

Jesus takes care of his disciples

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

On the Sabbath, Jesus was teaching in the synagogue. He spoke of God's love and mercy, and he explained the Scriptures by using stories and parables. The people who heard him were amazed by his words, yet they had doubts about him as well.

"What kind of wisdom has been given to this man?"

"What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands!"

"Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary? Are not his sisters here with us?"

Jesus knew the hearts of the people, and he heard their questions. So he said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house." Jesus was unable to perform very many miracles among his people because of their lack of faith.

As Jesus prepared to visit other regions to preach, he called his 12 disciples to be with him. He sent them out to teach as well, and he gave them authority over unclean spirits. He also told them not to take anything but a walking stick and a good pair of sandals. They were not to take any money or food.

Before the disciples left on their mission, Jesus said, "Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them." Then the men went out in pairs to preach repentance, to drive out unclean spirits and to



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heal the sick.

After the disciples had all returned, Jesus had them meet together, because he wanted to hear what they had been doing. He told his disciples that he was proud of their faith and their service. He prayed with them and asked his Father to keep them safe and to always provide for their needs. Then Jesus said that he knew his friends were tired.

"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." The 12 disciples had not even had a chance to eat since they had returned. Because of their ministry and miracles, people had begun to follow them to see what else they were going to do. Jesus had arranged to have a boat ready to take his disciples to a remote spot where they could rest.

The people who had been following Jesus and his disciples wanted to follow him to his new destination as well. They traveled by donkey and on foot to the place they thought Jesus might be going.

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Mark 6

Q&A

1. What did Jesus tell his disciples to bring with them?
2. How did Jesus escape the crowd that followed him?

Bible Accent

In 1947 a young shepherd boy was tending his family's goats in the Qumran region of Palestine, near the Dead Sea. There were many caves in the area and one of the goats had wandered into one of them. When the boy went in to look for the goat, he discovered several sealed clay jars hidden deep inside the cave. He opened one of the jars and found brittle, old scrolls.

Within a few years, word of finding the scrolls had reached archaeologists. They launched an expedition into the caves, a dangerous and expensive task that uncovered 400 scrolls, one of the most important biblical discoveries of the 20th century. They became known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. They were written versions of most of the Old Testament books that were older than many others known to exist at the time. The scrolls were part of a library of a religious sect called the Essenes. They provided scientists with valuable information about life in ancient Bible lands.

St. Thomas the Apostle

Thomas will always be remembered as the apostle who doubted. He needed proof that the Jesus who stood in front of him had truly been raised from the dead. But when he touched Jesus, Thomas declared, "My Lord and my God." He never doubted in the Lord after that.

Although truth and tradition may have blended together over time, most scholars believe Thomas became a missionary to India, where he was also able to use his skills as a carpenter and a stone carver. There are records of a group in India called the Christians of St. Thomas, and several churches may also have been established by him. We honor him on July 3.

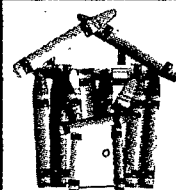


Puzzle

Fill in the blanks with the name of the animal from the list that correctly answers each question. (Bible book and chapter numbers have been provided as hints.) Answers on page 13.

LIST: fish lion sheep bear leopard dove

1. The cow will be the neighbor of the _____. (Isaiah 11)
2. Can the _____ change his spots? (Jeremiah 13)
3. Daniel had to face more than one hungry _____. (Daniel 6)
4. Jesus said he would give his life for his _____. (John 10)
5. Noah released a _____ from the ark. (Genesis 8)
6. Peter caught many _____ after obeying Jesus. (Luke 5)



Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) in response to **Jesus taught a message of salvation. Who is one person you consider a good teacher of our faith today in your community?** 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 July 17. The winner will be notified by phone. The winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Kids' Chronicle*.

No entries were received in response to last month's essay question, **What can we learn from stories of early Christians in the Acts of the Apostles?**

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