to have Jesus arrested then, because they knew how much the people liked him.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Matthew 21

Q&A

1. Why did the landowner send his servants to the vineyard?
2. What did the tenants do to the landowner's son?

Karol Wojtyla

When Karol Wojtyla was a 9-year-old boy in Poland, his mother died. Karol's father did his best to ensure that his son received a good education, while allowing time for the boy to play sports. When Karol was a teenager, he had to go to work in a factory in order to contribute much needed money to his family. This was during the time when Poland was occupied by German military forces in the 1940s.

Karol knew he did not want to work in a factory for the rest of his life, and he knew God was calling him, so he decided he wanted to become a priest. After studying without the knowledge of the German soldiers, Karol was ordained in 1946. He spent some time in Rome, but returned to Poland to preach, write and help people in need, especially those who were working in factories. Karol became a bishop and participated in the Second Vatican Council. In 1978, Karol was elected pope.

We know him as John Paul II.

St. Gerard Sagredo

Gerard Sagredo was a member of a Benedictine monastery in Venice, Italy, in the 11th century. While on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, he traveled through Hungary. The king learned that this well-educated monk was in his country and wanted to meet him. The two became friends, and Gerard became a tutor to the prince. He began a preaching ministry that was well received, even by the mostly non-Christian population of Hungary.

Gerard eventually became a bishop. After the death of the king, soldiers who had been enemies of the king and Christianity attacked Gerard. They threw heavy stones at him and dragged him by his feet.

Echoing the words of Stephen, the first Christian martyr, Gerard prayed for the forgiveness of the soldiers. Gerard became a martyr as well that day. We remember him on Sept. 24.

Puzzle

Unscramble the words that go with their definitions.

Answers on page 9.

1. The four weeks before Christmas.

T A V E N D

2. Moses gave us 10 of these from God.

S A N D M M O C T E M N

3. The book that is God's word.

E L B B I

4. The day on which the Holy Spirit came.

S C O T N E E P T

5. The clothes worn by priests and deacons.

M E T T S N E V S

6. The day when Jesus rose from the grave.

R A S E E T

7. The sacrament that uses water.

S P A M B I T

Bible Trivia

How many sacraments are there in the church?

Send answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, PO Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Please include your name, address, school and grade. All entries must be received by Oct. 3, 2002. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted. The winner to the last trivia question was Caroline Zatyko, a sixth-grader at Pittsford Middle School. In answer to "What short book follows the Book of Jeremiah in the Bible?" she responded, "The short book that follows the Book of Jeremiah in the Bible is the Book of Lamentations."

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