

May 2010

*Faith Tidbits..
a little food for thought
and some knowledge
about your
Catholic faith*

This monthly series will answer questions you always wondered about or questions you never even thought to ask... all about our Catholic Faith. If you have a question you want answered, call Diane Hardick at 633-3672.

Some interesting "Tidbits" on the Bible. . .

1. **Did you know** that Obed, the son of Ruth, a Moabite (not a Jew) is the grandfather of David, in the line of Jesus Christ.
2. **Did you ever wonder why Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh?** Well, it seems that Nineveh was one of the largest cities of the Assyrians, fierce enemies of Israel. Jonah knew that if he went to Nineveh and proclaimed repentance and faith in the one true God, that God would forgive the Assyrians and they would come to faith. Jonah didn't want his enemies to be forgiven. When he finally did go, his preaching was weak and wimpy, and he only went part way into the city. Through the power of God, the king heard the message of Jonah and had all his people put on sack cloth and ashes and repent of their sins. Now Jonah was angry. He went outside the city gates and built a little hut and sat and sulked. God planted a tree for him to have shade from the sun. But he still sulked. So God sent a work to attack the tree and it withered and died. Now Jonah was really angry because he had no shade. God could not longer remain quiet. He spoke to Jonah and asked how he could be upset over the tree and not 120,000 people in the city of Nineveh who needed to be saved.
3. **Did you know** that the first chapter of the Book of Esther is "A", the second is "1", the third is "2", the fourth is "3" and the fifth is "B" and so on. The lettered chapters are the Greek additions to the Book of Esther and are only found in the Catholic Bible. The numbered chapters (originally written in Hebrew) leave God in the background with no mention of him. The heroes are Mordecai and Esther who save the Jewish people from Haman. The Greek additions (lettered chapters) bring God into the foreground, and out God in charge. Mordecai and Esther are instruments of God, who is the savior of his people. These additions, along with additions to Daniel, and the books Baruch, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Tobit, Sirach, Judith and Wisdom, are not found in the Protestant Bible. The Protestants chose to accept the Jewish Canon—list of books—which only acknowledged those written in Hebrew. Our Catholic Bible believes and teaches that all these books and additions are part of Sacred Scripture.
4. **Did you know** that the Psalms is a collection of five books, each ending with a short doxology or hymn?
In fact, the last Psalm, Psalm 150 is a hymn of praise in its entirety. The Book of Psalms is also called the Book of Praises, although over one third of the Psalms are laments or petitions. This is because even laments are a form of praise. We turn to the one we trust – the one in whom we put our faith when we are at our lowest.
5. **Have you taken the time to read the Books of Ruth, Esther and Judith?** They are wonderful stories of faithful and faith-filled women—a Gentile who remains faithful to her mother-in-law; a Jew, who through circumstances becomes Queen, and saves her people from Haman who designs a devious plan to destroy them; and a pious Jewish woman who cuts off the head of Holofernes, Commander-in-Chief of the Assyrian army, and saves her people from destruction. The Bible is the best story book in the world!