

# Gospels tell events of Jesus' life, ministry on earth

At this time of year, people's minds turn to the birth of Christ if they can fight through the "After Thanksgiving Sales," "Special Holiday Promotions" and blizzard of Santa Clauses to get there.

What people frequently forget is that Jesus didn't go directly from a baby in a manger to a man dying for all. He lived an eventful 33 years in the meantime. The events of his life, especially his last three years when he was known for preaching and teaching, are in the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

If ever there were motivation for modern readers to stick to a daily Bible reading schedule it would be Jesus' story in the gospels. Of all modern fiction and non-fiction books, have you found one that tells such an unusual and compelling story?

The book of Matthew, the first gospel listed in the Bible, begins with a list of Jesus' genealogy.



**sharon corcoran**  
• use it or lose it

Why? Because verses and prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures (or Old Testament) foretold a man who would be the "seed of Abraham," the "Son of David" and who would deliver mankind from sin and death.

The genealogy proves without a doubt that the child named Jesus, born in a manger, fit those prophecies. His arrival was anticipated, but despite the many prophecies, Jews of the time didn't really know what to expect. There was anticipation of the Messiah's arrival, but things often didn't take place as soon or in the way that men of the day would have liked.

Even a man Jesus called to be his disciple doubted because of where he was from. John 1:46 says, "But Nathanael said to him: 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?'" Phillip said to him: "Come and see."

After Jesus chose his 12 apostles, he and they gathered in a home, where he preached to a crowd that filled the place to the point they couldn't even eat a meal. Did his family know he was the Messiah? They should have. Mary conceived as a virgin; she was visited by the angel Gabriel who said, "Holy spirit will come upon you, and power of the Most High will overshadow you. For that reason also what is born will be called holy, God's Son." (Luke 1:35).

Yet, at Mark 3:21, Jesus' family even expressed doubt: "But when

his relatives heard about it, they went out to lay hold of him, for they were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.'"

But Jesus' works speak for themselves. Have you read lately about a character who turned water into wine? Cured lepers, blind, lame and deaf? Raised the dead? Spoke in a way that astounded people, even silencing his enemies? Open your Bible and read about Jesus.

Luke 5:12-15 says, "On a further occasion while he was in one of the cities, look! a man full of leprosy! When he caught sight of Jesus he fell upon his face and begged him, saying: 'Lord, if you just want to, you can make me clean.' And so, stretching out his hand, he touched him, saying: 'I want to. Be made clean.' And immediately the leprosy vanished from him. And he gave the man orders to tell nobody: 'But go off and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering in con-

nection with your cleansing, just as Moses directed, for a witness to them.' But the word about him was spreading the more, and great crowds would come together to listen and to be cured of their sicknesses."

Luke 8:42b-48 says, "As he was going the crowds thronged him. And a woman, subject to a flow of blood for twelve years, who had not been able to get a cure from anyone, approached from behind and touched the fringe of his outer garment, and instantly her flow of blood stopped. So Jesus said: 'Who was it that touched me?' When they were all denying it, Peter said: 'Instructor, the crowds are hemming you in and closely pressing you.' Yet Jesus said: 'Someone touched me, for I perceived that power went out of me.' Seeing that she had not escaped notice, the woman came trembling and fell down before him and disclosed before all the people

the cause for which she touched him and how she was healed instantly. But he said to her: 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go your way in peace.'"

Just by touching Jesus, the woman was healed. He didn't have to do anything specific to cure her, yet he felt the power or energy it took to accomplish that leave him.

On the night before his arrest, Jesus prayed to his Father in heaven: "Father, the hour has come; glorify your son, that your son may glorify you, according as you have given him authority over all flesh, that, as regards the whole number whom you have given him, he may give them everlasting life. This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ." (John 17:1-3.)

Where else can you read a book that can help you gain everlasting life?

# Owner needs to check numbers to see how business is doing

Just as your doctor checks your vital signs, you must check your business numbers to determine how you're really doing. Just having cash in the bank is not a good indicator of income.

Review your financial statements. Do you see any trends? Review your sales. Are your prices set appropriately? Review your expenses. Can any of them be cut or reduced? Reviewing your numbers regularly can help you catch problems early and fix them before they hurt your business.

Record keeping isn't fun, but it is necessary. Good record keeping will help you accurately monitor the health of your business and will help you keep track of tax-deductible expenses.

Bad record keeping not only creates chaos and stress but also will probably cost you money in lost tax deductions. How much time have you spent searching for a receipt or an invoice? Getting your records organized will take time in the beginning, but it will save you time in



**jamie morphew**  
• business tips

the long run.

It's hard for small businesses to compete with the big companies on price, but price isn't the only factor that persuades customers. You may not be able to offer the lowest price, but you can offer personal service.

Get to know your customers. Greet them by name. Instead of thinking "How can I sell this to my customers?" think "How can this benefit my customers?" Think of your customers first, and they'll think of you first.

There are many factors that lead to success. One of the biggest is having good employees. Your business is only as good as the people who work for you.

How do you treat your employ-

ees? Employees who are treated with respect and dignity often treat customers in the same manner. Employees who are belittled will find it difficult to offer good customer service. If you want to motivate them to do a good job, give them positive reinforcement. When they do something well, tell them.

Want to improve your business? Listen to your customers. Talk to them and ask for their suggestions. You won't be able to implement every suggestion, but their feedback can help you make valuable changes to your business.

Customers know what they want, and they know what you're not giving them. Make changes now to better serve your customers and reduce the risk of losing them to someone else.

Starting a business is like having a baby. You'll get less sleep and spend more money than expected.

Plan for it. Make sure those close to you understand the time you will have to put into your business.

Also, plan for cash shortages. Depending on the business, you should have at least three months of operating cash available when you open. If you're opening a business with inventory or large accounts receivable, you will need more. Safeguard against money problems by monitoring and projecting your cash flow needs. Starting your own business is a lot of work, but it can be very rewarding.

Are you a QuickBooks user? Did you know you can do your calculations in the program itself? In the field where you want to make the calculation, type a number followed by "+", "-", "\*", "/" or "=".

To enter the calculation result in the field, press Enter or Tab or click anywhere outside the boundary of the tape. QuickBooks has many

time-saving functions such as this one. Make your software work for you instead of the other way around.

Time management is essential for every business owner. Take time to review your to-do list at the beginning of every day. Prioritize your tasks according to what must be done, what you would like to be done and what can be done as you have the time.

Next, number the tasks in each category in the order you will complete them. Once you've determined the direction of your day, get

to work. You can't do it all, so make the most of what you can do.

These tips are brought to you by Western Kansas Business Consulting, a joint effort of five Kansas counties to boost business success, formerly known as Western Kansas Enterprise Facilitation Consortium. We offer free and confidential business consulting in Kearny, Lane, Scott, Sherman and Wichita counties. For information or to set up an appointment, contact Jamie Morphew, business consultant, at (620) 874-0771 or e-mail [wkbc@wbsnet.org](mailto:wkbc@wbsnet.org).

# matters of record

## District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

**Aug. 6** — Jeffrey R. Porter, \$126 reinstated for speeding and \$300 reinstated for no liability insurance.

**Aug. 8** — Reginald D. Williams, \$138 for speeding.

**Aug. 14** — Alexis M. Santiago, \$200 for speeding.

**Aug. 21** — Aaron C. Starr, \$157 for speeding, dismissed for first conviction of driving while suspended and dismissed for unlawful acts with vehicle.

**Aug. 25** — Lean K. Tubig, \$426 for speeding and \$60 for failure to give proper signal for turning or stopping.

**Aug. 30** — Jeffery A. Boyer, \$166 for motor carrier safety rules and regulations.

**Aug. 31** — Layne E. Knokel, \$126 for unlawful acts with a vehicle.

**Sept. 1** — Carrie L. Ruth, \$150 for speeding and \$300 for no liability insurance.

**Sept. 4** — Fernando J. Islas, \$138 for speeding.

**Sept. 8** — Reynaldo Diaz, \$66 for improper parking and \$266 deferred for no driver's license.

**Sept. 12** — Jordan M. Entz, \$165 for improper parking.

**Sept. 19** — Mark D. Fannon, \$126 for speeding.

**Sept. 25** — Sidney E. Bartels, \$166 for motor carrier safety rules and regulations.

**Sept. 28** — Keith I. Thomas, \$188 for no motor carrier liability insurance.

**Oct. 1** — Thomas T. Carmody, \$120 for speeding.

**Oct. 4** — John G. Craft, \$126 for speeding.

**Oct. 5** — Charles L. Young, \$266 for open container and \$50 for littering.

**Oct. 9** — Kevin J. Wallar, \$120 for speeding.

**Oct. 10** — Rex R. Andexler, \$165 for speeding.

**Oct. 11** — Michael L. Larson, \$126 for speeding and \$60 for unlawful acts with vehicle.

**Oct. 12** — Joshua J. Krier, \$120 for speeding.

**Oct. 14** — Susan K. Labib, \$120 for improper parking.

**Oct. 15** — Jon T. Bell, \$126 for speeding.

**Oct. 16** — Justin A. Barrett, dismissed for speeding.

**Oct. 19** — Joyce E. Brooks, \$144 for speeding.

**Oct. 18** — Salvatore M. Digiovanni, \$150 for speeding.

**Oct. 19** — Thomas H. Gould, \$144 for speeding.

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## Crossword Puzzle

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Fire extinguisher
6. Mapped
11. In a lucid way
12. \_\_\_ de, seats you
13. Tailed
14. Pocketing
16. Horatio \_\_\_, Am. writer
17. Marinara or hollandaise
18. Power unit (abbr.)
19. In a disorganized way
21. Tease or taunt
22. Adult females
23. Towards the mouth or oral region
24. George \_\_\_, English actor 1558
25. Male parent
26. Hard fat in beef and mutton
27. Rubs out
28. Awareness due to stimulation
30. Pickled berries as garnish
33. Chaps
34. Skirt length finish
37. Tropical woody vine
38. Secreted by the liver
39. \_\_\_ Remedios, Spanish surrealist
40. Thomas \_\_\_, British composer, 1700
41. Baum's best known: "The \_\_\_"
43. Comprised of 50 states
44. Sheets of glass
45. Type of instrumental composition
46. Became ill
48. Women
49. Ends
50. Resembling branches
51. Knocks out
52. \_\_\_ salts, remedy

### CLUES DOWN

1. In a way, bargained
2. Lowest in the celestial hierarchy
3. Distrustful
4. Aged
5. Empire State
6. Amusingly forward
7. Blood-sucking insects
8. Ethiopia (abbr.)
9. Outhouses
10. Defensible position
11. Oral secretion
12. Cavity to shape a substance
13. Shot a marble
14. Sound produced with the front of the tongue
15. Steps
17. Fathers
20. Content words
21. Sweet cherry stock used for grafting
24. vs. cons
26. Cave Carnival organization
27. Northern duck valued for its down
28. W. Samoan monetary unit
29. 100 = 28 down
30. Santa \_\_\_
31. Plane illness
32. Remedy
34. Atomic # 72 Hf
35. Wears away
36. Spanish waiters or porters
38. Dried hops flowers
39. Bewitching Haitian religion
41. Declines
42. Apothecaries' units
44. Spanish monetary unit
47. Mary \_\_\_, cosmetics
48. Once around the track
50. Rhenium (abbr.)

**The crossword puzzle brought to you by:**

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dine-in  
carry-out  
delivery

## Christmas ON US

Kathy Jackson, Tammy Leiker and Darrick Leiker

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