



WHAT DID JESUS DO WHEN HE WAS ON EARTH?



GOSPEL



ANSWERS

ALL WHO HAD PEOPLE SICK WITH DISEASES BROUGHT THEM TO JESUS. HE LAID HIS HANDS ON EACH OF THEM AND CURED THEM. DEMONS ALSO CAME OUT FROM MANY, SHOUTING, "YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD." AT DAYBREAK, JESUS LEFT AND WENT TO A DESERTED PLACE. THE CROWDS WENT LOOKING FOR HIM, AND WHEN THEY CAME TO HIM, THEY TRIED TO PREVENT HIM FROM LEAVING THEM- LUKE 4: 31-44

SAINTS & INSPIRATIONAL STORIES

BLESSED FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS

Blessed Francis Seelos worked across the United States trying to help people get to know what Jesus was like, through his own example of love and self-giving. He was considered an expert confessor and spiritual director. He was a pastor always joyfully available and attentive to the needs of the poor and the abandoned.



FR VINCENT MCAULEY

Fr Vincent McAuley followed Christ's example and tried to live like him on earth. He was devoted to others and served in foreign missions doing all he could to extend the gospel message and bring people closer to God.



TEAM DISCUSSION

After reading over the YOUCAT numbers on the following pages, how do you think the Youth Catechism answers the question of the week? Were there any words or ideas that you did not fully understand that you would like to understand better?

ANSWER IN YOUR OWN WORDS:



YOUCAT NUMBERS FOR THIS WEEK



#94 DID JESUS KNOW THAT HE WOULD DIE WHEN HE ENTERED JERUSALEM? Yes. Three times Jesus had predicted his suffering and death before consciously and voluntarily (Lk 9:51) going to the place of his Passion and his resurrection.

#60 WHY IS JESUS THE GREATEST EXAMPLE IN THE WORLD? Jesus Christ is unique because he shows us not only God's true nature but also the true ideal of man. Jesus was more than an ideal man. Even seemingly ideal men are sinners. That is why no man can be the measure of humanity. Jesus, however, was without sin. We cannot know what it means to be a man, and what makes man infinitely loveable in the truest sense of the word, except in Jesus Christ, who "in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sinning" (Heb 4:15). Jesus, the Son of God, is the authentic, true man. In him we recognize how God willed man to be.

#87 WHY DID JESUS ALLOW JOHN TO BAPTIZE HIM, ALTHOUGH HE WAS WITHOUT SIN? To baptize means to immerse. In his baptism, Jesus descended into the sinful history of all mankind. By doing so he established a sign. In order to redeem us from our sins, he would one day be submerged in death but, through his Father's power, reawakened to life. Sinners—soldiers, prostitutes, tax collectors—went out to the prophet John the Baptist because they were looking for the "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Lk 3:3). Strictly speaking, Jesus did not need this baptism, because he was sinless. The fact that he submitted to this baptism shows us two things: Jesus takes our sins upon himself. Jesus understands his baptism as an anticipation of his Passion and Resurrection. At this sign of his willingness to die for us, the heavens open: "You are my beloved Son" (Lk 3:22b).

#86 WHY DID JESUS WAIT THIRTY YEARS TO BEGIN HIS PUBLIC LIFE? Jesus wanted to share a normal life with us and thus sanctify our everyday routine. Jesus was a child who received love and affection from his parents and was brought up by them. Thus he increased "in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man" (Lk 2:52); he belonged to a Jewish village community and took part in its religious rituals; he learned a trade and had to prove his ability as a craftsman. The fact that God in Jesus willed to be born into a human family and to grow up in it has made the family a place where God is present and a prototype of a helping community.



#89 TO WHOM DOES JESUS PROMISE "THE KINGDOM OF GOD"? God wills "all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim 2:4). The "kingdom of God" begins in those who allow themselves to be transformed by God's love. In Jesus' experience these are above all the poor and the lowly. Even people unaffiliated with the Church find it fascinating that Jesus, with a sort of preferential love, turns first to those who are socially marginalized. In the Sermon on the Mount, it is the poor and the sorrowing, the victims of persecution and violence, all those who seek God with a pure heart, all who seek his mercy, his justice, and his peace, who have prior access to the kingdom of God. Especially invited are sinners also: "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I came not to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mk 2:17).

#90 DID JESUS WORK MIRACLES, OR ARE THEY JUST PIOUS TALES? Jesus really worked miracles, and so did the apostles. The New Testament authors refer to real incidents. Even the oldest sources tell of numerous miracles, even the raising of the dead, as a confirmation of Jesus' preaching: "But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you" (Mt 12:28). The miracles took place in public; some of the persons involved were known by name, for instance, blind Bartimaeus (Mk 10:46-52) or Peter's mother-in-law (Mt 8:14-15). There were also miracles that in those Jewish circles were considered shocking and outrageous (for example, the cure of a crippled man on the sabbath, the cure of lepers). Nevertheless they were not disputed by contemporary Judaism.

#91 BUT WHY DID JESUS WORK MIRACLES? The miracles that Jesus worked were signs that the kingdom of God was beginning. They expressed his love for mankind and reaffirmed his mission. Jesus' miracles were not self-aggrandizing displays of magic. He was filled with the power of God's healing love. Through his miracles he showed that he is the Messiah and that the kingdom of God begins in him. Thus it became possible to experience the dawn of the new world: he freed people from hunger (Jn 6:5-15), injustice (Lk 19:8), sickness, and death (Mt 11:5). By driving out demons, he began his victorious advance against the "ruler of this world" (meaning Satan; see Jn 12:31). Nevertheless, Jesus did not remove all misfortune and evil from the world. He directed his attention principally to freeing man from the slavery of sin. His central concern was faith, which he also elicited through miracles.

#336 HOW DID JESUS DEAL WITH THE LAW OF THE OLD COVENANT? "Do not think", says Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, "that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them" (Mt 5:17). Jesus, being a faithful Jew, lived according to the ethical ideas and requirements of his time. But on a series of issues he departed from a literal, merely formal interpretation of the Law.

#88 WHY WAS JESUS LED INTO TEMPTATION? COULD HE REALLY BE TEMPTED AT ALL? Jesus was truly human, and as part of that he was truly susceptible to temptation. In Jesus Christ we do not have the sort of redeemer "who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sinning" (Heb 4:15).



#95 WHY DID JESUS CHOOSE THE DATE OF THE JEWISH FEAST OF PASSOVER FOR HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION?

Jesus chose the Passover feast of his people Israel as a symbol for what was to happen through his death and Resurrection. As the people Israel were freed from slavery to Egypt, so Christ frees us from the slavery of sin and the power of death. The Passover was the feast celebrating the liberation of Israel from slavery in Egypt. Jesus went to Jerusalem in order to free us in an even deeper way. He celebrated the Paschal feast with his disciples. During this feast, he made himself the sacrificial Lamb.

#93 WHY WAS CHRIST TRANSFIGURED ON THE MOUNTAIN?

The Father wanted to reveal the divine glory of his Son even during Jesus' earthly life. Christ's Transfiguration was meant to help the disciples later to understand his death and Resurrection. Three Gospels relate how Jesus, on the mountaintop, begins to shine (is "transfigured") before the eyes of his disciples. The voice of his heavenly Father calls Jesus his "beloved Son", to whom they are supposed to listen. Peter would like to "make three booths" and capture the moment. Jesus, however, is on the way that leads to suffering. The vision of glory is only to strengthen his disciples.

#92 WHY DID JESUS CALL APOSTLES? Jesus had a large circle of disciples around him, both men and women. From this circle he selected twelve men whom he called apostles (Lk 6:12-16). The apostles were specially trained by him and entrusted with various commissions: "He sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal" (Lk 9:2). Jesus took only these twelve apostles with him to the Last Supper, where he gave them the command, "Do this in remembrance of me" (Lk 22:19b). The apostles became witnesses of Jesus' Resurrection and guarantors of the truth about him. They continued Jesus' mission after his death. They chose successors for their ministry: the bishops. To this day, the successors of the apostles exercise the authority conferred by Jesus: They govern and teach and celebrate the liturgy. The cohesiveness of the apostles became the foundation for the unity of the Church. Preeminent once again among the Twelve was Peter, on whom Jesus bestowed special authority: "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church" (Mt 16:18). From Peter's special role among the apostles developed the papal ministry.