

Section A

Children's Bible Stories & Paraphrased Texts

To go directly to specific Bible texts for Children and Youth, click on the following titles:

Saturday

[Martha, Mary and Lazarus: Friends of Jesus](#)
[The Anointing at Bethany \[Level 2\]](#)
[The Raising of Lazarus](#)

Sunday

[Jesus Enters Jerusalem](#)

Monday-Wednesday

[The Wise and Foolish Virgins](#)
[The Parable of the Talents \[Level 2\]](#)
[Parable of the Householder and the Wicked Servants](#)

Thursday:

[Jesus' Last Supper with His Disciples](#)
[The Trial of Jesus](#)

Friday

[Jesus is Put to Death on a Cross](#)
[Women at the Foot of the Cross \[Level 2\]](#)

Saturday

[The Burial and Resurrection of Christ](#)

Sunday

[Christ is Risen!](#)
[Jesus Comes to See His Friends](#)

Ascension

[Jesus Christ Goes Back to Heaven](#)

Levels 1-2

Stories from [God is With Us](#), by Sophie Koulomzin, except for supplementary paraphrased texts included below.)

Sat.-Sun. The Feast of Palms

Focus references: John 11:1-45 (Lazarus); Mark 11:1-11 (The Entry to Jerusalem)

Level 1 (Supplementary Text, new paraphrase)

Tell or read one or more of the following stories (depending upon the ages and comprehension of the children): "[Martha, Mary and Lazarus: Friends of Jesus](#)," "[The Raising of Lazarus](#)" and/or "[Jesus Enters Jerusalem](#)."

[Martha, Mary and Lazarus: Friends of Jesus](#)

Many people followed Jesus and listened closely to the wonderful things He said. They believed that He was God's Son. They wanted to come closer to God and become part of His Heavenly Kingdom. Jesus chose 12 of these men to be His disciples. A disciple is someone who follows a teacher and learns from Him. They were also His close friends and helpers. They stayed with Him and followed Him everywhere.

A faithful group of women also followed Jesus and His disciples. Some, like Mary Magdalene, had been made well by Jesus. After they had been healed, they continued to travel with Jesus and listen to His teaching. Others, like Susanna, had money and helped Jesus and the disciples by providing food, clothing and others things they needed. Joanna was one of these; her husband, Chuza, was the manager of King Herod's household. But these women also listened carefully to what Jesus was teaching.

Jesus also had some very close friends who lived in the town of Bethany. They were two sisters, Mary and Martha, and their brother Lazarus. Jesus felt comfortable in their home and visited them often. On one visit, Mary sat at Jesus' feet as other people did to hear His teachings. Martha was busy, worrying about getting things ready to serve the meal and arrange the table. Martha complained to Jesus, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to come and help me." Jesus answered, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled by many things. Only one thing is important. Mary has chosen to listen to God's word and it will always be with her."

For **Level 2**, Teachers may add the following story about Lazarus; or go directly to "[The Entry to Jerusalem](#)"

The Raising of Lazarus

One day, Jesus' friend Lazarus became very sick. His sisters, Martha and Mary, sent a messenger to tell Jesus and ask Him to come quickly. Jesus knew Lazarus was very sick and would die, but He waited two more days and then went to Bethany. Jesus knew Lazarus was already dead, but He said to His disciples, "For your sake, I am glad I was not there, so that now you may believe."

The disciples did not understand what Jesus was saying. Martha ran to meet Jesus and said to Him: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Jesus told them: "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered: "I know he will rise from the dead when everyone will be made



alive again, when the resurrection comes on the last day." Then Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life for all who believe in me. Do you believe this?" Martha answered: "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah (Savior), the Son of God."

Jesus went to the tomb where Lazarus was buried. He wept for his friend and told the men to move the stone that covered the cave. Martha said: "Lord, there will be a terrible smell, for Lazarus has been dead for four days!" But Jesus called: "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man arose and walked out of his tomb, covered with the bands of cloth that had been his burial clothes. Jesus said: "Unwrap him and let him go." Many people saw this and were excited about what had happened! They ran to tell their friends about the miracle they had seen with their own eyes!

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

God is With Us pp. 82-84

The great Jewish holiday, called Passover, was drawing near. The city of Jerusalem was full of people who had come from all parts of the country for the holiday. The streets were crowded with people hurrying to the temple. It was spring and the trees had fresh, green leaves.

Jesus Christ and His disciples were also going to Jerusalem for the holiday. Jesus knew that the time was coming when He would have to suffer and die. He also knew that all this must happen in Jerusalem. As they were approaching the city, Jesus said to two of His disciples: "Go into the town ahead and, as you enter it, you shall see a donkey and a colt tied to a door. Untie them and bring them to Me. If anyone asks you why you untie them, tell them it is because the Lord needs them."

The disciples obeyed, and as they came to a road crossing they saw the donkey and the young colt tied to a door. They did as Jesus told them and brought them to Jesus Christ. Then Jesus rode the colt to Jerusalem.

Very soon among the holiday crowds in the streets of Jerusalem the rumor spread: "The Lord is approaching Jerusalem. He is the promised Savior. He will be our King." The people hurried to the city gates. They hurried along the road. More and more people joined the crowd. There were children running among the grown-ups. Everyone was asking: "Where is the Lord? Where is the Savior?"

Some important Jewish people came up to Jesus and said: "Master, tell Your disciples to stop this noise." But Jesus answered them: "I tell you, if these



THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

people will stop shouting and being glad, then the stones themselves, which you see there, will cry out."

The crowd pressing around Jesus was slowly approaching Jerusalem. They were coming down a hill, and there before them lay the beautiful city shining in the sun. Jesus looked at the city sadly. He knew, even now, that in a few days the people of Jerusalem would turn against Him. But the people surrounding Him did not know this. They followed Jesus rejoicing and singing until He entered the temple.

Mon.-Wed. The Bridegroom Services

The Wise and Foolish Virgins

Matt. 21:18-20

One day, Jesus began to speak about the Kingdom of Heaven. He said, The Kingdom of Heaven shall be compared to ten young virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps, but they took no oil with them in case their lamps went out. The wise virgins, however, took flasks of oil with them to keep their lamps burning.

The night was long and the bridegroom was delayed. The virgins became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight a cry was heard, "Look! The bridegroom is here! Come out to meet him!" Then all the virgins got up and trimmed the wicks on their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise answered, "No, for we may not have enough for us and for you. Go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." While the five went to buy their oil, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.

Later the other virgins returned, saying, "Lord, Lord, open the door to us!" But He answered, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Then Jesus said, "Watch therefore and keep awake, for you do not know the day or the hour when the Son of Man is coming."

Thurs.–Friday The Supper, Betrayal and Trial of Jesus

Jesus' Last Supper with His Disciples

On the first day of the great Jewish holiday of Passover, the disciples came to Jesus and asked Him: "Where do you want us to prepare the holiday supper?" This holiday supper was a very special meal eaten with special prayers and ceremonies.

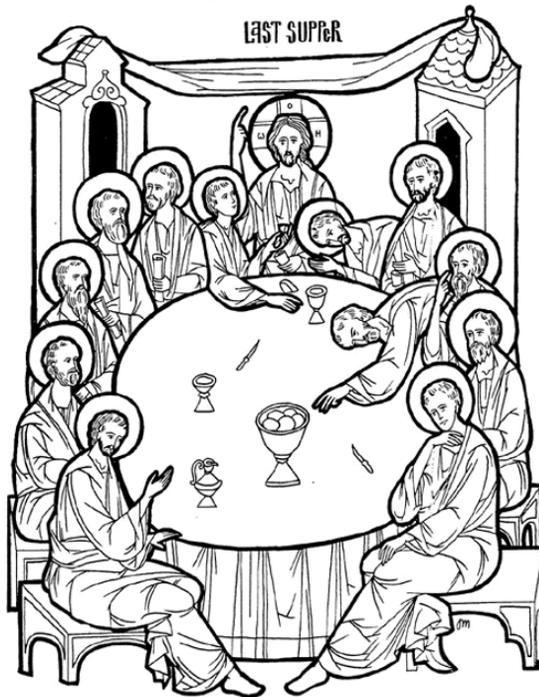
Jesus answered: "Go into the city. There you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and when he enters a house, go to the owner of

the house and say to him: "The Master asks: Where is the guest room where I shall eat the holiday supper with My disciples? Then the owner of the house will show you a large room on the upper floor, furnished and ready. There you can prepare our supper." Two of the disciples, John and Peter, went and found everything as Jesus told them and made ready for the meal. Then, in the evening, Jesus and the other disciples came to the house, and they all sat down around the table.

You remember that in Jesus' time people did not wear shoes and stockings or socks as we do. They either walked barefoot or wore sandals. The roads were dusty and hot. When someone had guests, he would have a servant bring a basin of water and a towel to bathe his guests' feet. It was a way to welcome guests and make them comfortable.

On the day Jesus and His disciples gathered for the holiday supper there was no servant to serve them. Therefore Jesus got up from His place, tied a towel around his waist, took a basin, filled it with water, and began bathing His disciples' feet. When He finished, He said: "Do you know what I have done? Even though I am your Master and Lord, I have served you. Therefore, when you go out into the world, you must serve one another."

There were twelve disciples gathered with Jesus on that night. All twelve of them had been with Jesus from the time when He began to preach to the people. All of them loved Jesus—all of them except one. His name was Judas. Judas had received thirty silver coins from the enemies of Jesus because he had promised that he would betray Jesus. Jesus knew that Judas would betray Him. As the supper went on, He said to the disciples: "One of you shall betray Me," and He turned to Judas and said: "What you are about to do, do quickly!" None of the other disciples understood what Jesus meant; but Judas got up and left the room and went to call the Master's enemies.



THE MYSTICAL SUPPER

During the supper, Jesus took a loaf of bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to His disciples, and said: "TAKE, EAT, THIS IS MY BODY." Then He took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: "DRINK OF IT ALL OF YOU; FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD, WHICH IS SHED FOR MANY."

In this way, for the very first time, Holy Communion was given. Jesus Himself gave the Holy Communion to His disciples, and told us to do so in His memory.

Jesus is Betrayed

When the supper was over, Jesus and His disciples left the house. They went to a garden that was just outside the city. It was a place where Jesus often went when He wanted to pray alone.

This time He asked three of His disciples to stay and watch with Him while He prayed. For a long time He prayed, for His heart was heavy and sad. When He came back He found that the three disciples had fallen asleep. "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?" He said, and then He went away to pray again. But the disciples were so tired that they fell asleep again. At last Jesus woke them up and said: "Arise, and let us go. Here comes the man who betrayed Me."

As He spoke, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, came up, followed by a great crowd of soldiers. Judas had told the soldiers beforehand: "I shall show you whom you must take. I will come up to Him and kiss Him." When Judas saw Jesus in the garden he came up to Him and greeted Him with a kiss. "Judas," said Jesus, "is it with a kiss that you betray Me?" Then the soldiers took Jesus and led Him away. One of the disciples, Peter, wanted to fight for Jesus. He had a sword with him; he took it out and struck one of the soldiers. But Jesus told him to put the sword away. Then Jesus healed the man that Peter had wounded. All of Christ's friends and disciples were so frightened that they ran away; they left Jesus alone with the soldiers. Only Peter followed Him from a distance.



The Trial of Jesus

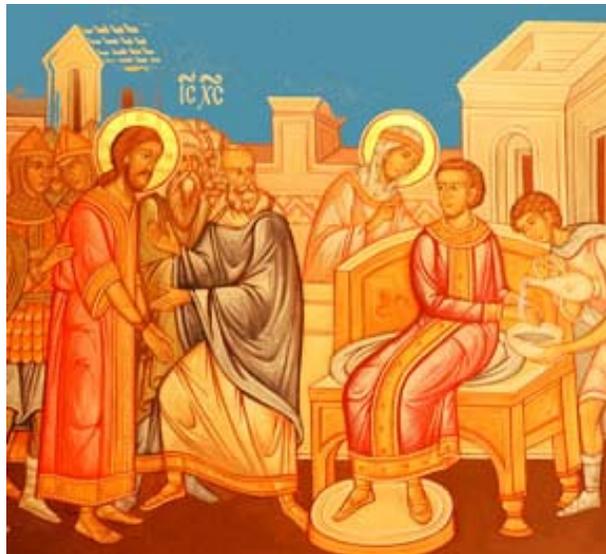
At first the soldiers led Jesus to the high priest of the Jews. All the most important Jewish people were gathered there. They all tried to find some fault with Jesus so that they could put Him to death. But no matter how hard they tried, they could not find anything wrong. At last the high priest asked Jesus: "Are you Christ, the Son of God?" Jesus answered: "Yes." Then the high priest was so angry that he tore his clothes and said: "This man calls Himself the Son of God!" And all those who were there cried: "Put Him to death! Put Him to death!" And the servants took Jesus in the yard, laughed at Him, spat in His face, and struck Him.



Now Peter had followed the crowd and was standing in the yard. He was warming his hands over a fire when one of the servant girls recognized him and said: "You were also with Jesus!" Peter was frightened and said: "No, I do not know Him." Then another servant came up and said, pointing at Peter: "This is one of the disciples of Jesus," and again Peter said: "No." Again someone said: "You must be one of them, for you speak the same way they do." But Peter,

speaking loudly, said he was sure he did not even know Jesus Christ. As soon as he said this, he heard the cock crowing, and from the other side of the yard Jesus turned around and looked at him. Then Peter remembered how Jesus had told him during the supper: "This very night, before the cock crows, you will three times deny Me," and Peter left the yard, crying.

The Jews led Jesus to the Roman governor of their country. The Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, wanted to be fair in everything he did. He knew that Jesus Christ had done no harm. He asked Jesus some questions and wanted to let Him go. But the crowd began shouting: "Put Him to death, put Him to death!" Pontius Pilate thought that perhaps the people would feel sorry for Jesus if they saw Him treated badly. So he told his soldiers to take Jesus out and punish Him. The soldiers made a crown of prickly thorns and put it on Christ's head, and they put a red robe, like that of the king, on his shoulders. They laughed at Him and said: "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck Him again and again. Then they brought Him back to the front porch. Pilate showed Jesus to the crowd, His forehead bleeding, His face and body bruised.



Pilate showed Jesus to the crowd, His forehead bleeding, His face and body bruised.

Pilate said: "Here is your king," but the crowd shouted: "We have no king but the Roman king! Put Jesus to death!" And Pontius Pilate had a bowl of water brought to him. He washed his hands to show that it was not his fault if he did this unjust thing. Then he told his soldiers to take Jesus and put Him to death by nailing Him to a cross.

Jesus is Put to Death on a Cross



When Pontius Pilate told the soldiers to take Jesus, they led Him away and put a big wooden cross on His shoulders. Jesus had to carry the cross up a hill called Golgotha. The cross was heavy and Jesus stumbled again and again. Finally He fell to the ground under its weight. The soldiers had to call a man who was passing by and made him carry the cross.

The soldiers placed the cross on the hill of Golgotha. They then crucified Jesus by nailing Him to the cross. There were two other crosses put up, one on each side of Him. Two robbers were also crucified. They were being punished for having killed and robbed many people. At the top of the cross on which Jesus was crucified the soldiers nailed a board with the words: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."

A great crowd had followed Jesus to Golgotha. Some of them were His friends who stood by crying because there was nothing they could do to help Him. But many others laughed at Jesus, saying: "He saved others, let Him save Himself." The soldiers stood at the foot of the cross and divided among themselves the clothes of Jesus. Jesus, seeing them and the crowd gathered there, prayed to His Father: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!"

One of the two robbers spoke angrily to Jesus: "If You are Christ, then save Yourself and us." But the other robber stopped him, saying: "We are punished because we did many bad things, but this Man has done nothing wrong." And turning to Jesus, he said: "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus answered: "Verily I say unto you: Today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

Then Jesus looked at His mother and His favorite disciple, John, who were standing at the foot of the cross. He said to His mother: "This will be your son." And He said to



THE CRUCIFIXION OF OUR LORD

John: "See, this is your mother." And from that day on John took the mother of Jesus to his home and took care of her.

About three o'clock in the afternoon Jesus said: "I thirst." One of the soldiers dipped a sponge in vinegar, put it on a stick and gave it to Jesus. Then Jesus cried out with a loud voice: "Father, into Thy hands, I commend Myself." And having said this, He died.

Sat.–Sun. The Burial and Resurrection of Christ

On the sad day when Christ died the sun was covered with heavy clouds. There was darkness everywhere. The earth trembled and rocks broke into pieces. The curtain in the great temple of Jerusalem was torn in two. The people who were gathered on Golgotha saw many of these things. They became frightened and hurried home. The officer who commanded the soldiers, after seeing all this, exclaimed: "Truly, this was the Son of God."

Jesus died on the cross on Friday. Every year we remember this very sad day. We call it Great and Holy Friday. On the same evening a friend of Jesus, called Joseph of Arimathaea, came to Pilate and begged that he be allowed to take down the body of Jesus from the cross and bury Him. Pilate agreed. Joseph and another friend of Jesus, called Nicodemus, took down Jesus' body, rubbed it with precious scented oils, and wrapped it in a linen cloth. Not far from Golgotha there was a garden, and in that garden was a small cave, a tomb.

The tomb in the garden had never been used before, so Joseph and Nicodemus took the body of Jesus and put it there. A few women, friends of Jesus, stood by crying. They agreed that they would all stay home during the next day, Saturday (the Sabbath day), which was a holiday when people were not allowed to leave their homes. They also agreed that early Sunday morning they would return with scented oils and spices and take care of everything that had not yet been done.

A great big stone was rolled up close to the entrance of the cave. Soldiers remained at the entrance to guard the body of Jesus.

Christ Is Risen

Sometime between Friday night and early Sunday morning, the greatest and happiest miracle took place - Christ rose from the dead. This miracle changed the lives of all the people in the world.

While it was still dark Sunday morning, the women who were friends of Jesus

THE MYRRH-BEARERS



hurried to His tomb. They were carrying precious scented oil and spices to rub on the body of Jesus Christ. This was the custom in those days to prepare a body for burial. As they were hurrying they spoke to each other: "Who will roll away the heavy stone that closes the entrance to the cave?" It was a big, heavy stone, and they knew they were not strong enough to roll it away themselves.

As the women approached the tomb, they saw that the entrance to it was already opened and the stone was rolled away. An angel was sitting on the stone. His face was shining like lightning, and his dress was white as snow. The soldiers who were guarding the tomb were so frightened when they saw the angel that they fell to the ground. But the angel said to the women: "Do not be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here. He is alive again, risen from the dead. Remember what He said to you when He was still with you: that He would be taken by evil men and crucified, and that on the third day He would rise again. Go, tell His disciples that Jesus Christ is risen and will meet them in Galilee."



One of the women, called Mary Magdalen, did not stay at the tomb long enough to hear the message of the angel. As soon as she saw the stone rolled away, she hurried to tell the news to the disciples. She found Peter and John and said to them: "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we know not where they have laid Him." Then Peter and John hurried to the tomb as fast as they could. John was younger than Peter, and so he ran faster and was the first to arrive. He did not enter the cave. He waited for Peter, and they entered the tomb. Together they looked at the folded linen cloth and the napkin that had covered the Lord's head. They could not understand what had happened and returned home to tell

the news to the other disciples.

Mary stood crying outside the cave. As she cried, she bent down and looked into the tomb. Suddenly she saw two angels sitting where Jesus' body had been lying. The angels said: "Mary, why are you crying?" And Mary answered: "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." As she said this, she turned back. Suddenly she saw Jesus standing near her in the garden. But Mary did not recognize Him. Jesus said: "Why are you crying? For whom are you looking?" Mary, thinking it was one of the gardeners, said: "Sir, if you have taken Him away, tell me where you have laid Him." Then Jesus said: "Mary." And suddenly Mary recognized Jesus. "Master!" she cried and threw herself at His feet. Jesus said: "Go and tell the disciples that I am going to My Father."

The greatest, the most wonderful miracle happened that first Easter morning: Christ, who suffered and died for us on the cross, arose from the dead. He

was stronger than death, He opened the doors to heaven for everyone. There is no greater holiday than Easter, no happier day in the year.

Jesus Comes to See His Friends

After that Easter morning, when Jesus Christ rose from the dead, He showed Himself several times to His friends.

One day two of Jesus' disciples were walking along the road toward the village of Emmaus. They were talking about the death of Jesus. They were also talking about the strange news that the women had brought them that Christ was risen. Suddenly a Stranger joined them and walked beside them. The Stranger said: "Why are you so sad? What are you talking about?" They looked at Him and said: "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know these things? Have you not heard the sad things that have happened these last days?" And they told Him all that had happened to Jesus: how Jesus was judged and put to death on the cross, how the women went to the tomb and found it empty, and how the angel told them that Jesus was living. Then the Stranger said: "Oh, how slow you are to understand! Didn't the Bible tell you what would happen to the Savior?" Then He explained to them everything that was said in the holy books about Jesus Christ; He explained to them how Jesus would suffer, die, and rise from the dead.

When they entered the village, the two disciples asked the Stranger to have supper with them. As they were about to eat, the Stranger took a loaf of bread and broke it and gave it to them. He broke the bread the same way Jesus Christ had broken it at the Last Supper. And their eyes were opened and they recognized Him, but Jesus disappeared from their eyes.

"Did not our hearts burn within us, when He talked to us?" they asked each other. Then they hurried back to Jerusalem. They found the other disciples and said to them: "The Lord is risen indeed!"

Jesus Christ came to see and speak to the disciples when they were all gathered together. The disciple Thomas was not there when Jesus came. So, when later, they told Thomas about this, he would not believe them. He said: "If I do not touch His wounds with my own fingers, I shall not believe it." Eight days later Jesus came again when Thomas was with them and said: "Come here, Thomas, touch My wounds with your fingers and believe." But Thomas could only say: "My Lord and my God."

Jesus Christ Goes Back to Heaven

For forty days Jesus spoke to His disciples. He told them that God would give them wonderful strength to teach people and also to heal people. Jesus forgave them for the bad things they had done. He told them that they would have to go to all the people of the world and tell them the good news about Jesus Christ. He also said that He would soon go back to heaven. The disciples were to remain all together in Jerusalem and wait there for the Comforter whom God promised to send them.

Paraphrased Bible Text (Levels 2-3)

Note: Page numbers refer to the OCA series of Holy Week booklets

See also: [**The Children's Illustrated Bible**](#)

Dorling Kindersley, NY [ISBN 0-7894-5331-2]

The Bridegroom Services: The Parables

Select one or more Parables that are read on the first three days of Holy Week.

Explain that a parable is a story that says something about our lives. Jesus told many such stories to help people see how God wants us to behave. Check the following verses yourself for ideas or main points to bring out during the story. Relate the stories to days of Holy Week. See ["My Guide to Holy Week"](#).

The Wise and Foolish Virgins Matt. 25:1-14 (cf. [Illus. Children's Bible, p.252](#))

The Parable of the Fig Tree Matt. 21:18-20

The Parable of the Talents Matt. 25:14-31 (cf. [Illus. Children's Bible, p.254](#))

The servant said: "Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master."

Jesus continued with another parable about a man who entrusted his property to others while he went on a journey. The man called his servants together and put them in charge of his property, which he distributed to them in the form of talents (a talent was a large amount of silver or gold, measured by its weight; one talent might equal a person's earnings for ten years). To one servant, he gave five talents, to another two, to another one—to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

The servant who received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. The one who had two talents did the same and made two talents more. But the servant who received only one talent went and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

After a long time, the master returned to settle accounts with his servants. The one who had been given five talents came forward and brought five talents more, saying: "Master, you gave me five talents; here I have made five talents more." The master was pleased and said, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little; I will put you in charge of much. Enter into the joy of your master."

The man with the two talents came forward and said: "Master, you gave me two talents; here I have made two talents more." The master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."

Then the man who received one talent came forward and said, "Master, I knew you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed. I was afraid, so I went and hid your talent in the ground to keep it safe. Here is what is yours."

But the master answered, “You wicked and lazy servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not scattered! You ought to have invested my money with the bankers, so when I returned I would have received some interest. Take away his talent and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. Now cast this worthless servant into the outer darkness; where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth!”

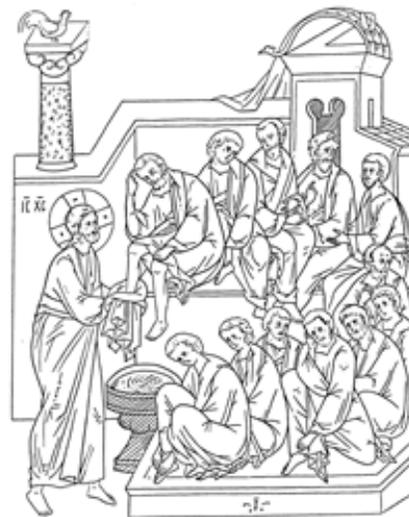
In the two parables we read today, Jesus says that those who fulfill their responsibilities and use their gifts creatively, fruitfully and wisely will be rewarded with even greater gifts. He speaks here to every one of us. In giving us our life, God has given us many gifts and talents. Not all of us are artists, poets, skilled scientists or mathematicians. Not everyone has special gifts for helping others who are sick or disturbed. But each of us has been given the gift to love, to care, to use our minds to the best of our abilities, and our strength to do His Will. If we bury our gifts, as the servant in today’s story, we will not be doing God’s Will, and will be shut out of the Kingdom!

The Anointing at Bethany

Jesus visited another home in Bethany and had dinner at the house of Simon the leper. As He sat at the table, a woman came with a jar of expensive, fragrant ointment. She broke the jar open and poured it on Jesus’ head, as a sign of her love and respect. Some of the other guests were upset and said, “Why was this expensive ointment wasted in this way? It could have been sold for a lot of money—three hundred denarii—and the money could have been given to the poor.” And they scolded the woman.

Jesus said to them, “Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. You always have poor people among you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish. But you will not always have me with you.”

Then Jesus said, “This woman has done what she could; she has anointed my body as a preparation for my burial. I tell you, wherever the good news of the Kingdom is proclaimed in the world, she will be remembered for what she has done.”



OUR LORD WASHES THE FEET OF THE DISCIPLES

Jesus Washes the Feet of His Disciples (supplementary text)

See above for story: [Jesus' Last Supper with His Disciples](#)

Psalm 58:1 Deliver me from my enemies, O God; save me from those who rise up against me!

Thurs.-Fri. Holy Thursday Vespers/Liturgy; Matins of Holy Friday

Children's Text: God is With Us pp. 88-91.

(Level 1: Note: The Parable of the Wicked Servants may be more appropriate for younger children who may become disturbed by the details of Christ's Crucifixion.)

Jesus tells a story to His disciples that is really telling them what will happen to Him—that as the Master's (God's) Son, He will be betrayed and be killed.

The Parable of the Landowner and the Wicked Tenants cf. Matt. 21:33-44.

(Substitute or Supplementary Parable of the Crucifixion Story)

The chief priests and scribes often questioned Jesus. They asked Him who gave Him the power or permission to say and do the things He was doing. One day, Jesus answered them by telling this story:

A man planted a field of vines to grow grapes. He put a fence around it and dug a pit for a winepress. A winepress was used to press juice out of grapes to make wine. He built a watchtower to protect his land and rented his vineyard out to some farmers. Then he went to another country. When it was time to harvest the grapes, the vineyard owner sent his servant to the farmers. The servant said: "My master sent me to collect his share of what the vineyard has produced." But the farmers seized the servant, beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. The owner sent another servant, but they insulted this one also, beat him over the head, and sent him away with nothing. When the owner sent a third servant, the farmers killed him. It went on this way with the owner sending more servants. Some the farmers beat, and some they killed.

The Owner Sends His Son

The owner had one person left to send. It was his only son, whom he loved very much. He said to himself, "Surely they will respect my son." But the farmers said to one another, "This one will inherit his father's land and fortune; let us kill him and then the land will be ours." So when the son came, they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.

After Jesus had told this story, he said to the chief priests and scribes, "What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the farmers and give the vineyard to others. Do you remember reading this scripture: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.'"

The chief priests and scribes now realized that the story Jesus told was about them! They wanted to arrest Jesus, but they were afraid that the crowd would go against them if they did. So they left Him and went away.

Level 2: Depending upon the level of your students, you may add or substitute the story or the actual text of the Crucifixion and Death of Christ. See Basic Bible References above.

The Betrayal and Trial of Jesus

See Text: God is With Us p. 88-91

Refer to Literature, Saints & Stories Resource Bin for "St. Helena and the Holy Cross".

Fri.-Sun. The 3-Day Pascha; Death, Burial and Resurrection

See text *God is With Us* p. 91-100

Women at the Foot of the Cross

All four of the Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, tell us that the women who had followed Jesus did not give up. In all four gospels we read about women who stayed near Jesus as He suffered on the cross. These women, and a few men, did not stop believing in Him, neither did they hide out because they feared the authorities. They stayed until Jesus died and watched as Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took His Body down from the Cross and buried Him in a tomb in the side of a rocky hill.

Levels 2-3 Paraphrased Bible Text

For the following lessons for Middle School children, you may use the texts provided above and supplement the Primary level content with verses that are indicated below. For additional texts, see also: *The Children's Illustrated Bible*, Dorling Kindersley, NY [ISBN 0-7894-5331-2]

Sat.-Sun. Feast of Palms: References

Level 3: John 11-text above plus focus on John 12:1-18 emphasis on vs. 12-16, and 17-18

Mon.-Wed. Bridegroom Services

Level 2-3: cf. above for the Parables of the Talents, the Wise and Foolish Virgins, and the Householder and the Wicked Tenants.

Thurs.-Fri. Holy Thursday & Friday

Levels 2-3: cf, full biblical text below and select passages related to the objectives you have chosen.

Fri.-Sun. The 3-Day Pascha

Levels 2-3: cf, full biblical text below and select passages related to the objectives you have chosen.