

The Pharisees try to trick Jesus

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

The Pharisees were angry about some of the things Jesus was saying about them. Although they had not yet found a way to use the law to stop him from teaching and preaching, they hoped they would soon be able to trick him into saying something they could punish him for. They called a meeting and came up with a plan. They would send some of their members, along with those who were loyal to Herod, to hear Jesus the next time he stopped to preach.

After a few days, word spread that Jesus would be speaking to the people from a meadow outside of the city. The Pharisees instructed their spies to go and listen, and to speak when there was an opportunity.

One of the spies stood up to ask Jesus if he could ask a question. Jesus smiled and nodded. Then the man said, "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man, and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion." The man withdrew a coin and held it up. "Tell us, then, what is your opinion? Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar, or not?"

Jesus knew immediately that the



Linda Jeanne Rivers/Catholic Courier

man was a member of the Pharisees, and that he was trying to trap him with his own words. If Jesus said that they did not have to pay taxes, there could be trouble for everyone. So Jesus answered, "Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin that pays the census tax."

The man walked through the crowd to Jesus, and he handed him the coin. Jesus held the coin up. The people there knew what Jesus was holding, even though it was too small to be seen by everyone.

"Whose image is this and whose inscription?" Jesus asked.

"Caesar's," they all replied.

Jesus looked at the man who had asked the question and said, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar," and he finished his sentence by addressing everyone, by saying, "and to God what is God's."

The spies planted by the Pharisees were amazed by the wisdom and intelligence of Jesus. There was nothing more they could say or do on that day, so they returned to their homes.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Matthew 22

Q&A

1. Why did the Pharisees send spies to hear Jesus?
2. What did Jesus say about the coin?

Bible Accent

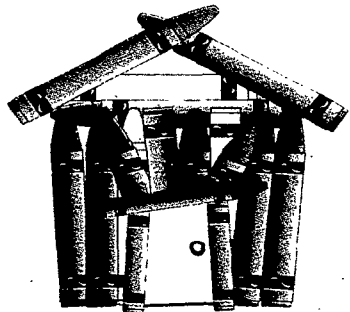
During the times of the stories recorded in the Bible, the people did not have the many important medicines and medical technology that we take for granted today. To maintain their health, they tried to eat a balanced diet, and they knew the healthful benefits of eating certain foods.

Instead of the white flour that much of the bread we eat is made of, the Israelites used whole-grain bread, which is an important source of fiber.

They ate more fish and poultry than they did red meat, which was too expensive for the average person, and they used cheese as an affordable source of protein. They often ate nuts, which have been shown to help lower cholesterol and maintain a proper blood-sugar level. God wants us to be healthy, and we can help ourselves to stay that way by eating foods that are good for our bodies.

St. Osith

Osith was raised in a nunnery and wanted to become a nun herself, but her parents wanted her to marry a man named Sighere, who was king of the East Saxons. After the wedding had taken place, Sighere went away on a hunting trip. Osith used this opportunity to seek shelter with some Anglian bishops. When Sighere returned, he realized how important it was for Osith to join a religious order. He released her from the marriage agreement, and he even gave her some land to use as she wished. Osith built a monastery on the land, but unfortunately the property was situated in an area that was frequented by pirates and thieves. Men invaded the monastery one night, and Osith was killed when she tried to defend herself. We honor her on Oct. 7.



Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question:

If you had to write a prayer for peace throughout the world to read in school, what would you say?

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 Oct 17, 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 Ruby Roth, a third-grader from Penn Yan who is home-schooled. In response to **Why do you think it is important to attend Mass on a regular basis?** she wrote, "Why it is important to go to Mass is that you receive Christ in Holy Communion. Also you get a chance to ask God to forgive you for all your sins. God gives you mercy. These things help you get closer to God. When I ask God for forgiveness I always feel better."

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Puzzle

Circle whether the sentences are true or false.

Bible references have been given as hints. *Answers on page 8.*

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|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. God rested on the first day of creation. (<i>Gen. 2:3</i>) |
| T | F | 2. Moses talked to a burning bush. (<i>Exodus 3:2</i>) |
| T | F | 3. Joshua conquered Jerusalem. (<i>Joshua 6:2</i>) |
| T | F | 4. David killed a giant. (<i>1 Sam. 17:49</i>) |
| T | F | 5. Emmanuel was another name for Jesus. (<i>Matthew 1:23</i>) |
| T | F | 6. Lazarus raised Jesus from the dead. (<i>John 11:43</i>) |