

The Junior Observer

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A Good News Story

Jesus Calls Us to Pray, Fast, Give

Q&A

Where did Jesus give His sermon? Who did He warn not to be like?

Read more about it in Matthew 6

Catholic News Service

Jesus walked away from the great crowd that had gathered around Him and climbed up a mountain. Once He was on the mountain, He sat down and began to teach the Apostles and the people.

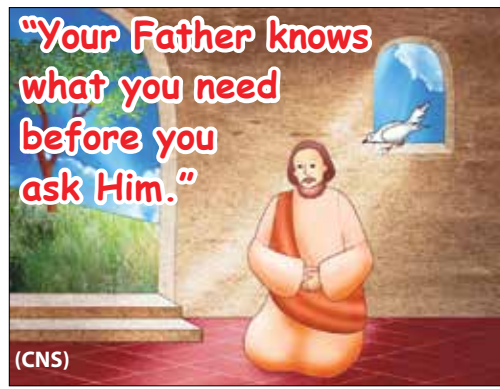
Jesus started to say things that surprised His listeners. Not only did He teach as someone with authority would, but He also said that they needed to think and act in new and different ways.

For example, the people loved their neighbors but hated their enemies. Instead, Jesus told them to love their enemies and pray for them too.

The people also lived by the Old Testament rule of “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” Instead of seeking retaliation, Jesus said that when someone has wronged another, turn the other cheek and forgive.

Jesus also talked about how important it was to be righteous, but to “take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father.”

He talked about praying, fasting and almsgiving, warn-



Bible Trivia

Where does Jesus say to store up treasure? (Hint: Mt. 6:19-20)

Answer: In Heaven.

ing the people not to make big, public displays of such things.

“When you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you,” He said.

Jesus said not to pray in public to be purposefully seen and not to babble like the pagans who thought they’d be heard for their many words.

“Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him,” Jesus said.

When He talked about praying, Jesus also taught the people a good

way to pray, which has become known as the Lord’s Prayer.

And while fasting, Jesus said to not look gloomy or unkempt. Instead, He said, “Anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.”

Jesus said not to act like the hypocrites, who prayed, fasted and gave alms in public to try to look like they were righteous and religious when they were not.

Project Teaches Devotion to Infant of Prague

Students in the religious education program at St. James Parish in Lee devoted the current academic year to Jesus, the Infant of Prague. Around His feast day on Jan. 14, the students took this focus one step further by making replica statues

from wood, cloth and many decorations. These were then blessed by parish pastor, Father Bonaventure Okoro, at a special Mass. By honoring the Infant of Prague, the students honored the holy childhood of Jesus and of all children.

But hang on — Jesus was born in Bethlehem, not Prague. He never lived in Prague. Why isn’t He called the Infant of Bethlehem?

“Infant of Prague” is one of many titles for Jesus, and it honors His sacred infancy and childhood.

The devotion comes from Prague, the capitol of the Czech Republic, a country in the center of Europe. In the 17th century, a statue of the infant Jesus was brought there and given to a community of Discalced Carmelites.

Invading armies chased out the Carmelites and tore down the church where the statue was placed. Later, the statue was recovered and restored by a priest, Father Cyril, who heard Jesus tell him in prayer: “The more you honor Me, the more I will bless you.”

Since the statue was restored, many who prayed to the Infant Jesus received miraculous healings and graces. Jesus’ promise to us holds true today.

—Information from EWTN.



(Photos/ Mary Mendoza)

With a little help, a student sews a robe for his replica statue of the Infant of Prague.



The statues were placed with an image of the Infant of Prague statue and blessed during a Mass.



A student focuses on gluing “hair” on his statue.