



Learning with Jesus

-Book 3-

Learning with Jesus

Stories 11-15

—Imaginary stories of children
living around and learning from Jesus
during His younger years

By Chariane Quille

Cover photo by: Naomi
Illustrated by: Fleur Celeste

www.nurture-inspire-teach.com

Story Titles

♥ **Clay (Pg. 5)**

♥ **Have Faith (Pg. 11)**

♥ **A Happy Day (Pg. 17)**

♥ **Practicing Kindness (Pg. 22)**

♥ **A Man on the Pathway (Pg. 28)**

Introduction

Did you ever wonder what it would be like to be living in times past, at the time when Jesus was a boy?

Did you ever wish you could have been one of His friends?

Let's take a trip back to those times, and imagine that we are there, living in Nazareth.

What might it have been like? What might He have helped to teach and show you, as you played and grew up together?

Clay

“What are you doing?” asked Jordan, who was always a curious child.

Jesus was kneeling down in the dirt and had His hands all muddy. He seemed to be collecting something and was placing it in a bag.

“I’ve found some clay and wanted to bring it home. Perhaps you’d like to come and watch me make something out of it?” Jesus suggested.

So off they went to Jesus’ house and found a corner where they could work.

“We’ll need a bit of water and a flat stone to work on,” Jesus said.

“I’ll get some water!” said Jordan, happy to participate in the project. Meanwhile Jesus searched the grounds for the perfect rock.

It took a bit of effort to get the rock moving and into position in the place they had chosen to work, shaded from the bright sun.

“The clay will need to be wet in order for us to form it into shape. Too much direct sunlight will dry it out faster, and make it harden. We don’t want too much water either, as then it will be too soft to shape it,” Jesus explained.

First they worked on mixing the clay into a smooth mouldable consistency. Once it was ready they divided it between them so that each had a portion to work with.

“What are you going to make, Jesus?” Jordan, His young friend asked.

“Hmm, I was thinking I’d try to make a small clay cup. It’s my sister’s birthday next week, and perhaps I could give it to her as a gift,” Jesus answered.



“I think I want to make a set of little balls to play a game with my friends, once the clay dries of course,” said the boy.

Before long the objects were made and Mary offered to bake them.

“This is lovely!” she said to Jesus, admiring his clay creation. “And I think you and your friends will have a lot of fun together with these clay toys,” she said to Jordan. “Perhaps Jesus can come and bring them to you later on when they are finished baking and have cooled down,” she offered.

“Thank you,” the boy said, waving goodbye, happily skipping off to find his friends and tell them about making his new clay toys.

That evening before the meal, Jesus brought the clay balls to Jordan. “Here you go!” he said, handing them to the boy.

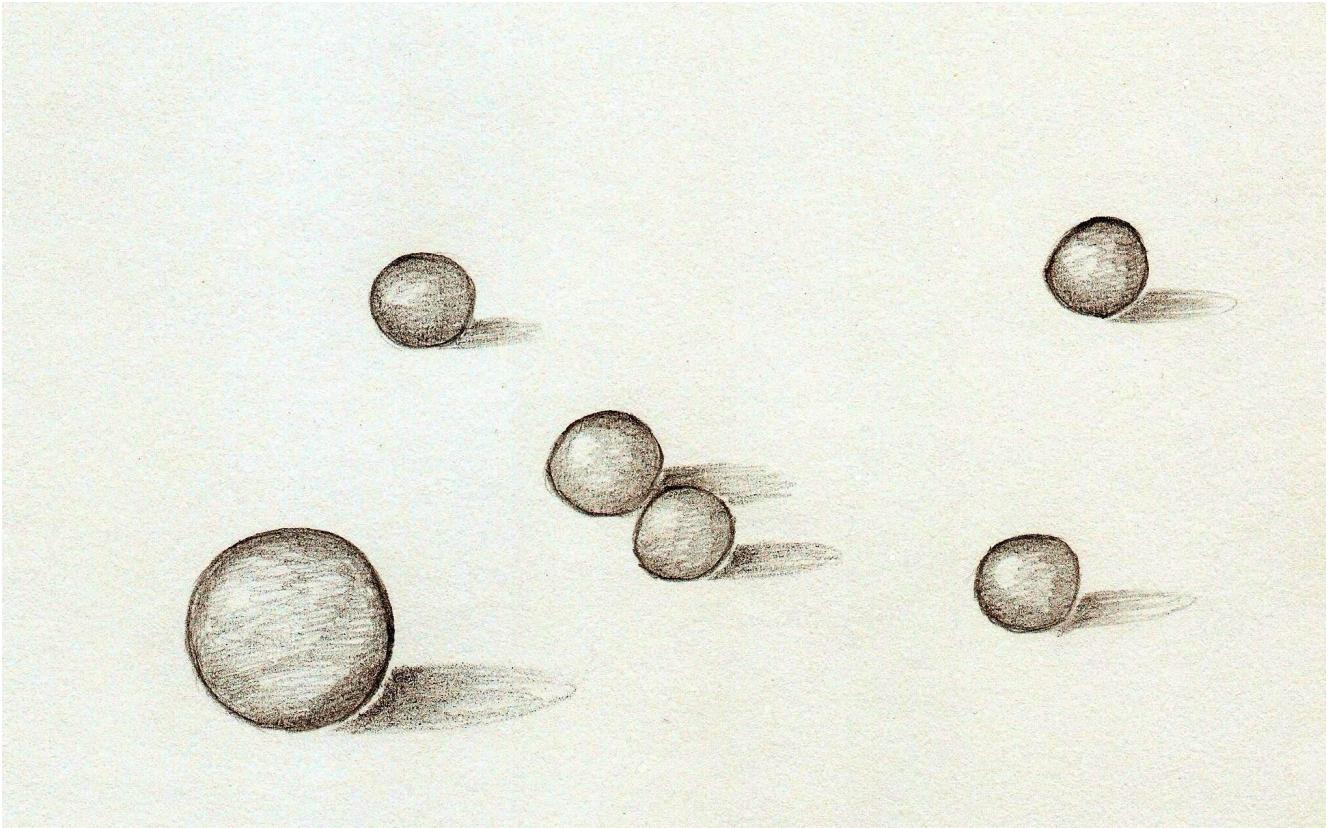
“Thanks!” Jordan said, taking them carefully, so they wouldn’t drop.

“We are kind of like clay, in a way,” Jesus then said.

“We need the water of God’s Word to help us take shape. We need to let God change us into whatever He needs us to be, in order to be useful and do good.

“Sometimes we have hard times and difficulties, just like the hot oven had to bake the clay to make it be as strong as it needed to be. But it was good in the end, right?

“God can give us just what we need at just the right time, and make our lives good, beautiful, useful and even fun if we let Him be the One to hold us and shape us and make us into what He knows is best.”



Jesus' friend nodded and then said, "Let's go and try this game, shall we? You can come along too, Jesus, if You like! After all, You shared the clay and helped me to make it!"

And the happy group of friends enjoyed a fun game.

Have Faith

“Mother, is Uncle Zebulon here yet? Will he forget to bring his horse? Will he only let Simeon try it out?” Miriam seemed to ask a question every few minutes.

“Have faith. He said he would come, and give you both a turn on his horse,” her mother said. “Why don’t you go play with your friends while waiting?”

Just then Simeon came running with a handful of nuts he’d gathered from the almond tree. “Mother, these are for you!” he said, then grabbed his sister’s hand, and off they ran.

“Where are we going?” Miriam asked breathlessly. “Why do we have to go so fast?” Simeon replied, “To see our friend Jesus. He’s at the well with His family—right now.”

Simeon needn't have worried that his friend would be gone. Filling up the water pots takes a long while. "I'm sorry I hurried you, sister. I should have trusted that Jesus and His family would still be here."

"That's okay, brother, I'm learning faith too. It's hard waiting for things sometimes!" she said, as she went over to Jesus, who was waving at them.

"It's so nice to see You!" He said, while filling a pot. "Come to our house. I'll need to be there for now. My brother has hurt himself, and needs care."

Miriam, being the kind-hearted girl that she was, would be happy to help care for Jesus' brother. "I'll fetch him whatever he needs!" she said eagerly.

Josef wasn't hurt badly, but he couldn't walk. He had fallen and hurt his ankle. Miriam brought him pillows and a cup of water.



“Will I ever be able to run and play again?”
Josef asked Jesus. It seemed like so long already
that he’d been unable to walk—even though it had
hardly been a day.

“Of course you will, Joses. Have faith!” Jesus replied. “Remember father told us about King Hezekiah, Captain Naaman, and others who God healed?”

Joses nodded.

“Jesus,” His mother called, and then said in a soft voice, “It seems like we have run out of food. I know God will provide. I’m just not sure what to do.”

“We will have faith, Mother. God blesses faith! Let us pray!” Together Jesus’ family and the visiting friends asked God for food and for Joses’ healing.

The sound of a trotting horse startled them, and a man yelled out, “Simeon! Miriam!”

Could that be Uncle Zebulon? Here already? They ran out to see.

There was a jolly man sitting on a brown and white horse. “Your mother said I might find you here!” he said getting off his horse.

Uncle Zebulon was carrying a bag of grain, a bottle of oil, and a large cluster of grapes. “These are for you.” He handed them to a very surprised Mary!



Everyone smiled. God had answered so quickly. “You were right!” said Miriam in a whisper to Jesus. “God blesses faith. He will care for us all.”

Saying goodbye to Jesus and His family, Simeon and Miriam sat up on the horse together, and rode home with Uncle Zebulon.

“This is the best day in my life!” Miriam shouted.

“I’m glad we learned from Jesus to have faith, to pray, and to trust,” added Simeon. And as they waved good-bye once more, they saw Joses at the door, standing and waving, too! ■

A Happy Day

“On your marks, get set, go!” A group of eager boys chanted together and were off on their race.

“Where are they running to?” Samantha asked her friend, Dina. “Over to the base of that hill. My brother wanted to see who was the fastest.”

“Huff, puff! We’re exhausted!” Jubal flopped down, “and very thirsty!” The sun was still burning down.

“Why don’t we take a rest under this tree?” suggested Jesus. “We don’t want to overdo ourselves in heat like this.”

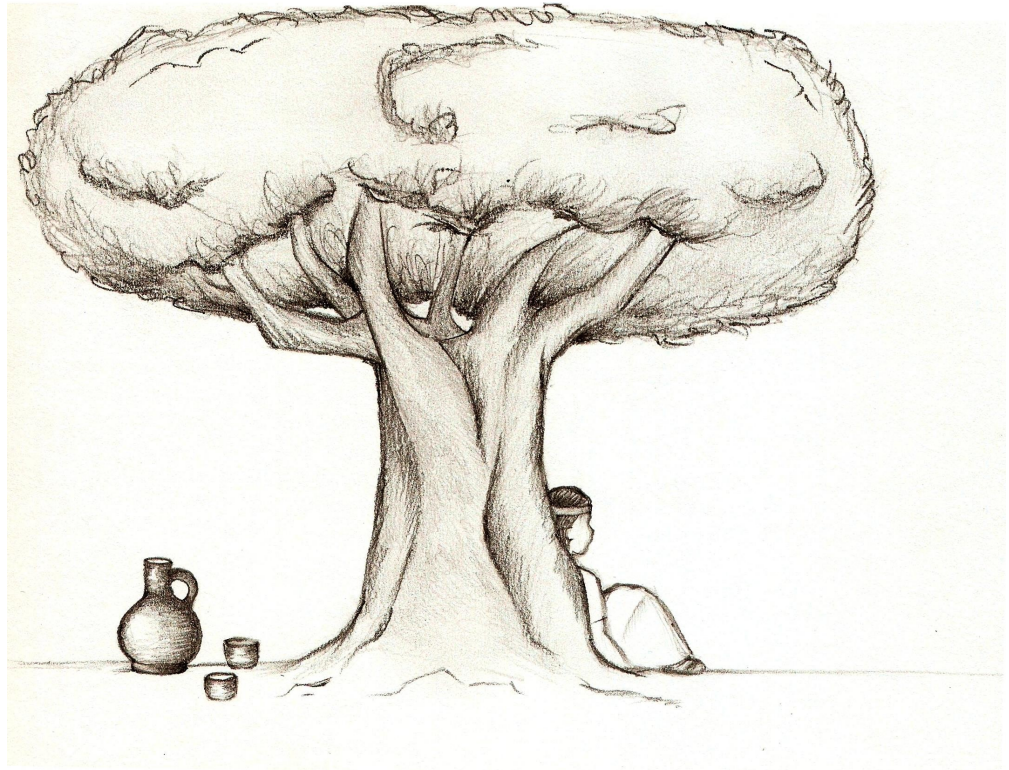
“I wish I had won. I want to try again!” Jubal thought and suddenly sprung to his feet before taking a break.

“I’ll race you again!” shouted Aaron, and off they dashed.

Jesus just shook his head. “Too much sun will make them feel unwell.”

As Jubal finally came to rest and get a drink of water, he lamented,

“My head hurts. Even though I won the race this time, I wish I would have stopped before. I don’t feel well.”



“Ha, ha! Hee, hee!” squealed a laughing little child. Jubal and Dina’s younger sister had grabbed a large cluster of raisins, and was trying to eat them all.

“That was for all of us to share! Sarah, come back here!” Jubal said chasing and catching up with her.

“You can’t have them all right now.”

Sarah handed them to her older brother, and came to sit under the tree. Jesus gave her a smile.

“To stop when you’ve had enough, and not try to have everything you want, all at the same time shows moderation and takes self-control.” Jesus explained.

Slosh, slosh! Dina and Samantha struggled to bring a big jug of water and a few cups for the boys to share.

Grateful boys grabbed and tried to reach for it, all at once.

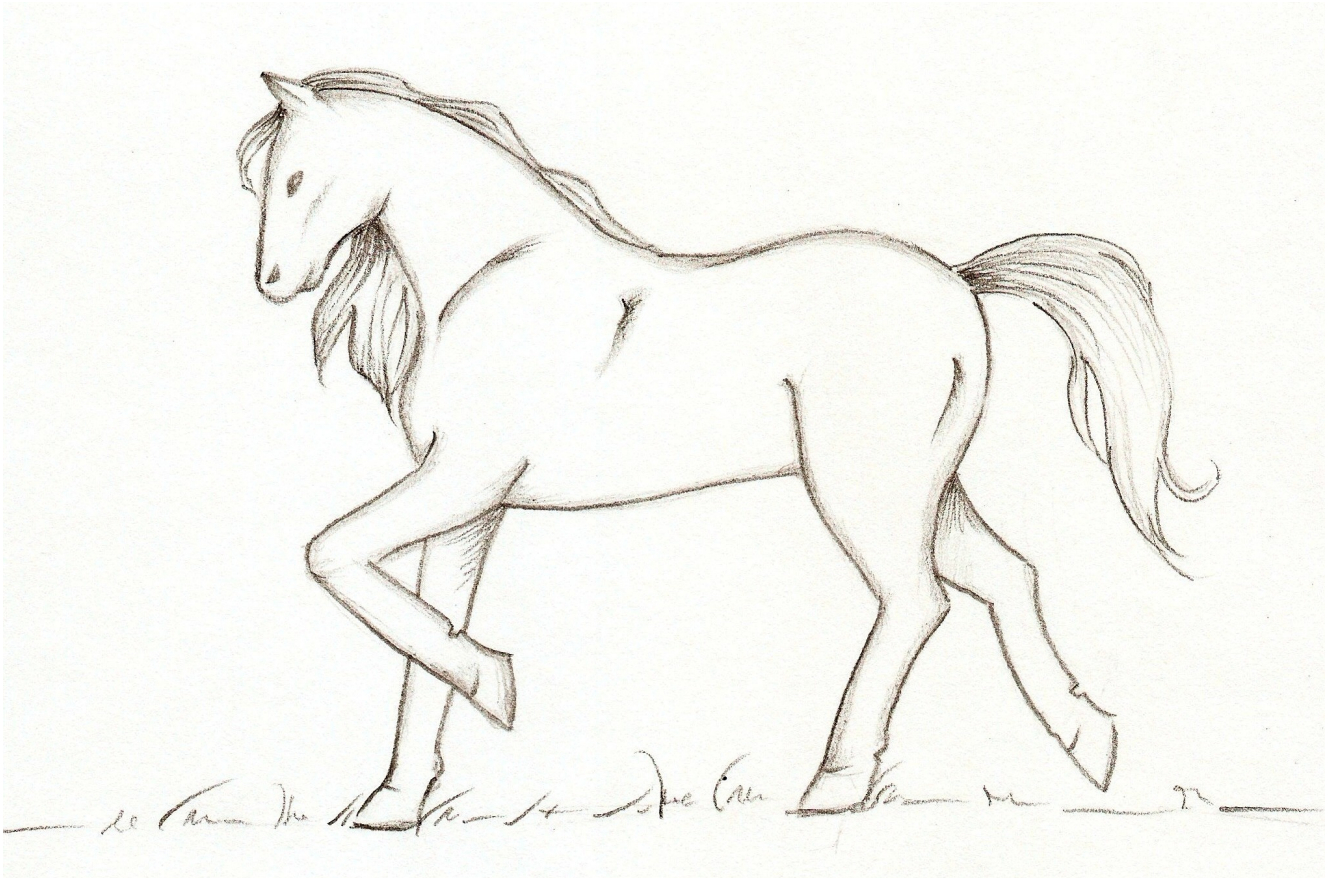
“I need some!” They all were saying.

Though very thirsty Himself, Jesus handed a cup to Jubal and Aaron first, and the rest of the boys calmed down to wait their turn.

“Help!! Ahh!” came the sudden desperate cry, startling them all! Their neighbour’s horse had suddenly taken off on a run, on its own, pulling a wagonload of hay behind it.

Jubal’s father quickly jumped on their horse, and galloped after it. He grabbed hold of the runaway horse’s reigns, and slowed it down.

“Yay!” The children who were all watching intently clapped and cheered. “Father’s great!” exclaimed Dina. “He sure knows how to control the horses.”



Jubal smiled. He looked at the horse, at Sarah, and at his friends. He had learned something today.

“Moderation and self-control are important—if you want to have a happy day!” Jubal thought. ■

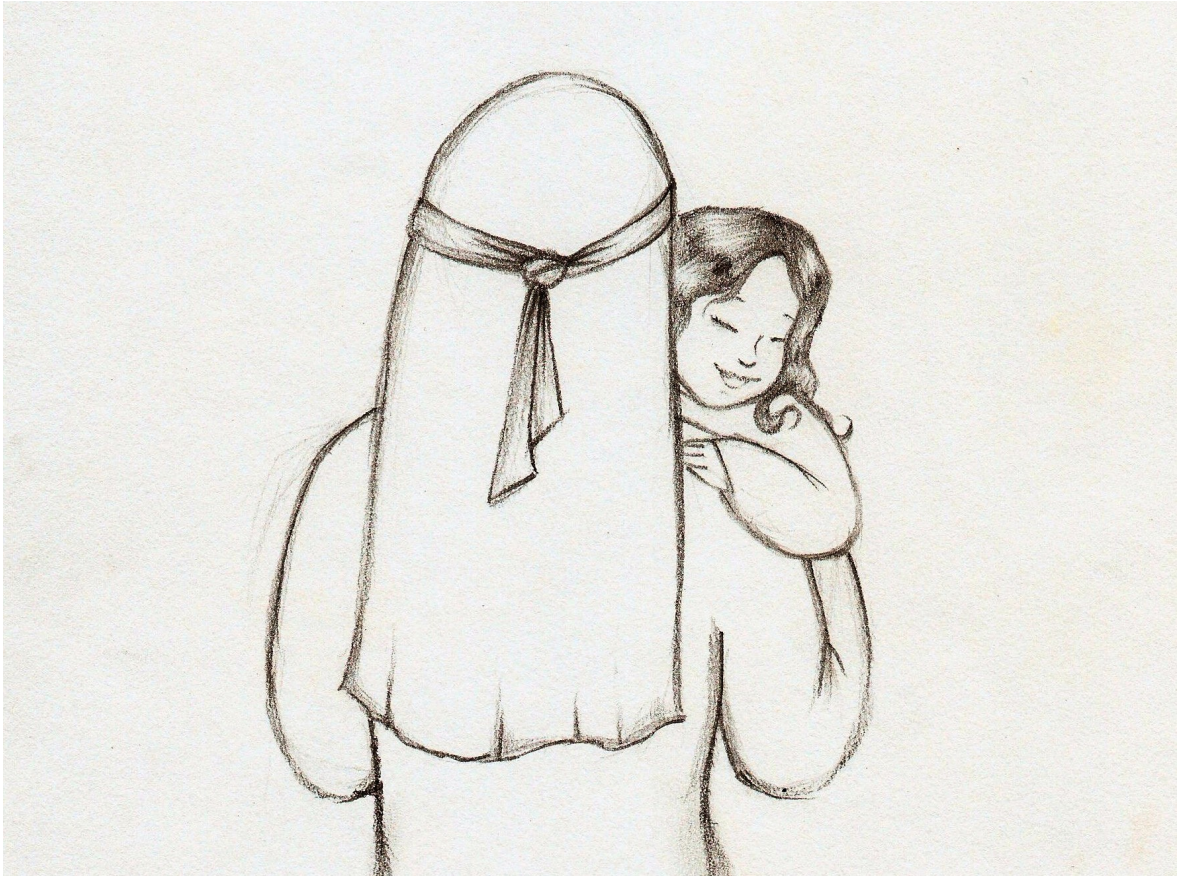
Practicing Kindness

Jesus was racing along the shore with His brothers and sisters, while Mary prepared their picnic.

One of the little ones let out a cry, as she stepped on something sharp. Jesus picked her up and carried her over to their mother. She always seemed to know what to do to make a little one feel better.

“There now, are you alright?” she said.

Jesus was glad for such a kind and caring mother. He loved to see children getting good care. He was older and stronger and could care for himself, but if a little one needed help He still remembered what it felt like to be young and to appreciate the kindness of caring parents and friends.



“Shall we check on the bird nest that we found the other day in the tree over there?” Jesus said, as He carried His little sister to the tree. She smiled and dried her last tear. It felt good to be well cared for.

She was learning from her parents, and big brother Jesus, how to one day care for children. She would grow to be a mother herself one day, and the way she was treated and cared for now by a loving family taught her how to be a good and loving mother.

“I want to be as kind and caring as You and mother and father are when I am grown,” said the girl to Jesus.

“Well, you don’t have to wait until you are fully grown to begin learning kindness and being as caring as you wish to be when you are older. You can even practice and prepare now, when you are still young, you know?” Jesus said.

“Really?” she asked, wondering what He meant.

Jesus continued, “Take a look over here. What do you see?”

“I see a pretty flower, can I pick it?” the girl asked.

“Sure,” said Jesus. “And then what do you want to do with it?”

“I want to put it in some water so it can last,” His sister said, and then added, “and I want to give it to my friend who lives near our house. She’s been sick, and I want to cheer her up with it as a gift!”

“That’s a great idea!” Jesus said. “See how easy it is to practice loving kindness. And the more you do the little deeds that show others that you care about them, the better at it you will be.

“The more you think about others and putting their happiness first, the better a mother you will be one day to your own children, who will need your loving care.”

The girl smiled as she carried the flower with her when they returned to the house, and asked her mother for something to put it in.



“What a nice flower you’ve got, dear!” Mary said smiling at her little girl.

“Mother, I need something to put it in, so I can give it to my friend. I wanted to share it with her,” she said.

Soon she was happily walking to her friend’s house, accompanied by Jesus. She was on her way to give love and cheer, and growing up just a bit more each moment while doing so. ■

A Man on the Pathway

The sun was rising and the air was fresh. Jesus watched the sky brightening as the sun's rays crept over the hills. He breathed in deeply. It wouldn't always feel this fresh. The sun was both friend and foe. It gave life to plants depending on its light, but the heat was wearying at times.

Jesus turned to walk into the house.

“Good morning,” He greeted His mother. “Is there something I can help you with?” He asked with a smile.

“Jesus, You are like the sun of the morning, a blessing to us, bringing the light and warmth of God's love into our lives,” Mary said.

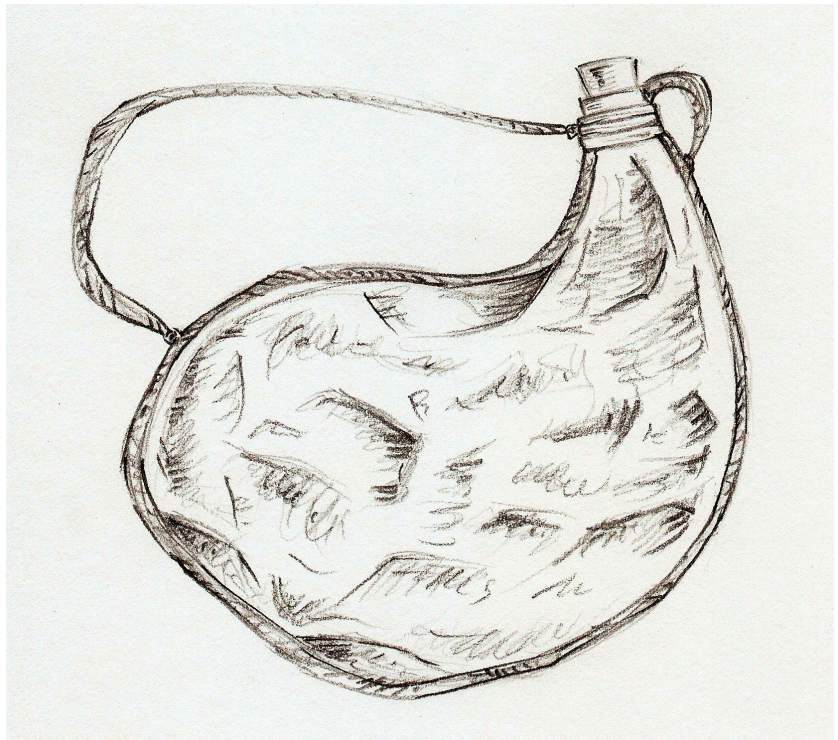
There was plenty to do and the morning moved quickly to mid-day, when the sun was at its highest. At this time most people choose to rest and stay in

the shade, and usually Jesus did too. But on this day He felt compelled to walk along a certain path way. He felt there was something He was meant to do.

Shielding His head with a cloth from the now burning rays He started up the path.

“Oh! Are you alright?” Jesus asked as He came across a man lying on the ground. It seemed he had fallen or was hurt in some way.

Jesus sat by the man and gave him a drink from a flask that He'd brought.



Indeed the man was hurt and needed some care. Jesus made the man as comfortable as He could and left the flask of water with him while going to get what was needed.

Jesus asked a friendly neighbour to please help, as there was a hurt man. A wagon might be just what was needed. The neighbour was willing to both lend his wagon as well as help to bring the man back to where someone could attend to him.

Together the neighbour and Jesus lifted the hurt man onto the wagon and then slowly and gently pulled it back to Jesus' house.

Mary came out to see how she could help and others did too.

With the kindness of many, the man was soon feeling much better. He told them what had happened, and how he wasn't careful to step out

of the way when a fast moving team of mules carrying a load of supplies had knocked him over.

“Thank You so much for all You’ve done to help,” the man said to Jesus who brought him a portion of His own dinner to share.

“If it hadn’t been for You coming to rescue me, I might still be there, and I certainly wouldn’t be feeling as good as I do now. I think I can make my way home now. My family must be wondering what happened to me,” he said.

“Where do you live?” Jesus asked.

“It’s not far from here, but I should be going before the sundown,” the man said.

He tried to walk, but it was obvious he couldn’t go very fast.

“I know someone who owns a mule, perhaps he could take you back to your home. Just a moment, I’ll go and see what he says,” Jesus said and was off in a flash.

The thought of getting a ride home filled the man with hope. He was eager to hear the answer.

When Jesus returned he told the expectant man, “He said you could ride his mule, but he cannot take you there, as he is busy with a family event today.” Jesus said, and then added. “But he has given Me permission to lead the mule and take you home, and then ride the mule back to return it.”

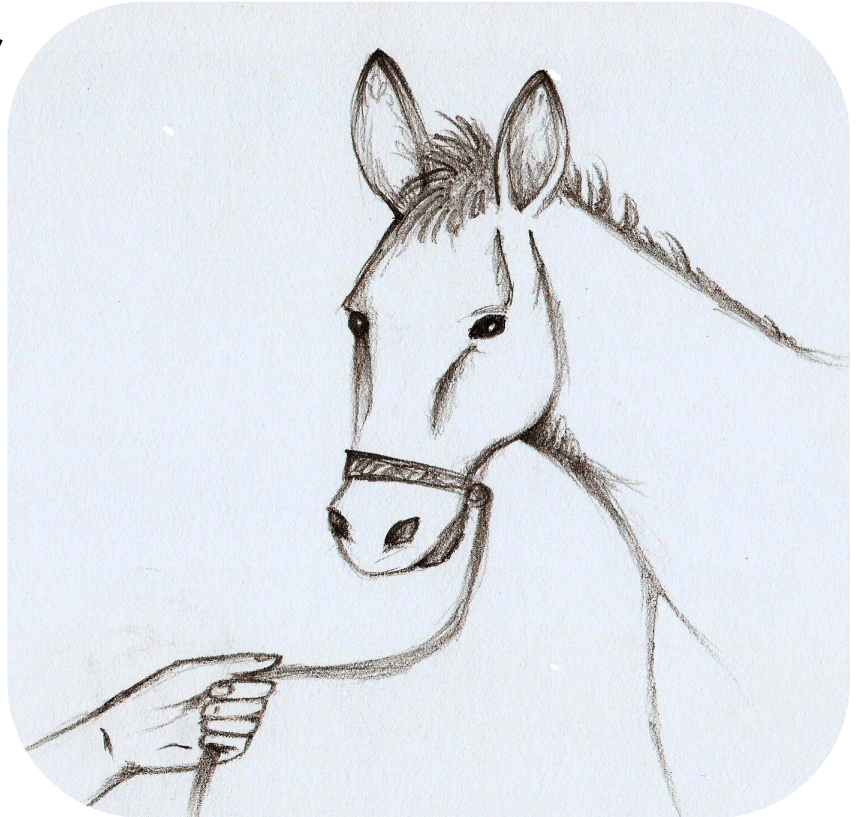
“I wouldn’t want to trouble You,” said the man.

“Oh, don’t worry about that!” Jesus said. “I would enjoy an afternoon walk and it would be a pleasure to get to ride on the way back. I’m glad to be a help to you and to your family.”

The grateful man was soon riding slowly while Jesus led the way. He guided the mule and made sure it wasn't going too fast, so the man would be as comfortable as possible.

On they walked, trotted and talked for quite a while before arriving at the town.

Jesus bid the man farewell and climbed on the mule to make His way back. He could go faster now and would be back in good time.



As Jesus neared His village He saw His brothers and sisters eagerly waiting and watching for His return. They waved and Jesus smiled and waved back. They knew they had the best brother in the world, always willing to lend a hand to those in need.

As they sat around the fire that night Mary patted Jesus on the back and said, “You did a good thing today helping that man.”

“It was a help to Me too,” Jesus said. “When I help others I seem to get back more in return.”

“What did You get in return this time?” one of His brothers said.

“Well, I learned that it’s always important to do what I feel God is telling Me to do. I saw it worked out well when I did that, and it made Me glad to have been the one to help.

“I got to talk with someone and learn all kinds of things about life in another place that I might have never heard about if I hadn’t gone the extra distance to make things easier for someone else.

“Oh, and I almost forgot! When I reached the village, he said that when he was well enough he would bring his family to visit us, and come with gifts and a nice meal for us all to share!”

“Yay!” everyone said, happy at the thought of a celebration and new friends.

“But the rewards don’t always come right away,” Jesus added to His brothers and sisters, “maybe one of you will one day be in need of help, and this man or one of his children will be the one to respond to your need, remembering how we helped their father. Who knows?”

“Kindness always comes back to you in some way at some time. Watch for it, and you won’t be disappointed. And most of all, always watch for opportunities to give it to others. As you do, your life will be rich with God’s blessings.”

Everyone made their way to bed for a good night’s sleep. It had been a wonderful day. Any day where love is shared in abundance is a great day! ■