

The Junior Observer

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A Good News Story

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant

Q&A

Who asked Jesus to heal his servant?

Where did Jesus heal the servant?

Read more about it in Matthew 8

Catholic News Service

One day, Jesus and the apostles traveled to Capernaum. When they arrived, Jesus was approached by a centurion.

"Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully," the centurion said.

Jesus looked at the man.

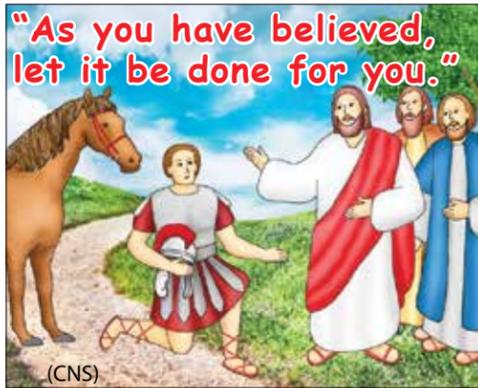
"I will come and cure him," he said.

But the centurion did not want Jesus to come to his home.

"Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed," he said. "For I too am a man subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come here,' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it."

Jesus was amazed by the centurion's response. He looked at the people who had followed him to Capernaum.

"Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith," Jesus said. "I say to you, many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob at the banquet in the kingdom of



Bible Trivia

Who did Jesus heal before he healed the centurion's servant? (Hint: Matthew 8:2-5)

Answer: A leper

heaven, but the children of the kingdom will be driven out into the outer darkness, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth."

Jesus turned to the centurion.

"You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you."

At that very hour, the centurion's servant was healed.

After healing the centurion's servant, Jesus entered the house of Peter, one of his apostles.

Jesus saw Peter's mother-in-law, who was in bed with a fever.

Jesus went over to the bed and touched the hand of Peter's mother-in-law. The fever left her immediately, and she rose from the bed and waited

on Jesus and his friends.

Word spread about Jesus' ability to heal people. In the evening, people were brought to him who were possessed by demons. He drove out the spirits by a word, and he also cured all the sick people who were brought to him.

The acts of healing that Jesus performed fulfilled a prophesy about the Messiah that is found in the Old Testament Book of Isaiah: "He took away our infirmities and bore our diseases."

Red Ribbon Fair Teaches Kindness

ROCKFORD — All Saints Catholic Academy (ASCA) hosted the annual Red Ribbon Fair Oct. 21. In past years, the fair was a community event. This year, it was held only for ASCA students. The fair's theme was "Be Kind to One Another."

Red Ribbon director Paul Perrone preferred the change. "The smaller venue made interaction with the students much greater."



A student from All Saints Catholic Academy plays the "God Loves" ring toss game. Games from the fair featured messages about being kind and being an example of God's love to others.



(Photos provided/Paul Perrone)

Father David Beauvais displays a T-shirt made in his honor with the words "Be kind to one another."

ASCA students — 180 of them — flocked to the Beauvais Center to play games focused on kind words and actions. The most popular game was a fishing game that encouraged students to "get caught using positive words."

Special guests at the fair included Miss Illinois and Miss Wisconsin as well as Father David Beauvais. The fair's theme, "Be Kind to One Another," came from a message Father Beauvais gives at each Mass.

As students left, they each received an activity book developed by Perrone to continue building on the fair's message.

Advent Begins on Nov. 28

Advent begins on Nov. 28. Now, we get ready for Jesus' birth with kind acts and prayers.

You might try making a "waiting chain" (shown



below), or you can bless your Advent wreath with the prayer on page 8.



(Photo provided/Carol Nanfria)

St. Mary School Counts Down with Kindness

SYCAMORE — St. Mary School's kindergarten students prepare for Advent by making "waiting chains" with the school's middle-school students. Each day, the students will take a link off the chain and do the kind deed written on it as a birthday gift to Jesus.