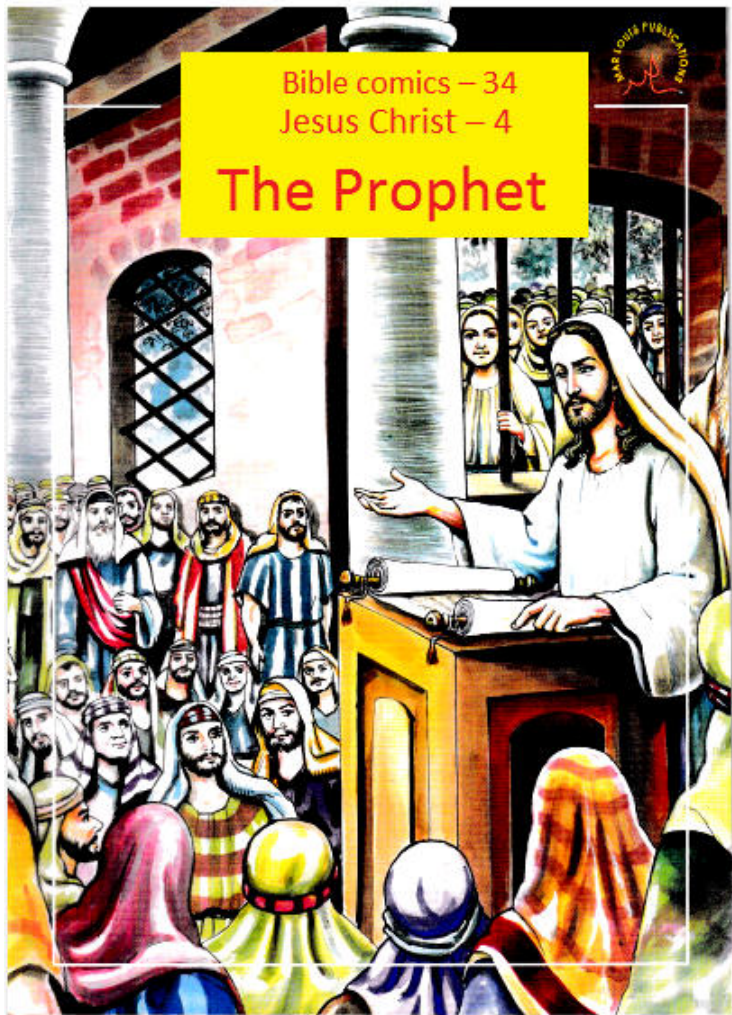


Bible comics – 34

Jesus Christ – 4

The Prophet



The prophet

All the four Gospels narrate the public life of Jesus that starts with the baptism and ends with the passion, death and resurrection. While the Gospels agree in reporting the beginning and the end the ministry, they differ considerably among themselves as far as the sequence of events is concerned. It is therefore difficult to depict the life of Jesus in a chronological order. In the present series we are mainly following the Gospel of Mark, supposed to be the most ancient

one. Materials from other Gospels are incorporated in this historical frame work. The present story depicts of Jesus' ministry which includes the temptation in the desert, the call of the first disciples, the miracle at Cana and Capernaum and the proclamation at Nazareth.

Prophet is a person called by God, anointed by the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim the word of God. By the middle of the fifth century B.C. the age of the Old Testament prophets came to an end. However, the people of Israel believed that at the end of time God would again send a

prophet like Moses in order to liberate them from slavery and to inaugurate the age of salvation. This belief was supported by many of the O.T. prophecies. The Nazareth episode in the Gospel of Luke presents Jesus as such a prophet. The prophecy of Isaiah(61,1-2) is quoted as the programme of Jesus' ministry. The controversy and the rejection that followed the proclamation point to the violent death to which his ministry will lead him.

Poverty and hunger, exploitation and oppression, sickness and death are all various

forms of slavery from which humanity needs liberation. But the root cause of all these, according to the Bible, is sin. Through sin mankind and the whole world became enslaved to Satan, the power of evil. The temptations reported by all the Gospels depict how Jesus defeated the power of evil by choosing to follow the will of God rather than worldly power and glory. The miracles of healing and exorcism are visible manifestations of his victory and the realization of the program announced at Nazareth.

The changing of water into wine at Cana was understood by the early Church as a symbol of the Sacraments, especially Baptism and Eucharist, through which Jesus liberates us from the slavery of sin and gives us Divine life. The miraculous draught of fish was a sign of that the fishermen of Capernaum could easily understand. When Jesus called them to be his disciples, with great joy they abandoned everything and followed him.

By the Sacraments of Baptism and confirmation, all the followers of Jesus are

entrusted with a prophetic mission. The Holy Spirit strengthens them to resist temptations and to proclaim the Good News of liberation. The prophetic mission demands that one be totally faithful to the Word of God and be prepared to meet with rejection and persecution.

After receiving Baptism from John, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert.



He spent forty days in the desert without any food and prayed ardently to discern the will of the Father, concerning his mission.





Father what is the way you have
chosen to save the humanity?
What is your will for me?



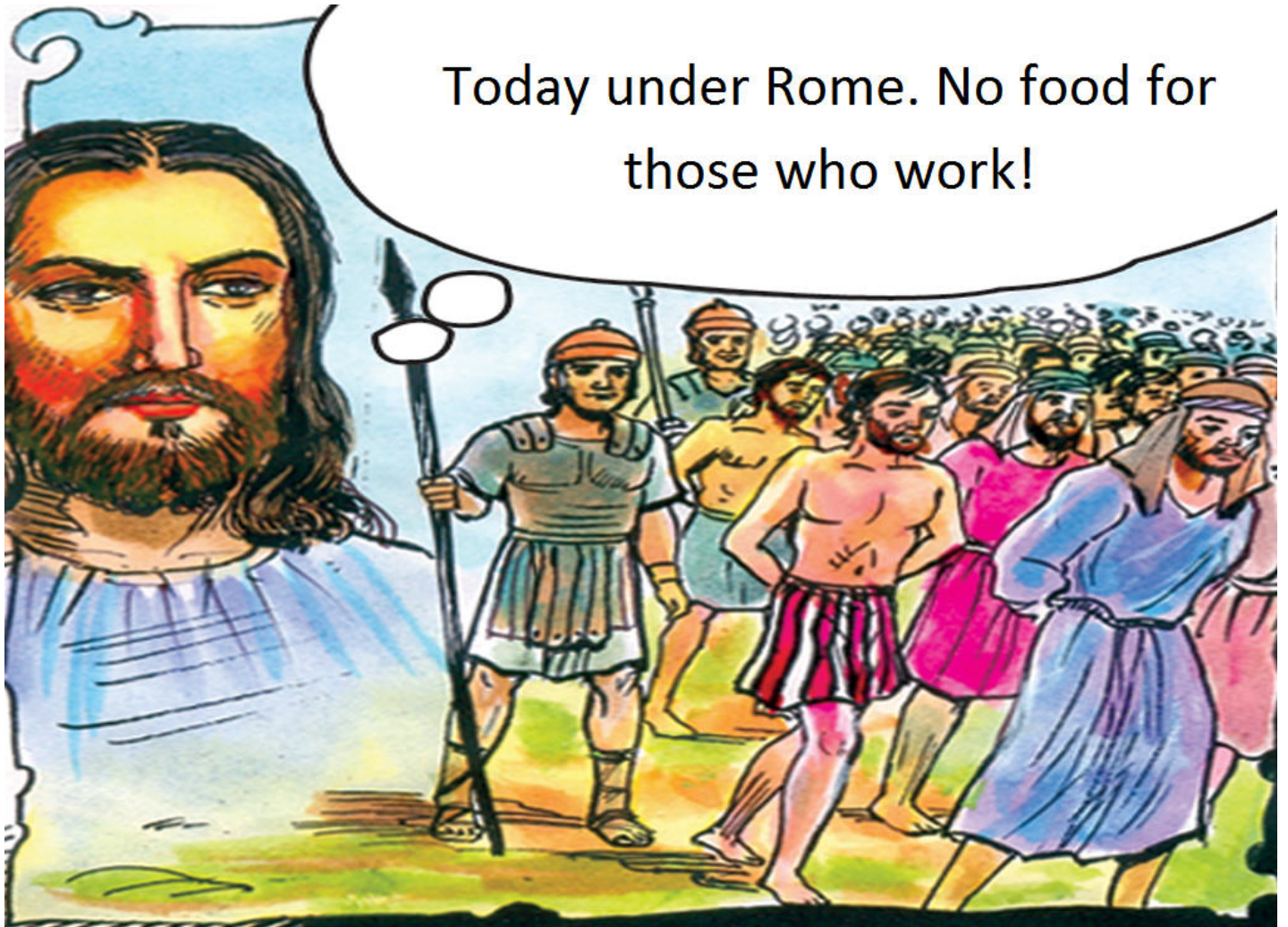
I hear the cry of my people. I
see their misery.



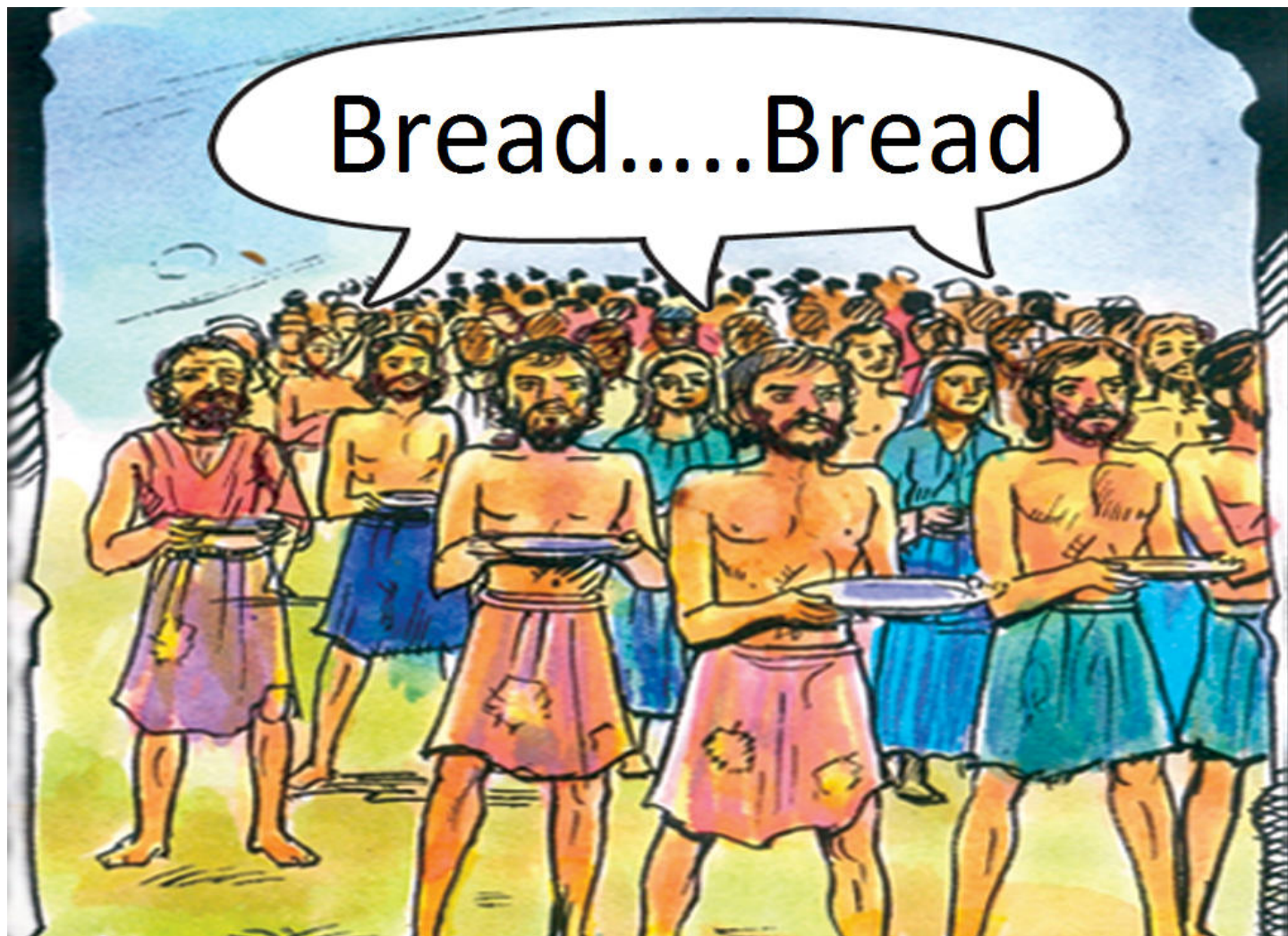
Jesus recalled the suffering of his people and the interventions of God in their favor.



Today under Rome. No food for those who work!



Bread....Bread



Jesus was tempted by Satan, the power of evil.



No liberation without bread.
Utter the word, turn the stones into bread.

If you give bread the whole world will follow you. This is the way to salvation.

You are hungry, aren't you? Now you know what it means to be hungry?

Aren't you the Son of God, sent to save the humanity?

All the stones could be turned into bread at your word. Do it.

You can turn these stones into bread. Do it and save yourself from hunger.

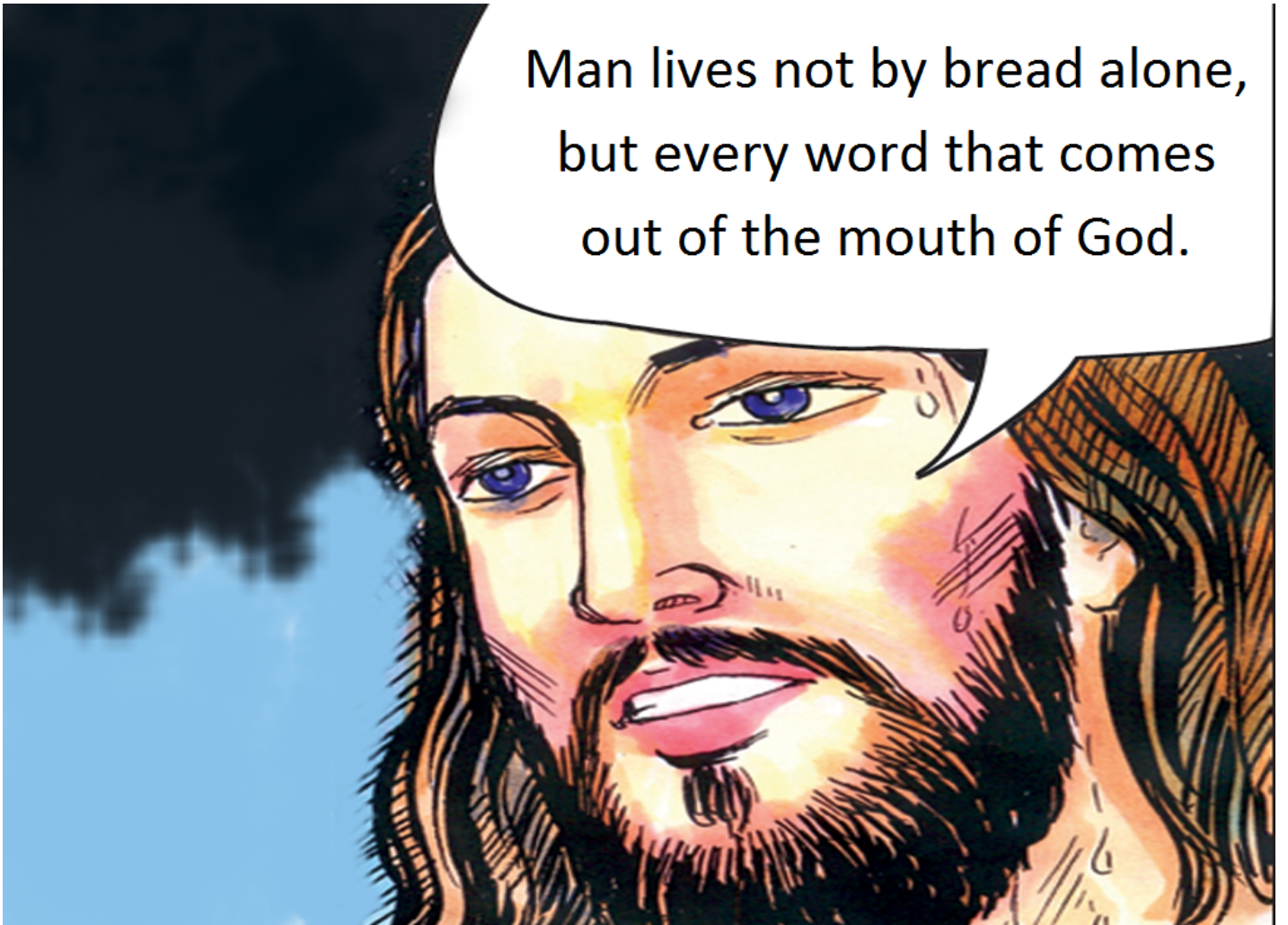
Give bread to the hungry. Save the world.

In the face of severe Temptation Jesus turned to scripture.

Bread and meat they ate to their fill. But they complained. They all perished in the desert.



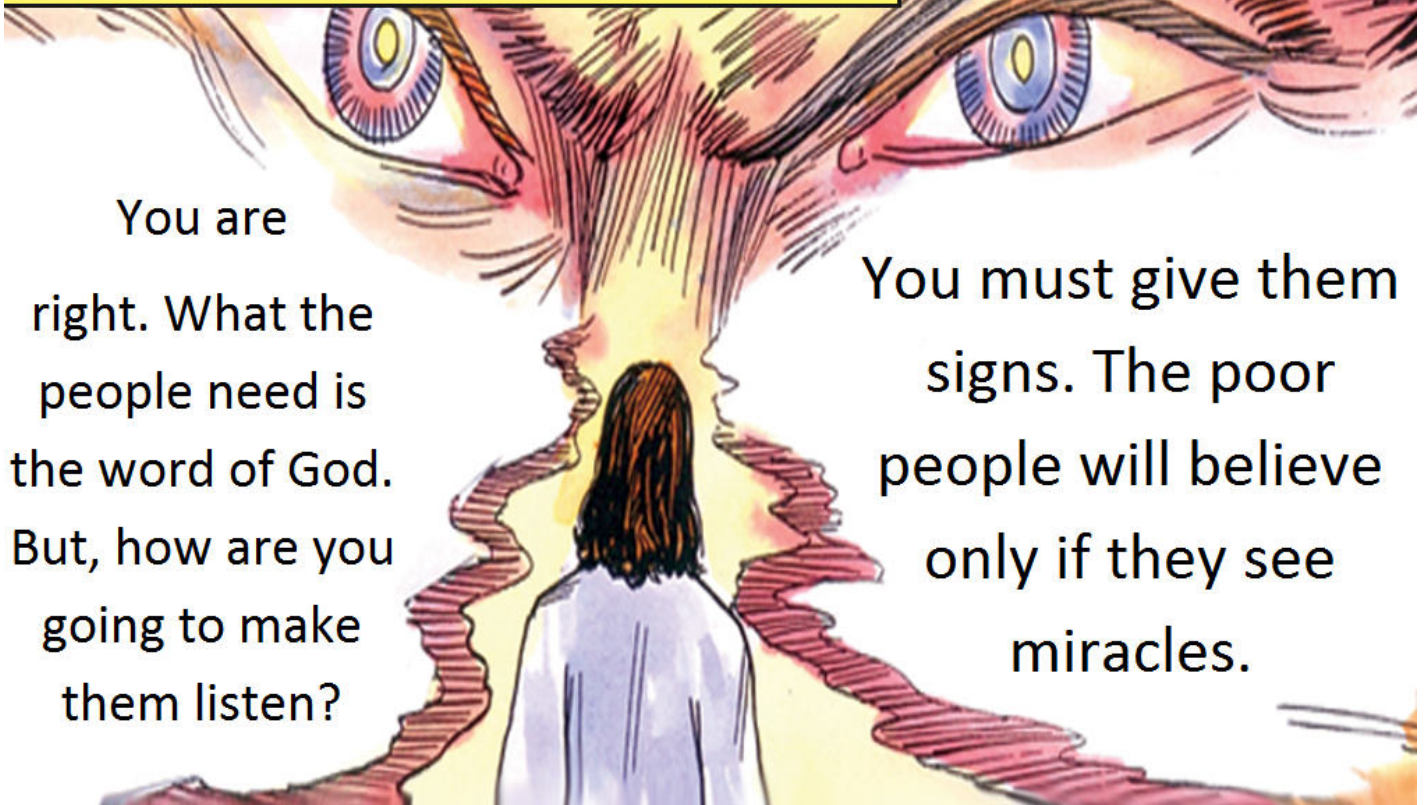
Man lives not by bread alone,
but every word that comes
out of the mouth of God.

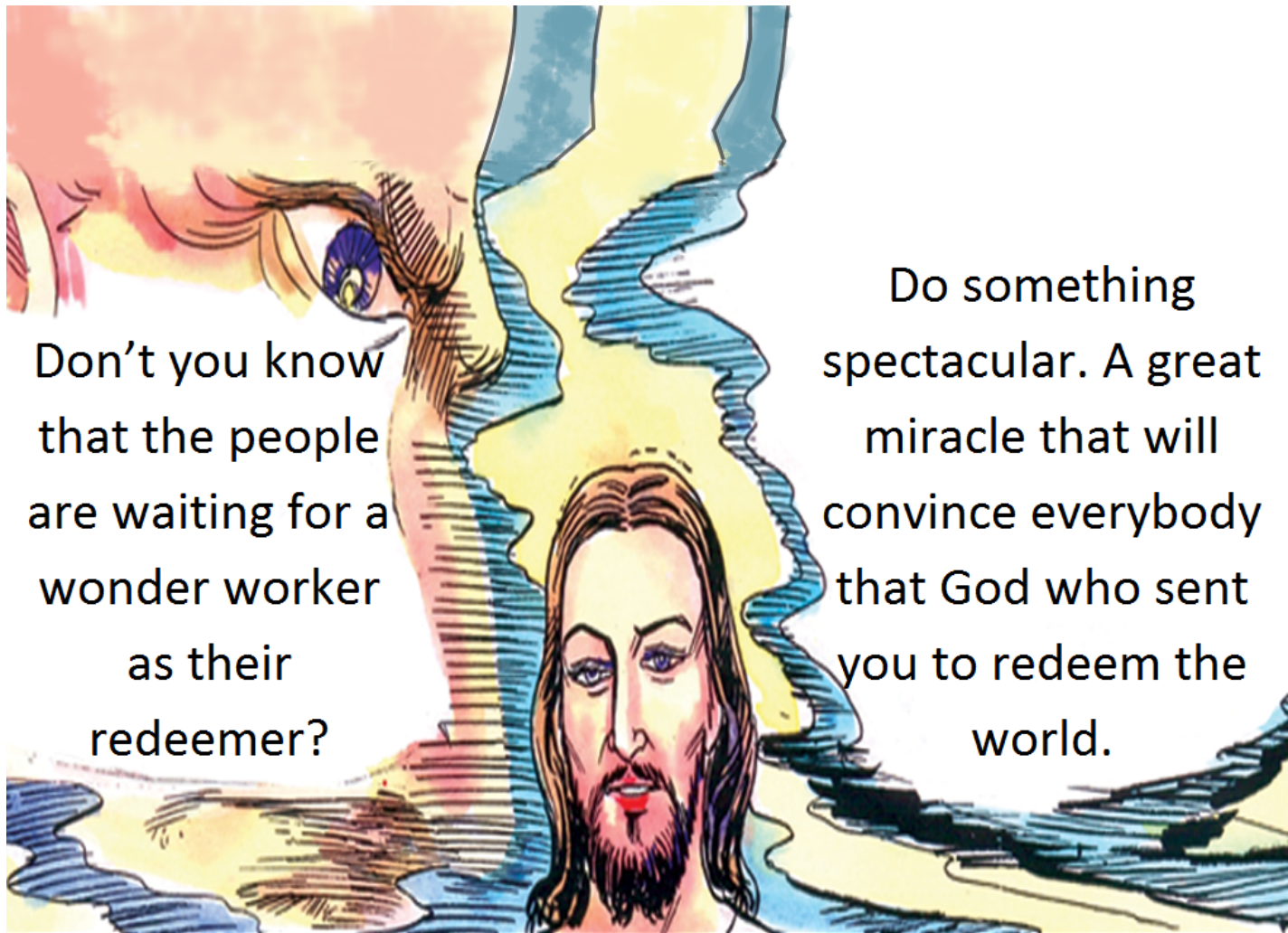


Temptation continued with
greater force.

You are
right. What the
people need is
the word of God.
But, how are you
going to make
them listen?

You must give them
signs. The poor
people will believe
only if they see
miracles.



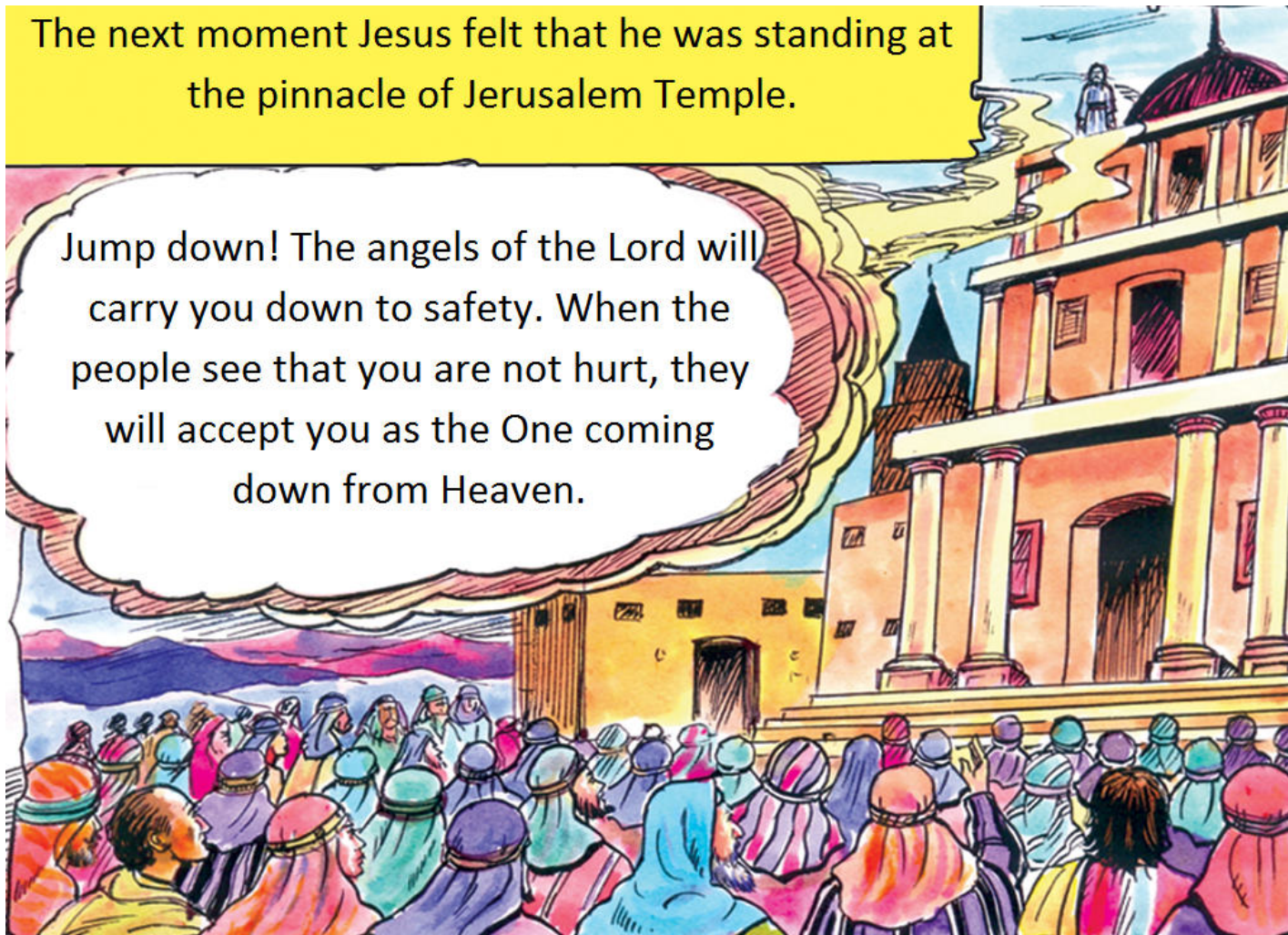


Don't you know
that the people
are waiting for a
wonder worker
as their
redeemer?

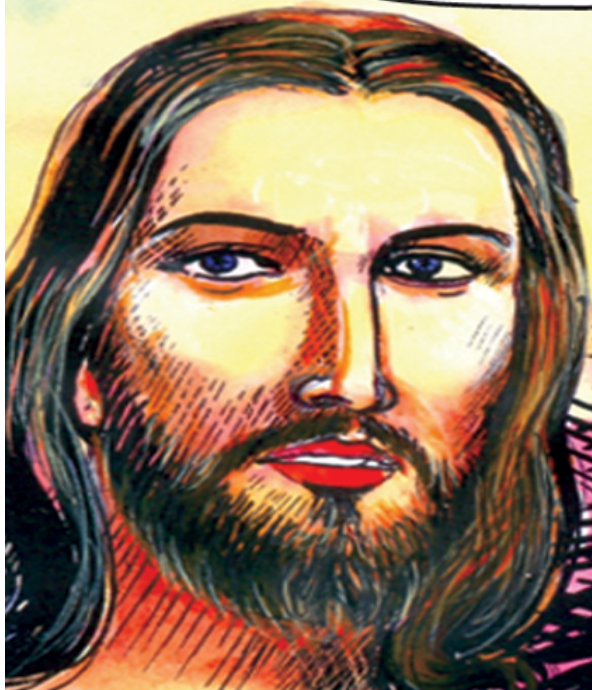
Do something
spectacular. A great
miracle that will
convince everybody
that God who sent
you to redeem the
world.

The next moment Jesus felt that he was standing at the pinnacle of Jerusalem Temple.

Jump down! The angels of the Lord will carry you down to safety. When the people see that you are not hurt, they will accept you as the One coming down from Heaven.



It is written that you shall not
put your Lord to the test.



Those who saw the miracles did not believe. No miracle can ever convince those who keep their hearts closed.

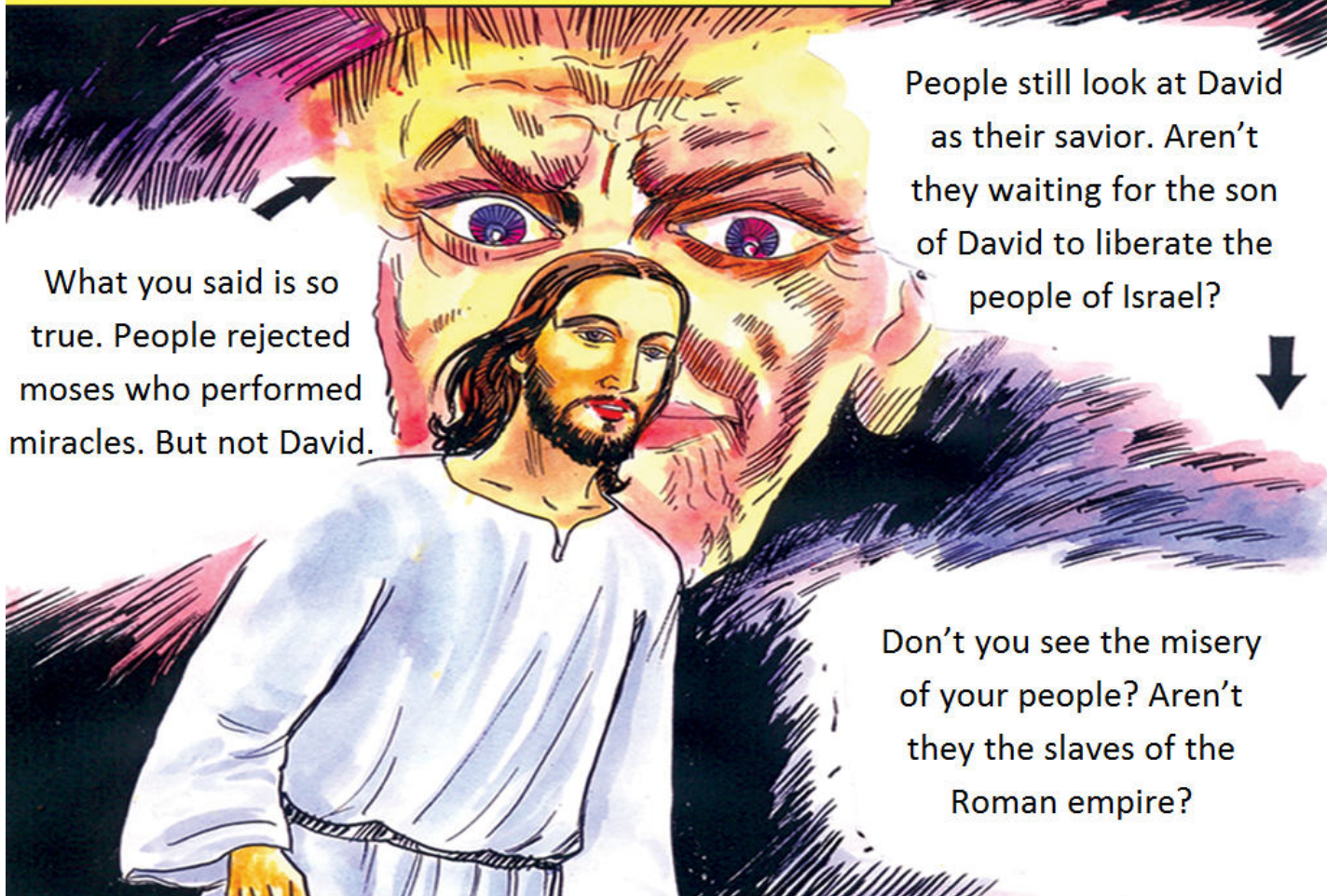


The tempter returned with even greater force.

What you said is so true. People rejected Moses who performed miracles. But not David.

People still look at David as their savior. Aren't they waiting for the son of David to liberate the people of Israel?

Don't you see the misery of your people? Aren't they the slaves of the Roman empire?

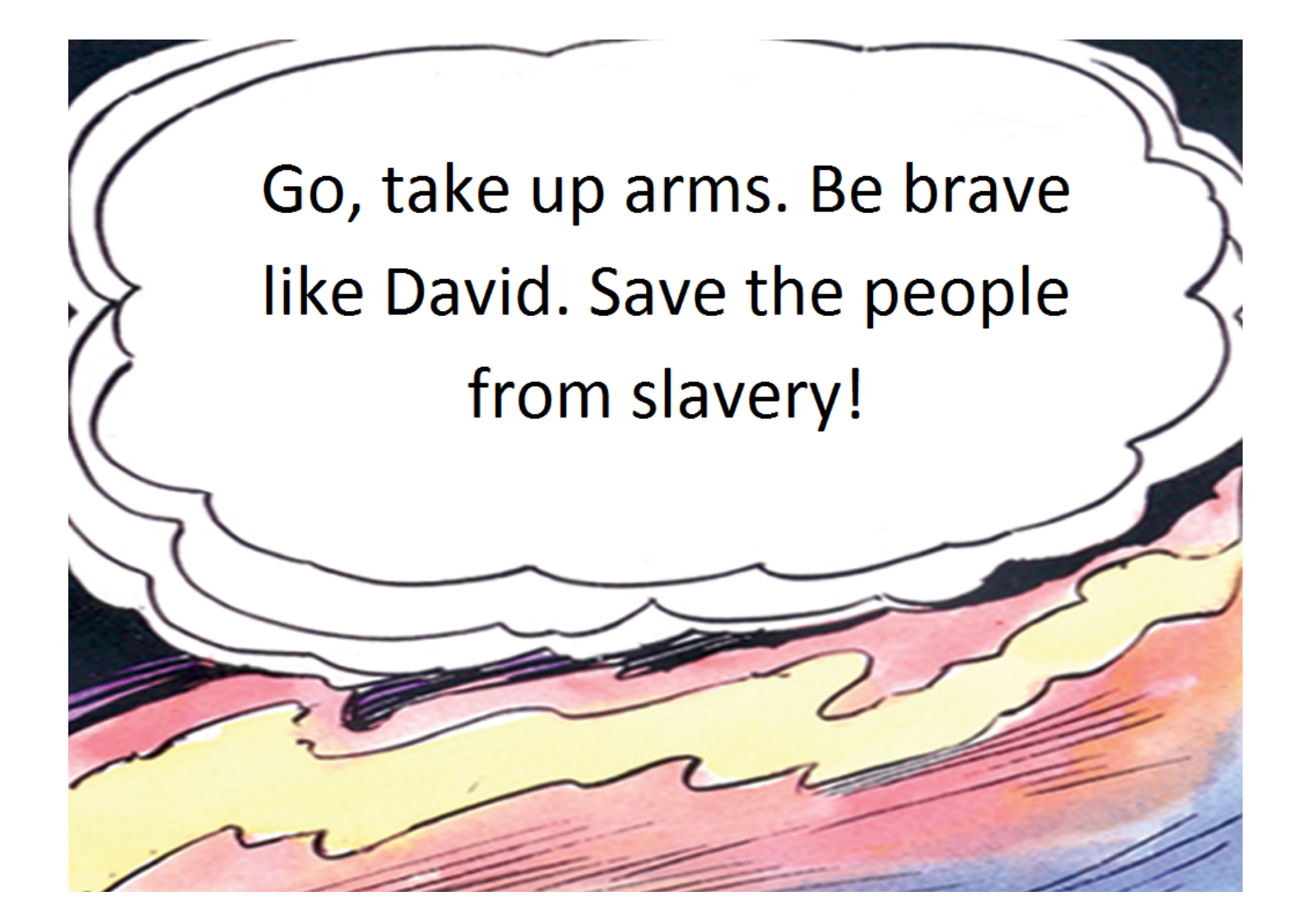




O, Lord.

“A shoot springs from the root of Jesse.
His word is a rode that strikes the
ruthless”.

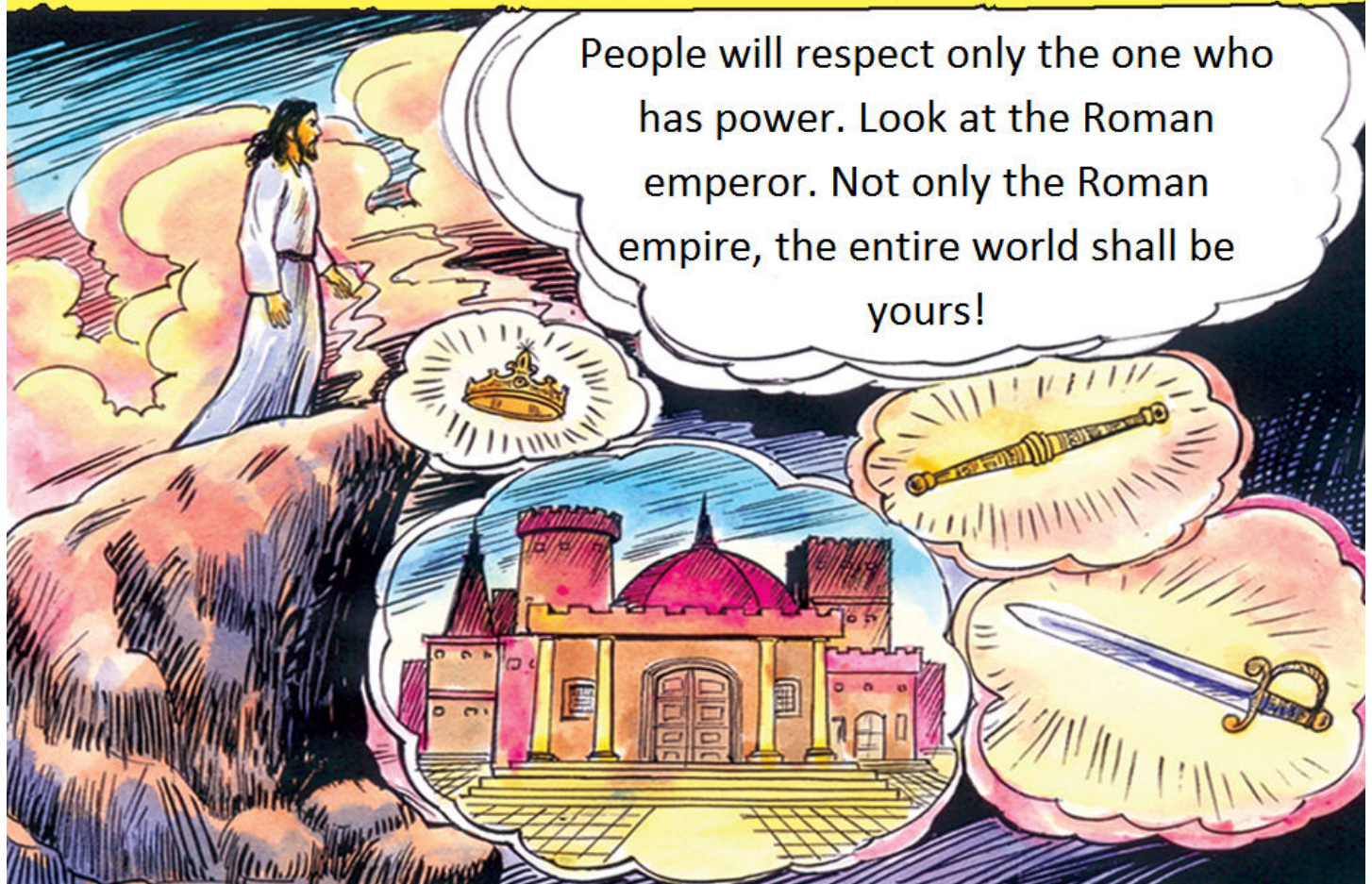


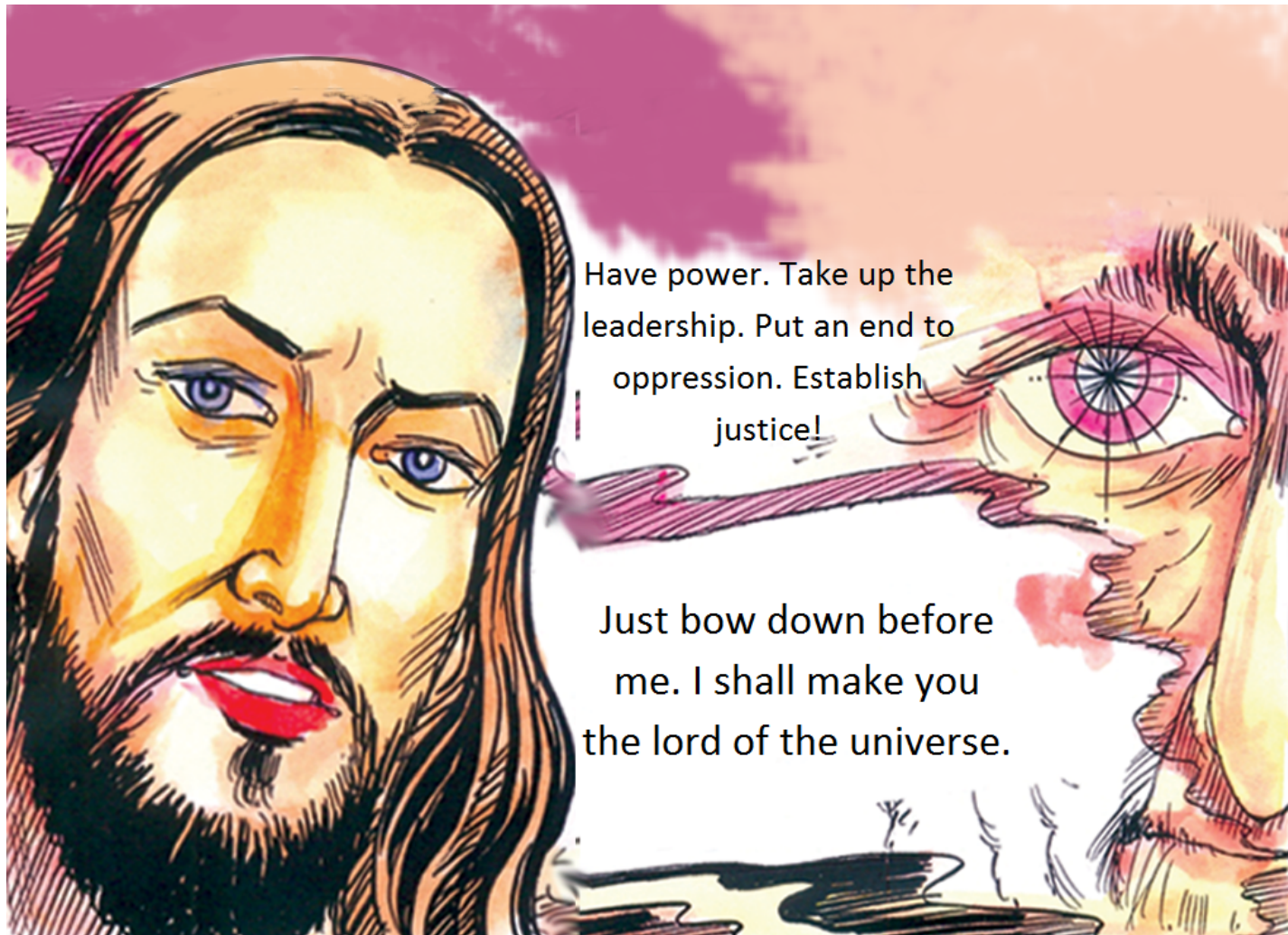


Go, take up arms. Be brave
like David. Save the people
from slavery!

Jesus felt that he was standing on top of a high mountain. All power and glory of the world flashed before his eyes.

People will respect only the one who has power. Look at the Roman emperor. Not only the Roman empire, the entire world shall be yours!





Have power. Take up the leadership. Put an end to oppression. Establish justice!

Just bow down before me. I shall make you the lord of the universe.

The Same voice that Adam heard
in the Garden of Eden.



Be gone Stan! It is written: "You must worship the Lord your God and serve Him alone".



Surrendering his total self to God,
Jesus defeated the tempter.

Father, here is
your servant. My
food is your will.

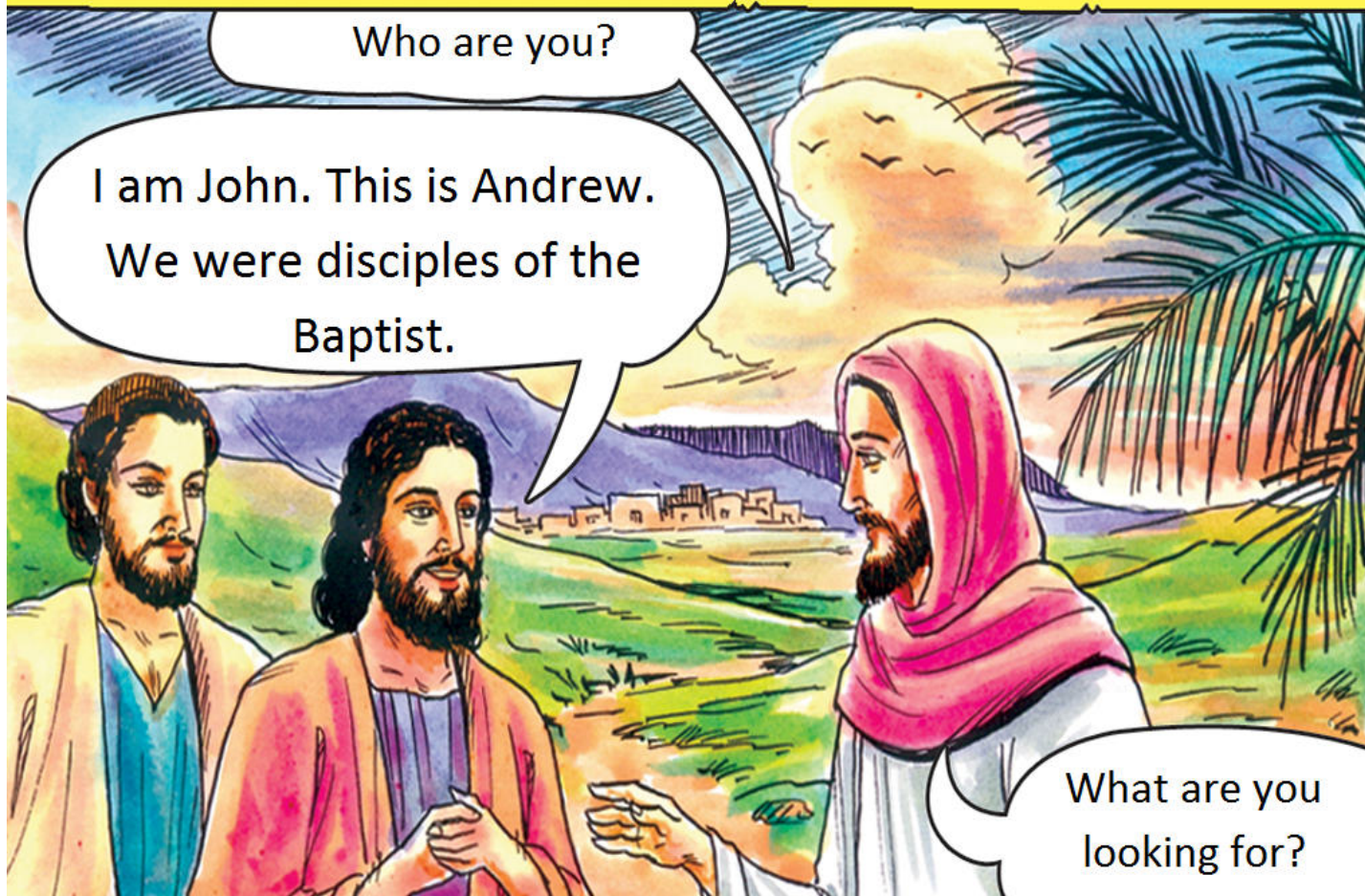


Jesus returned from the desert. The power of the Holy Spirit was with him.

Who are you?

I am John. This is Andrew.
We were disciples of the
Baptist.

What are you
looking for?



Master, where do you live? We would like to follow you.



John, Andrew, come
with me.



Master did you know
that they arrested the
Baptist?

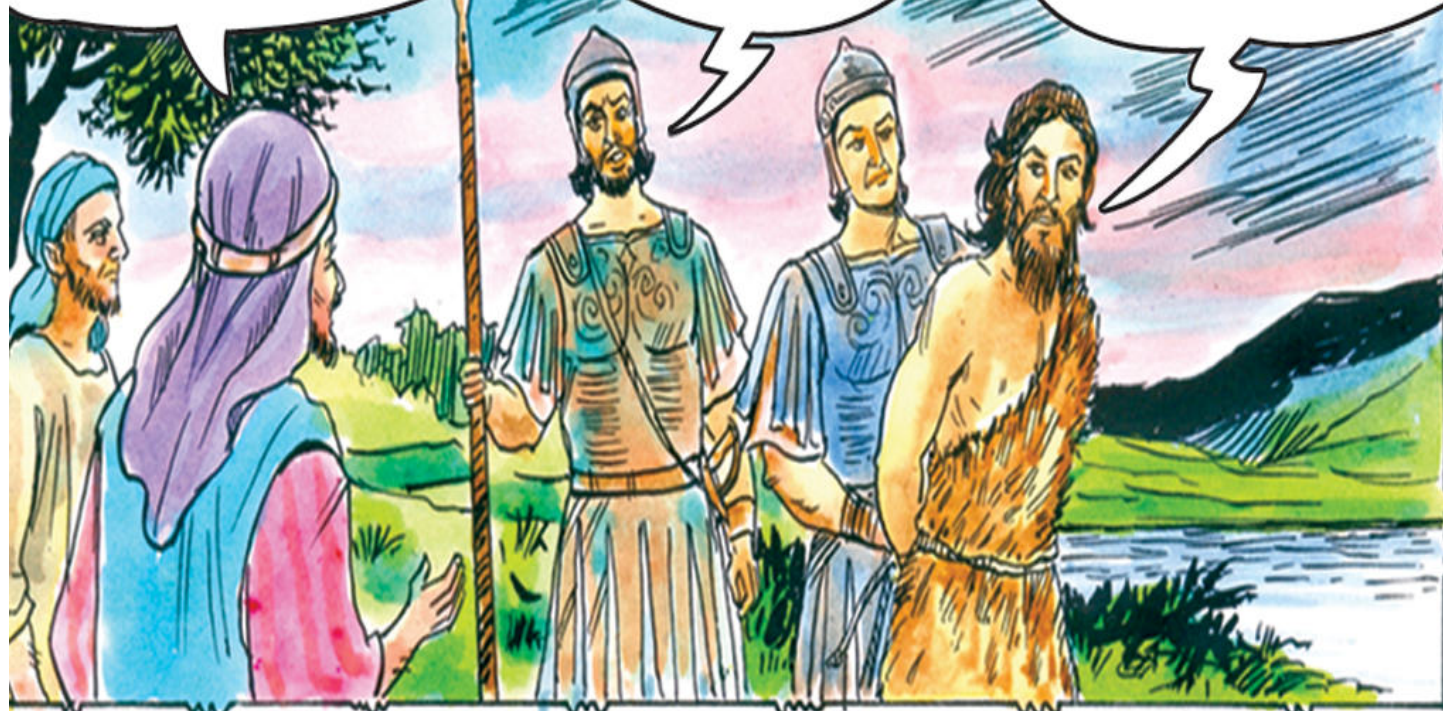
?



Why are you arresting that innocent man?

Didn't you know that it is dangerous to speak against the king?

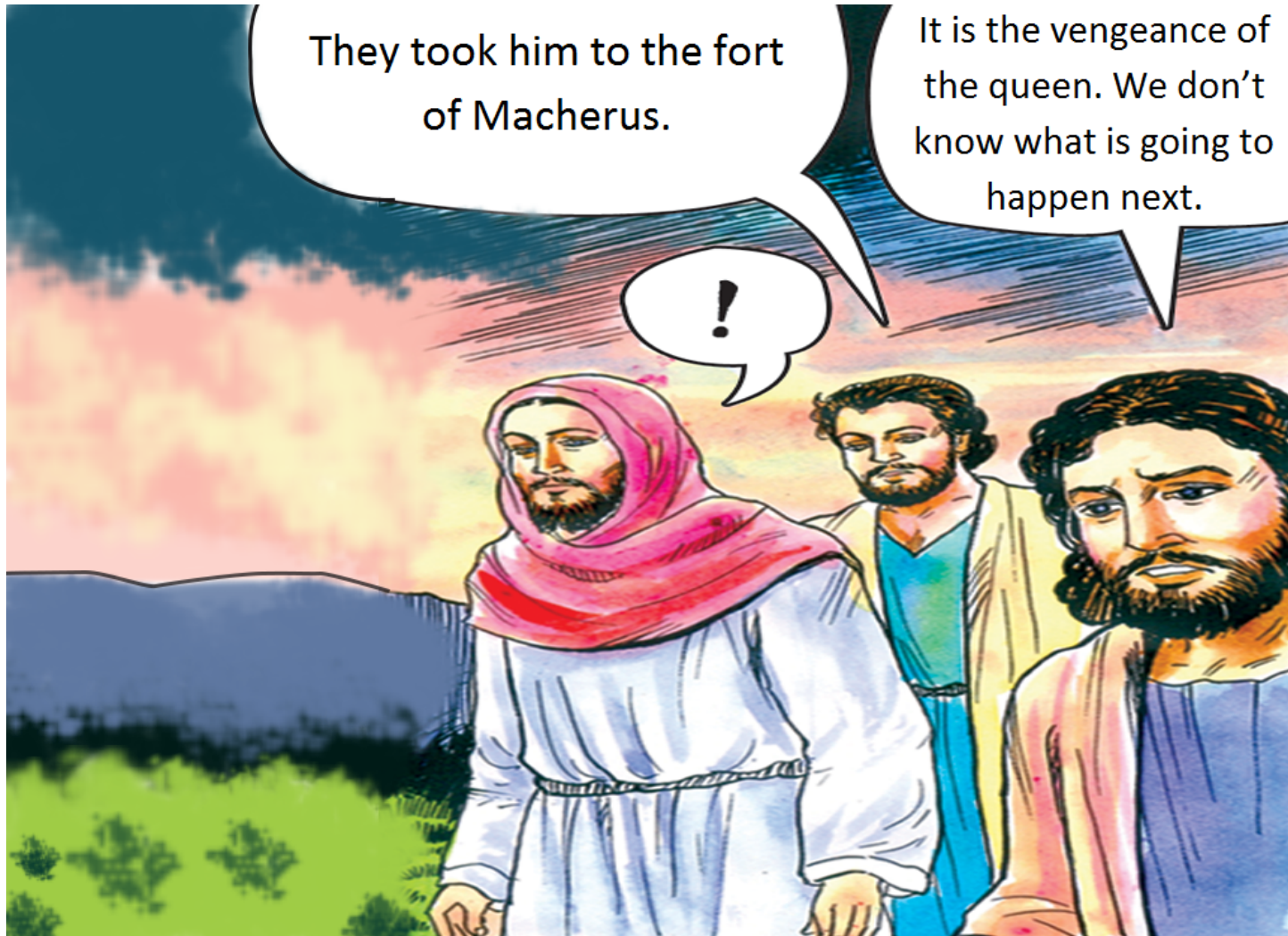
Danger is not to the one who speaks but to the one who does evil. Repent!



They took him to the fort
of Macherus.

It is the vengeance of
the queen. We don't
know what is going to
happen next.

!



The Zealots under Barabbas are planning to free John by force. How soon it all ended! Master, is there any chance for truth and Justice to survive?

This is not the end but only the beginning. People have not yet learned the ways of Truth.

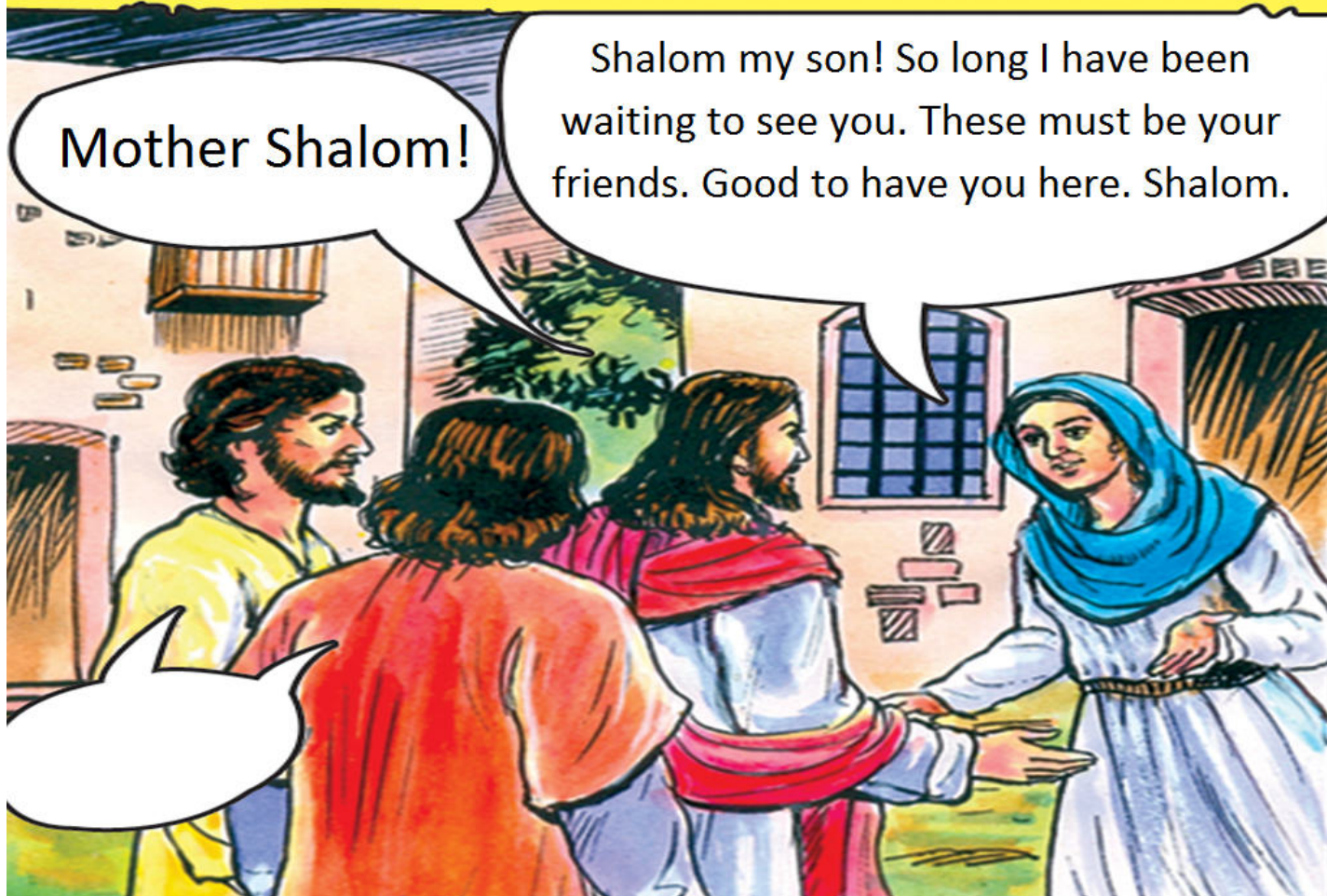
!!




They reached Nazareth.

Mother Shalom!

Shalom my son! So long I have been waiting to see you. These must be your friends. Good to have you here. Shalom.



You must be hungry.



Starving, feel like I can
eat a horse.

Tomorrow Abiah is getting married
at Cana. We all must go.



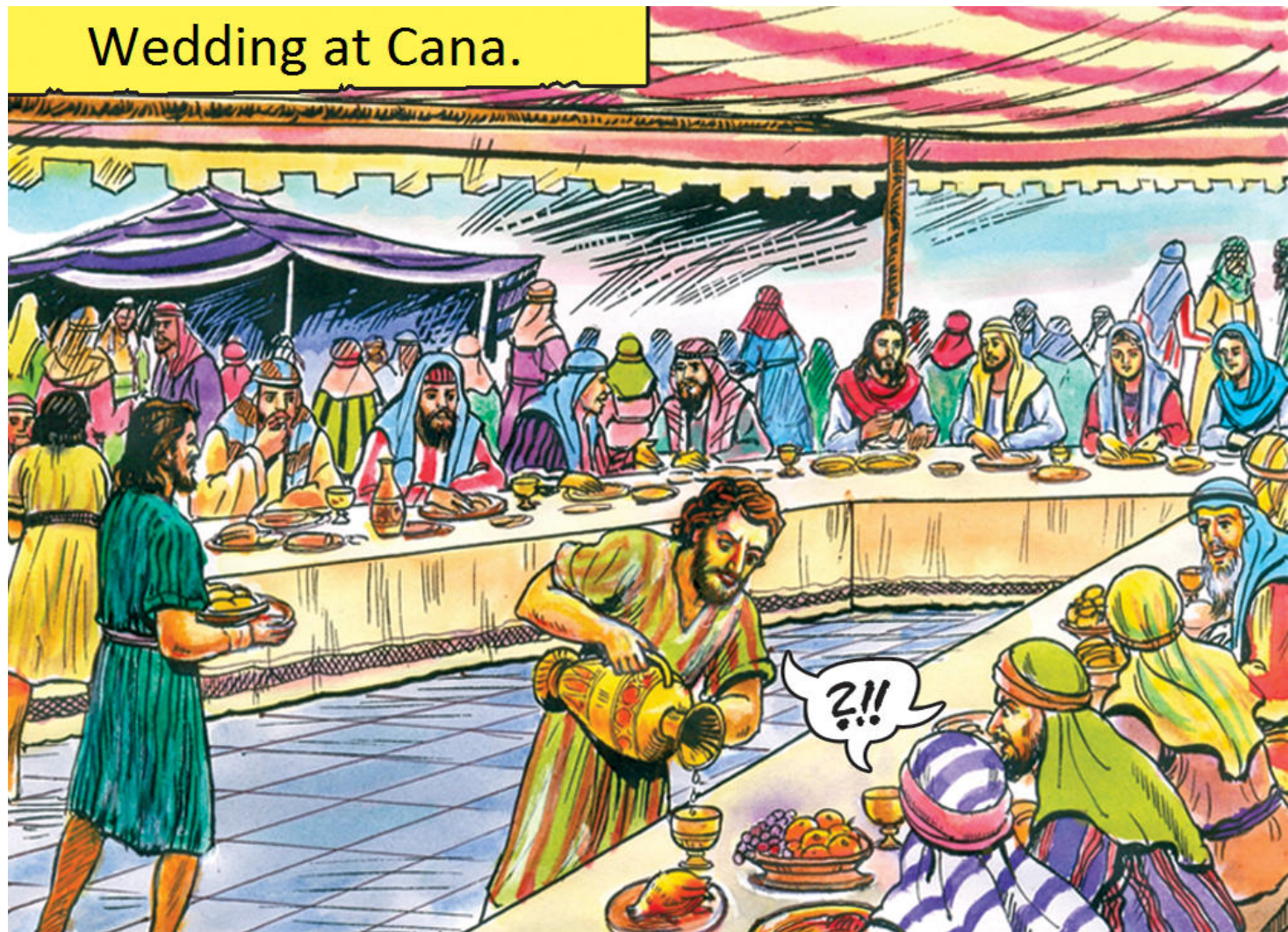
We..?

Sure, friends of Jesus are our family members.



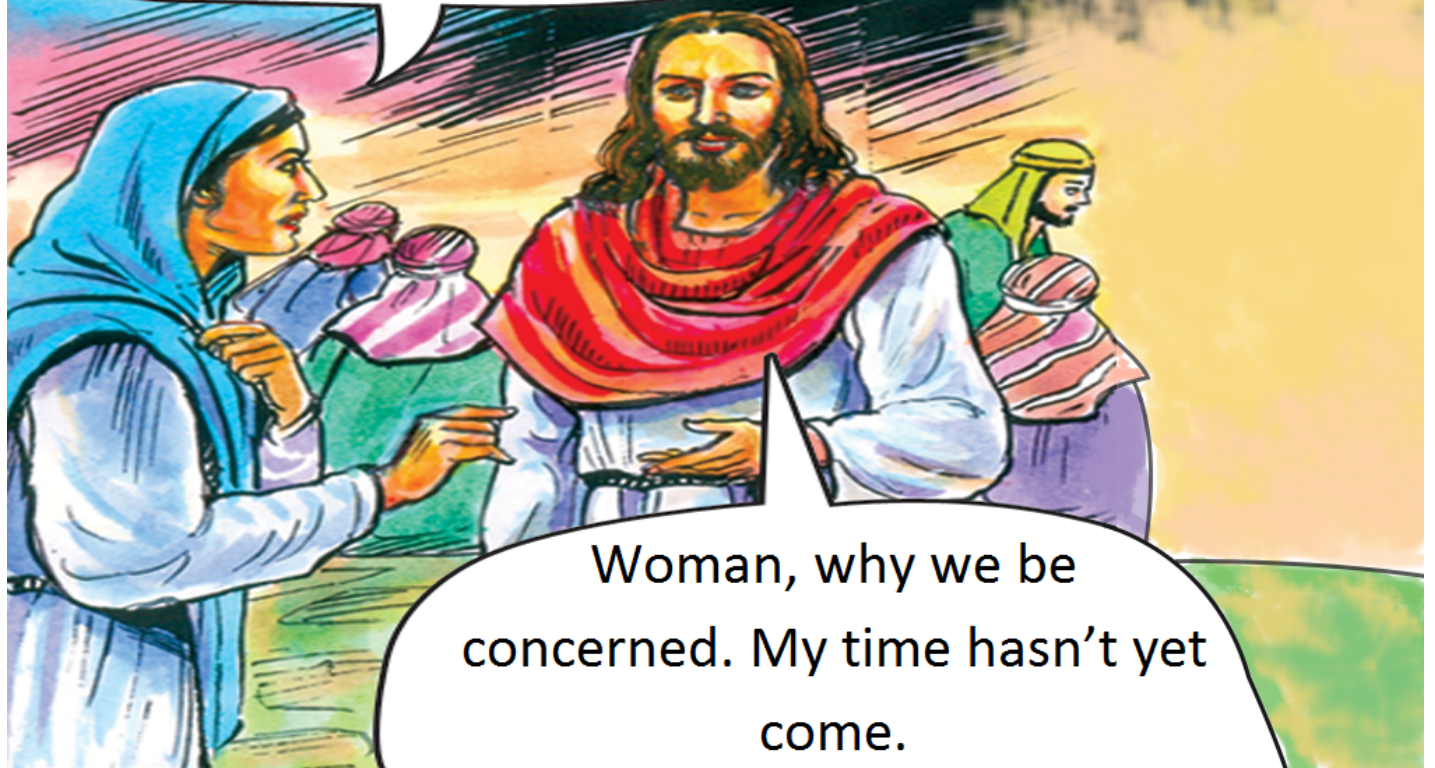
We shall start in the morning.

Wedding at Cana.



Mary Called Jesus out of the banquet hall.

They have no wine.



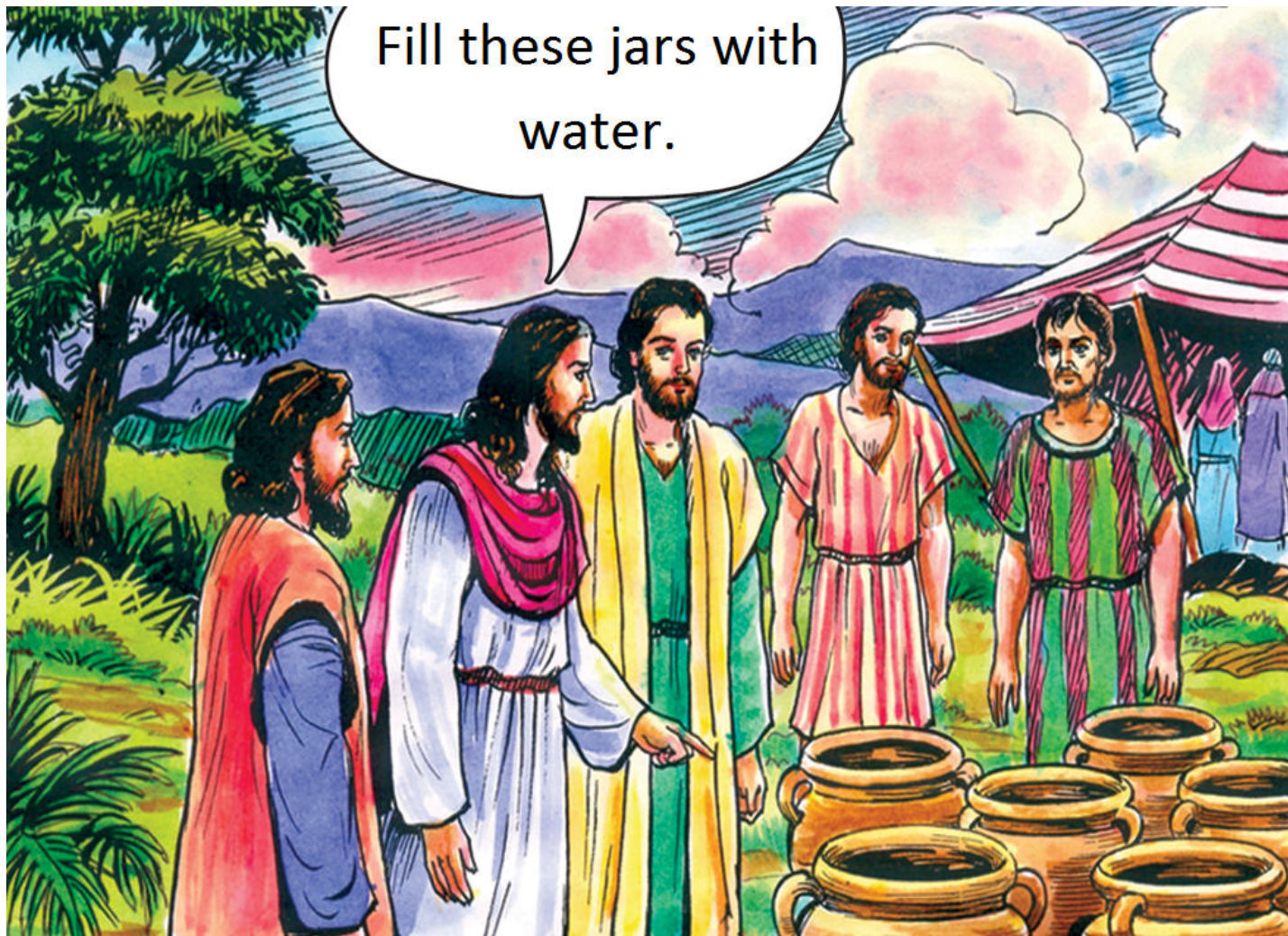
Woman, why we be concerned. My time hasn't yet come.

Mary told the servants.

Do as Jesus tell you.



Fill these jars with water.



They filled the jars to the brim.

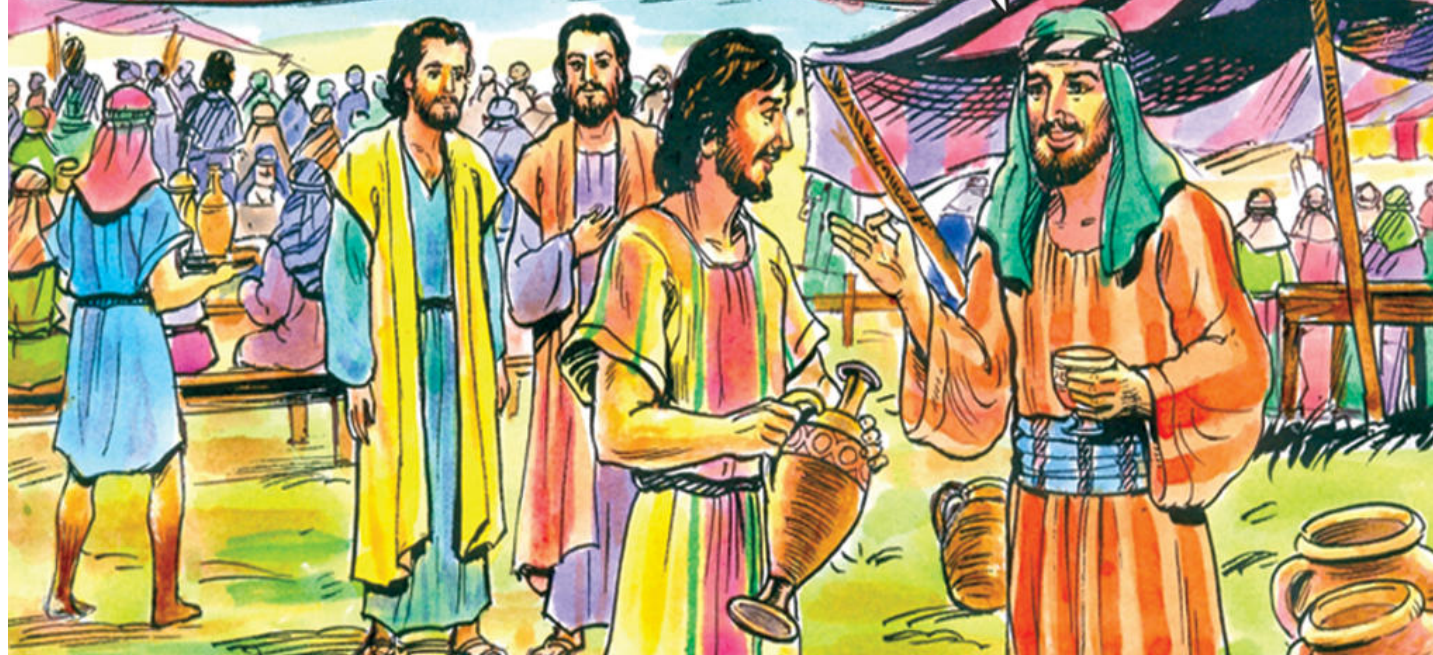


Draw some out now and take it
to the steward.



The steward tasted the wine.

Good! In all my life I have never tasted such a good wine.



The steward said to the bridegroom.

You saved the best wine for
the end.



John, a great miracle has happened right in front of our eyes.

No doubt, Andrew, this is the Messiah we have been searching for.



They went to Capernaum.

That is Capernaum.
They have a big
synagogue there.

Also a big tax office.
Mathew is the tax
collector, a merciless
creep!



Taxes for Herod, taxes for the Romans.
Under the pretext of taxes he is
plundering the people.

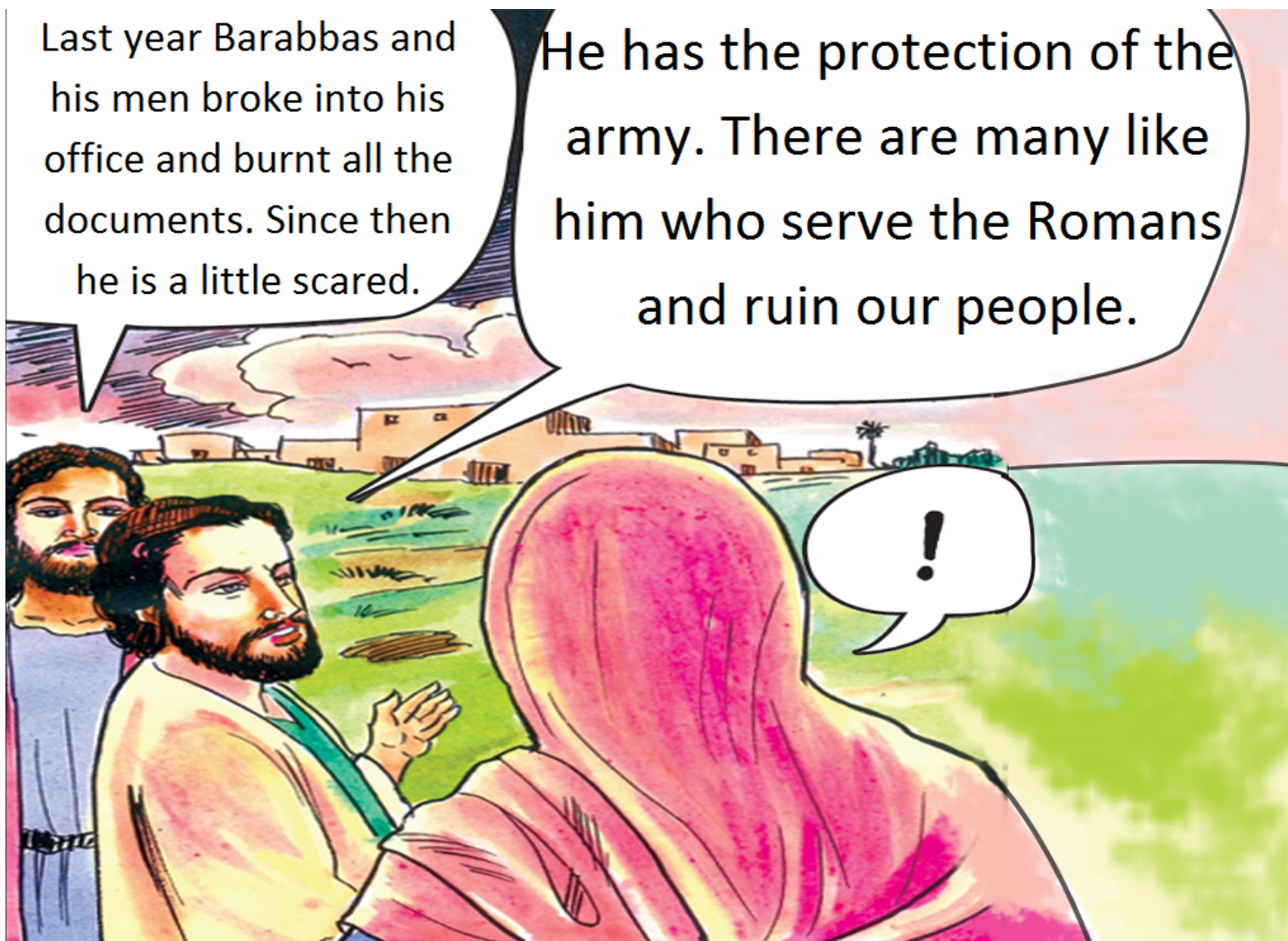
Poor fishermen. They have
to give most of what they
catch as taxes.



Last year Barabbas and his men broke into his office and burnt all the documents. Since then he is a little scared.

He has the protection of the army. There are many like him who serve the Romans and ruin our people.

!



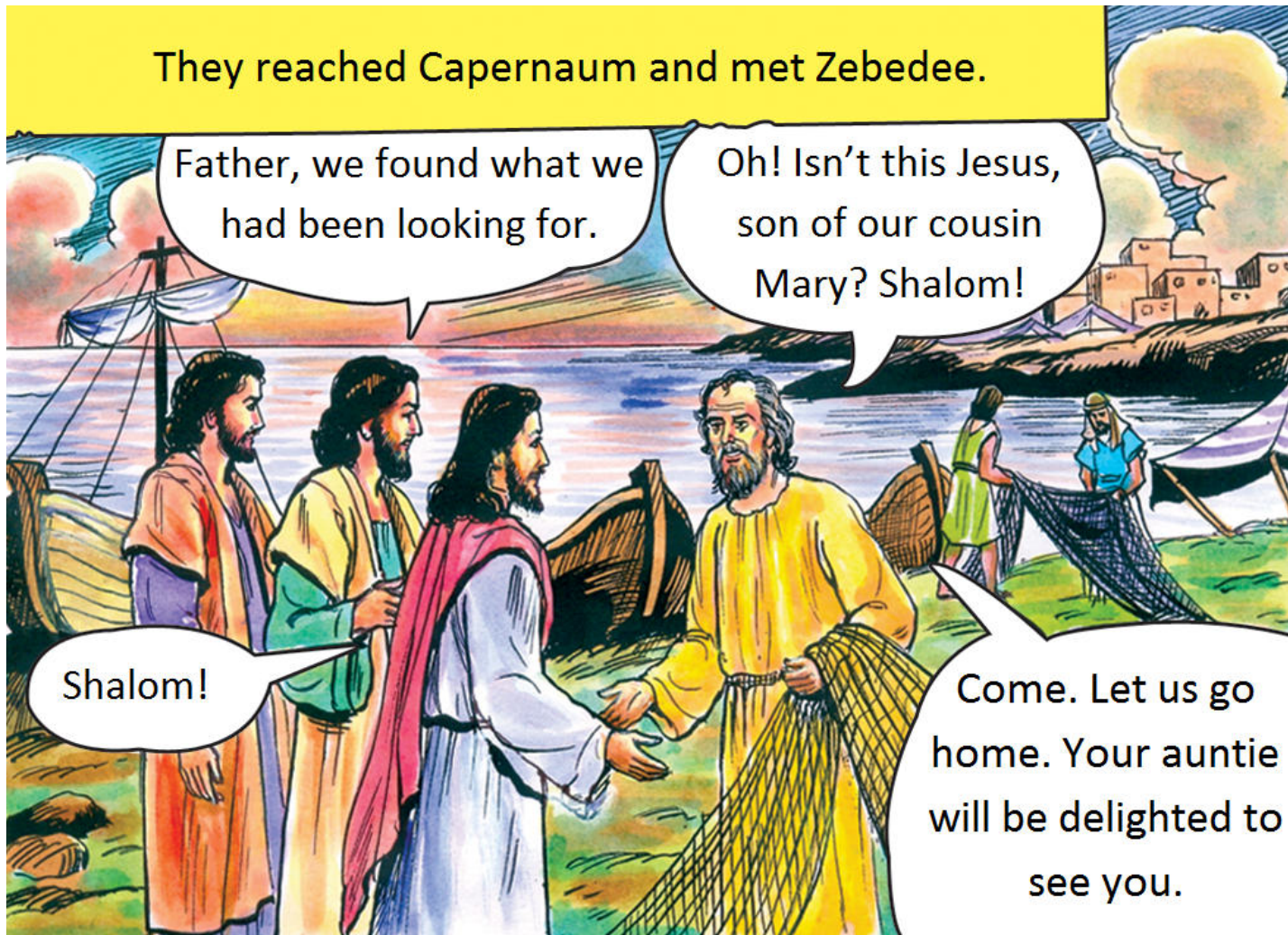
They reached Capernaum and met Zebedee.

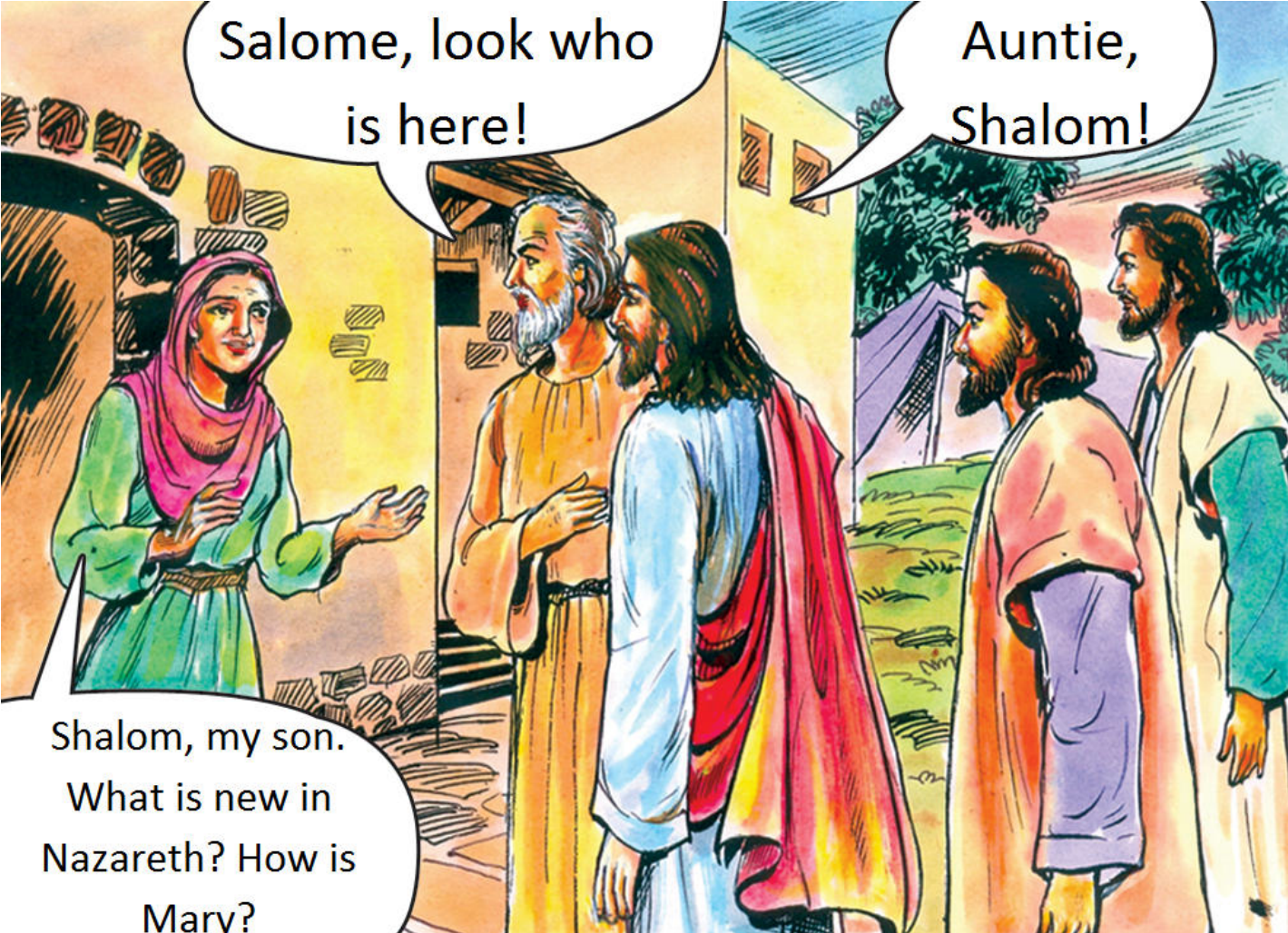
Father, we found what we had been looking for.

Oh! Isn't this Jesus, son of our cousin Mary? Shalom!

Shalom!

Come. Let us go home. Your auntie will be delighted to see you.





Salome, look who
is here!

Auntie,
Shalom!

Shalom, my son.
What is new in
Nazareth? How is
Mary?

The next day they went to the Synagogue for the Sabbath prayer.

Brethren, we have a guest, Jesus of Nazareth. He will explain the scripture to us today.



Brethren, we have reason to rejoice because the long awaited time has arrived. Our forefathers longed to see this day.

How can you say this when the people are starving and dying of sickness? The Romans are still ruling over us.

If the kingdom of God is here, where is our freedom? Where is the prosperity promised by the prophets?

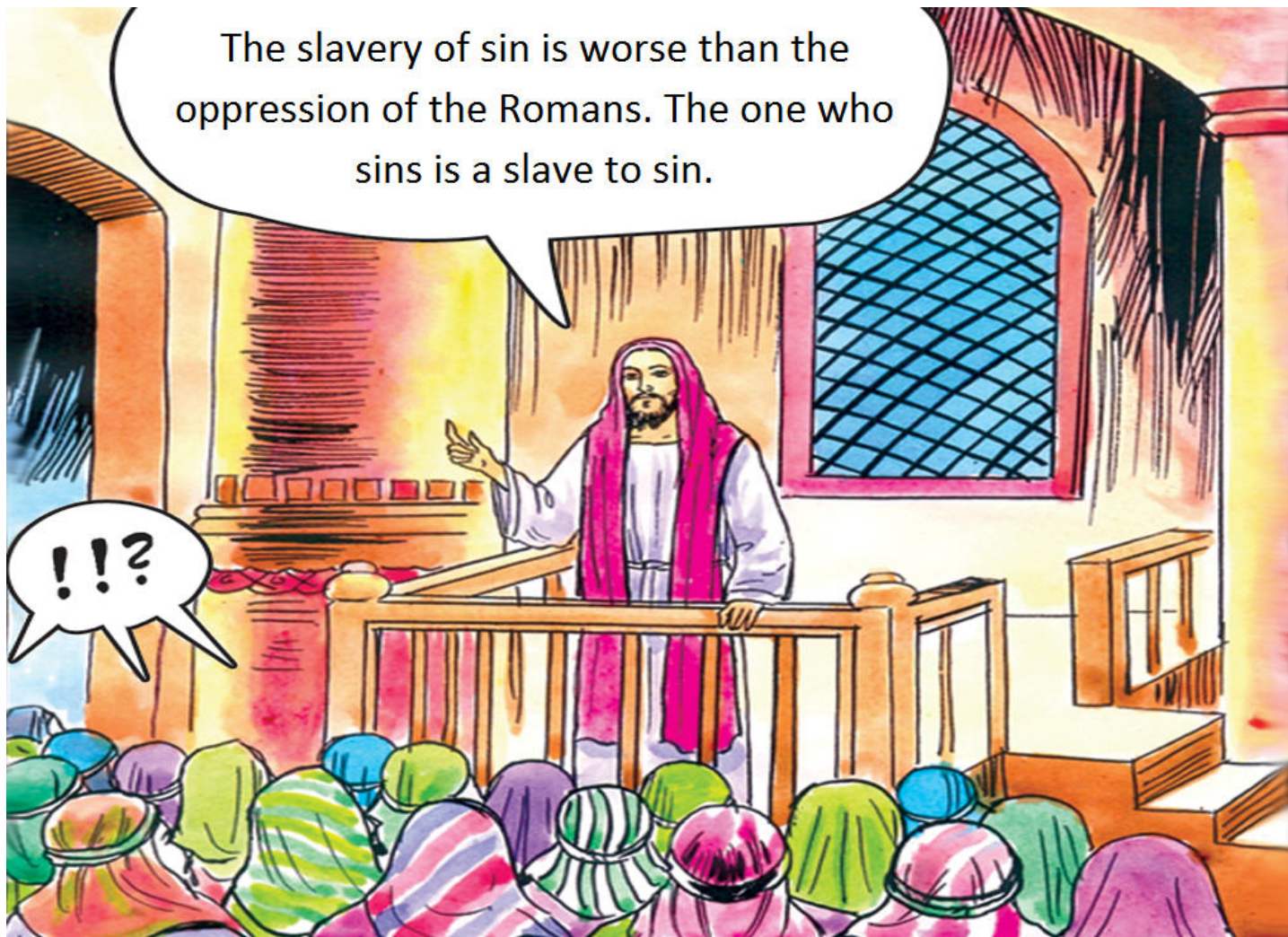




Open your hearts
repent and return to
the Lord. You shall be
free.

The slavery of sin is worse than the oppression of the Romans. The one who sins is a slave to sin.

!!?



Satan's rule over the world, established in sin, has ended.

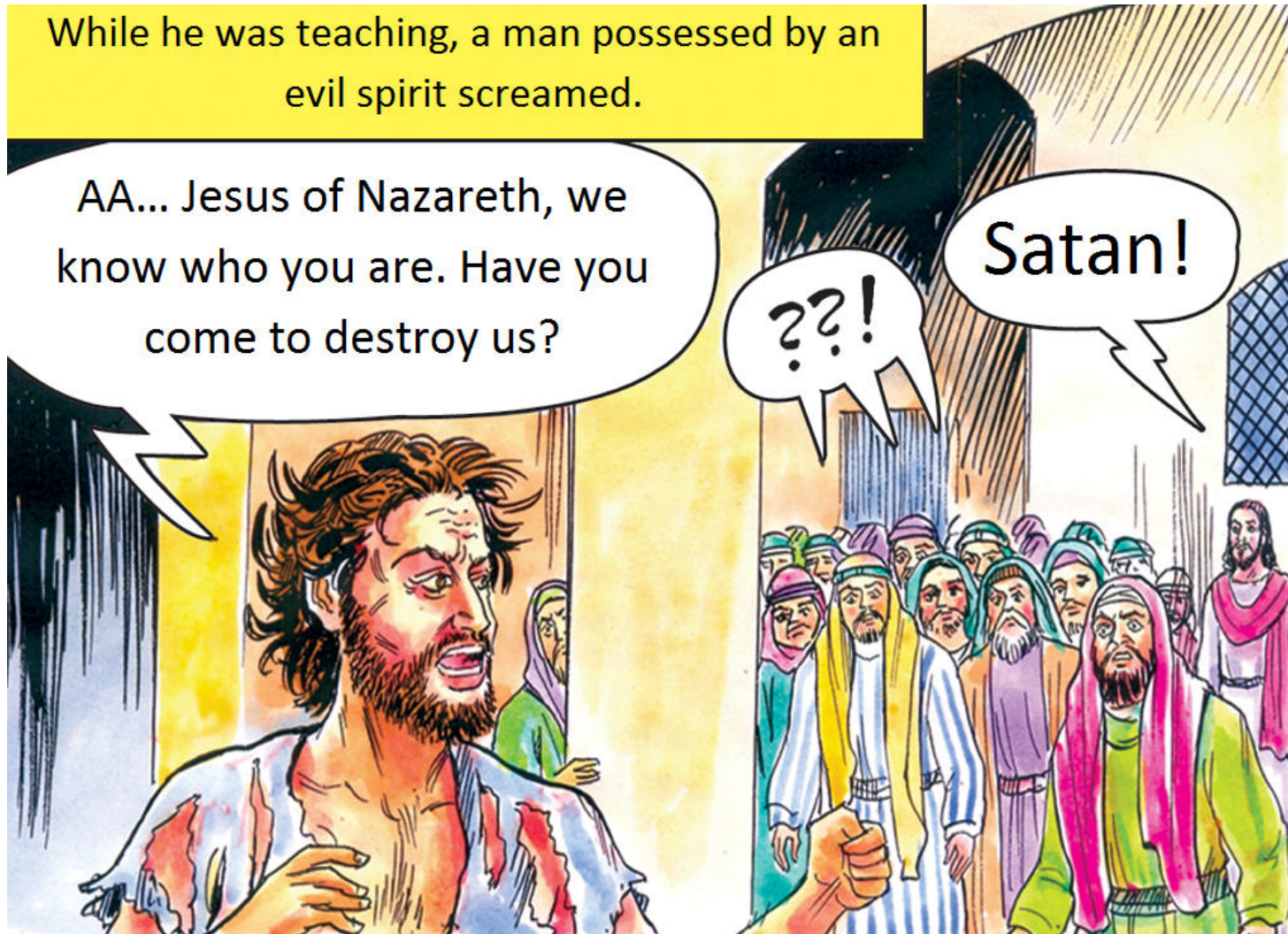


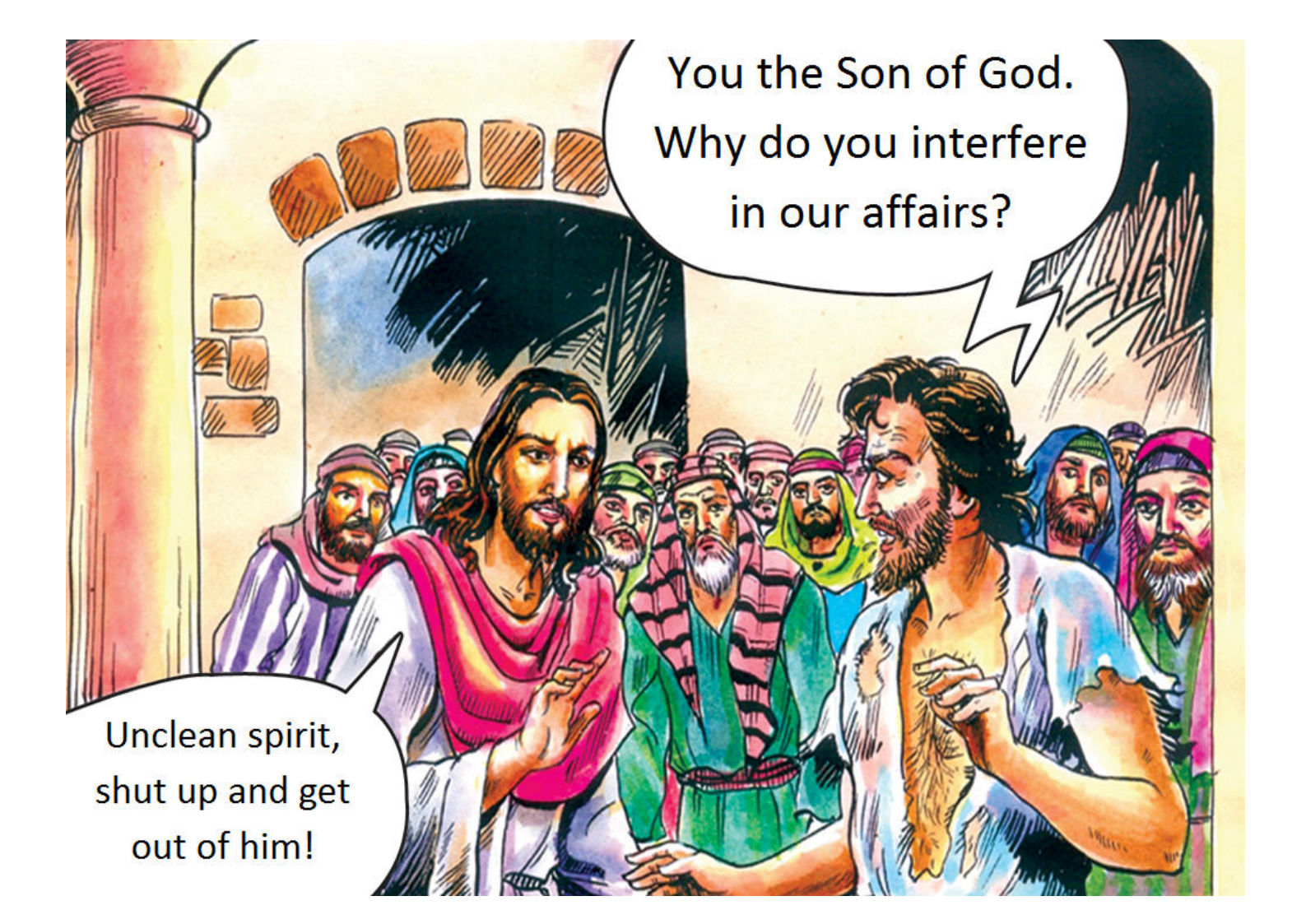
While he was teaching, a man possessed by an evil spirit screamed.

AA... Jesus of Nazareth, we know who you are. Have you come to destroy us?

Satan!

??!





You the Son of God.
Why do you interfere
in our affairs?

Unclean spirit,
shut up and get
out of him!

The possessed man fell to the ground and the evil spirit left him.

Get up. Be free from the power of evil.

Who is this? What is this power?

What an authority he has! Never heard anything like this before.



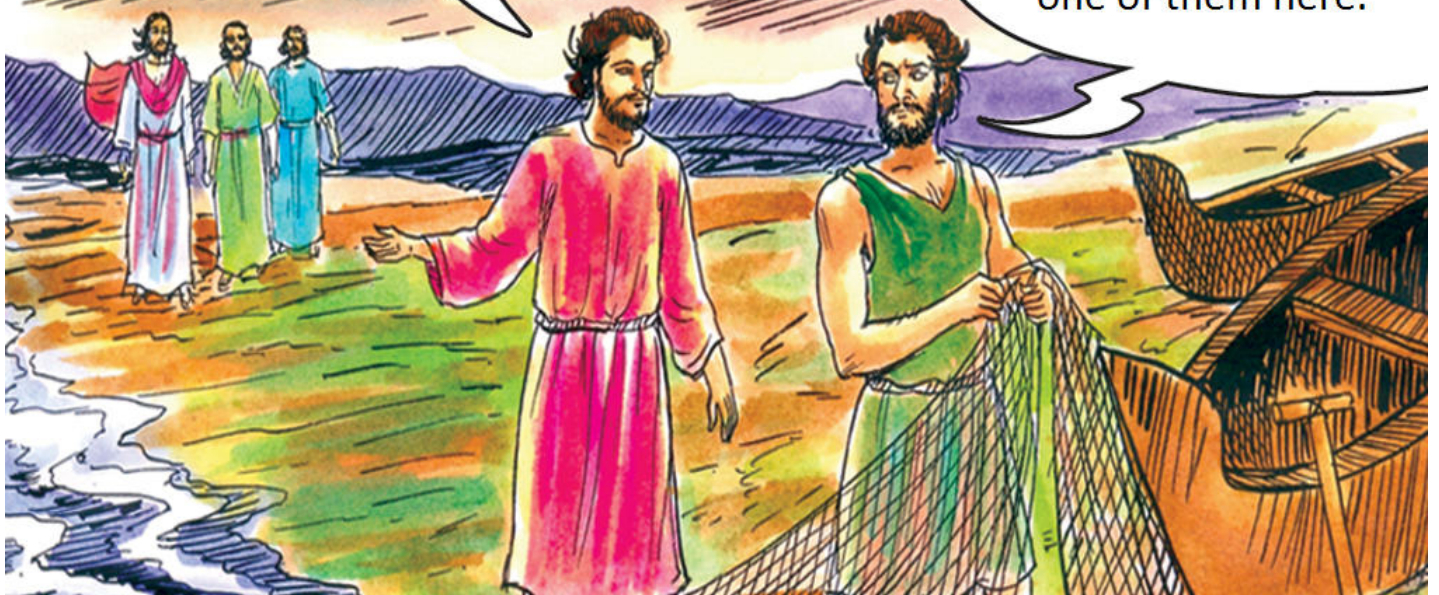
God has worked through Him.

The incident at the Synagogue became the talk of the town.

What?

Simon, here is the Master! I told you about. It is about him that the Baptist told us.

Another preacher? We work day and night and still go empty stomach. We don't want another one of them here.



See the empty net? Mathew wants taxes. The boat and net are mortgaged. At home all are starving.

Come, my brother and meet the Master.



You and your Master! Ask him to preach to the fish and persuade them to enter my net, if he can.

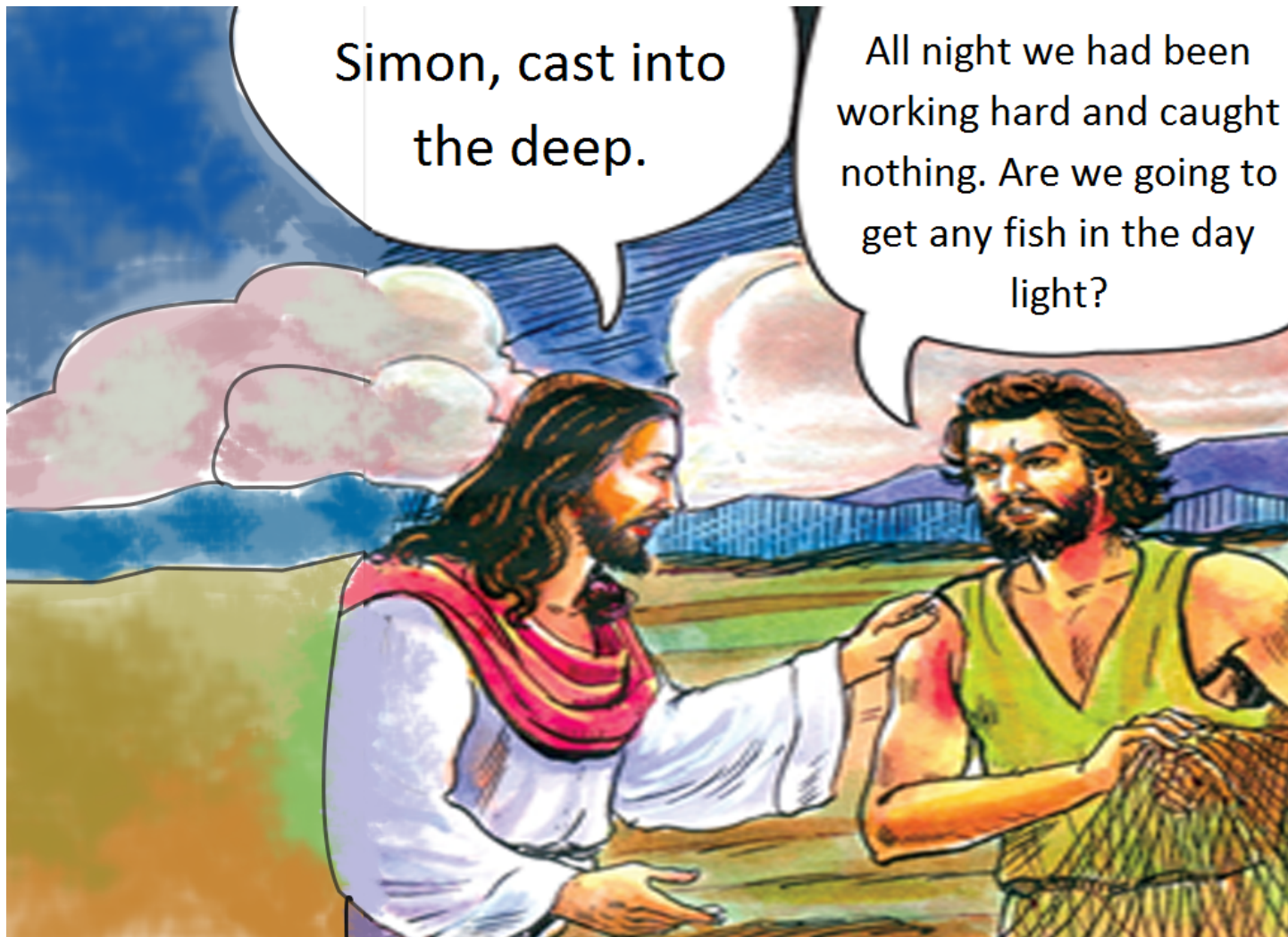
Simon!

!



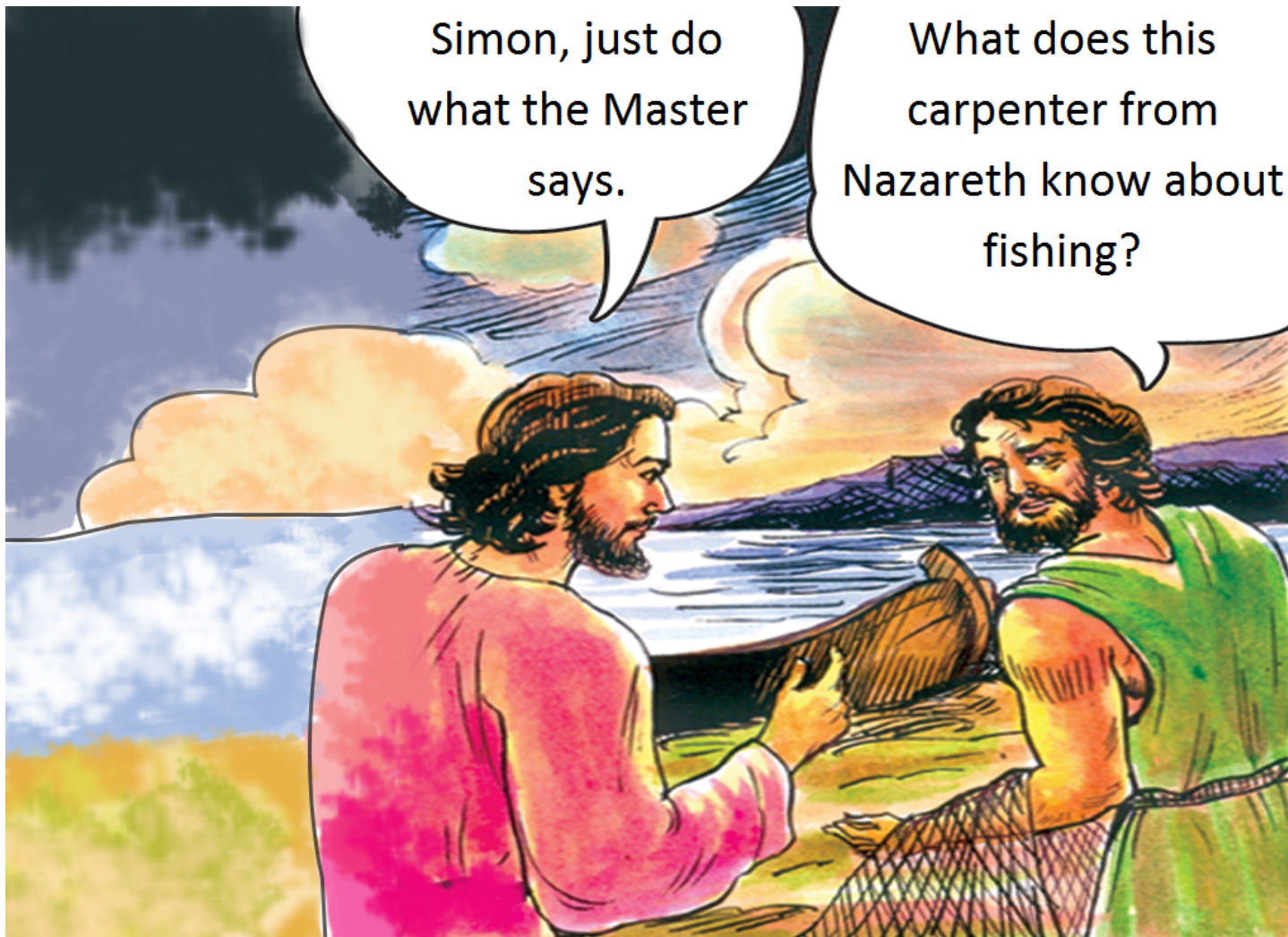
Simon, cast into
the deep.

All night we had been
working hard and caught
nothing. Are we going to
get any fish in the day
light?



Simon, just do
what the Master
says.

What does this
carpenter from
Nazareth know about
fishing?



Simon, you do not know who this is.

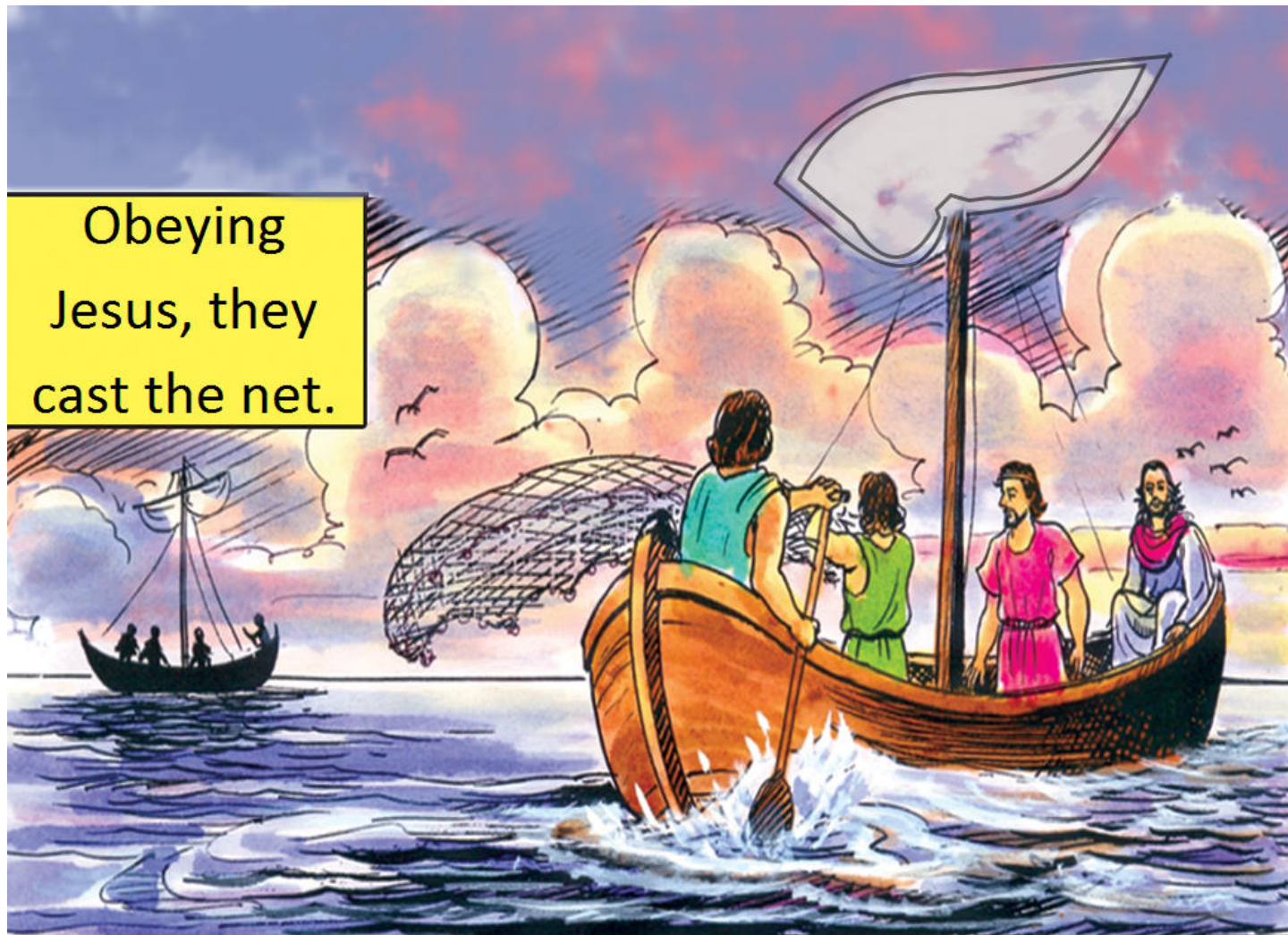
All right, if you insist. Ask your Master to convince the fish to enter the net!



They went into deep waters with Jesus.



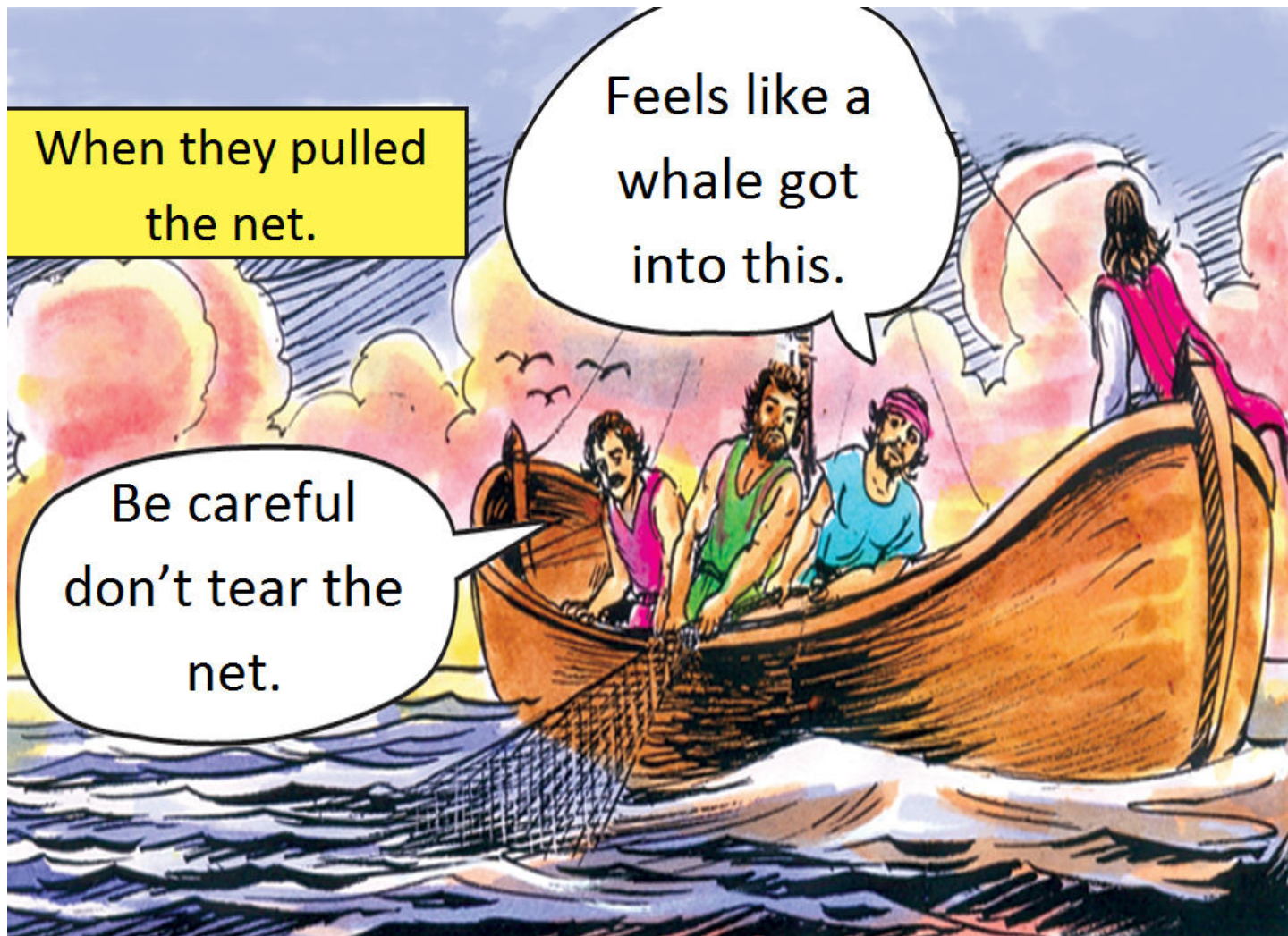
Obeying
Jesus, they
cast the net.



When they pulled
the net.

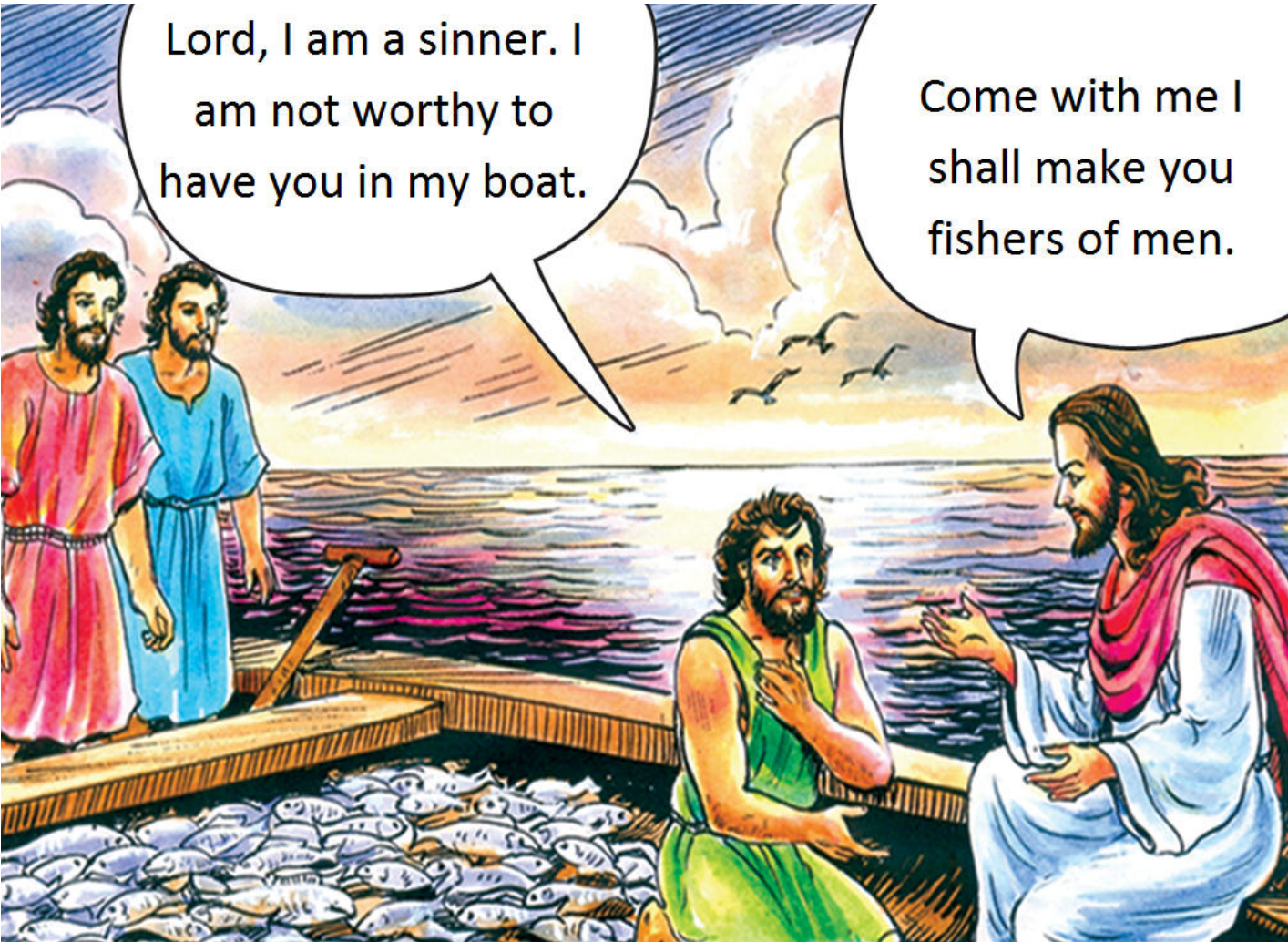
Feels like a
whale got
into this.

Be careful
don't tear the
net.





Zebedee's
boat was
nearby. Both
boats were
filled with
fish.



Lord, I am a sinner. I
am not worthy to
have you in my boat.

Come with me I
shall make you
fishers of men.

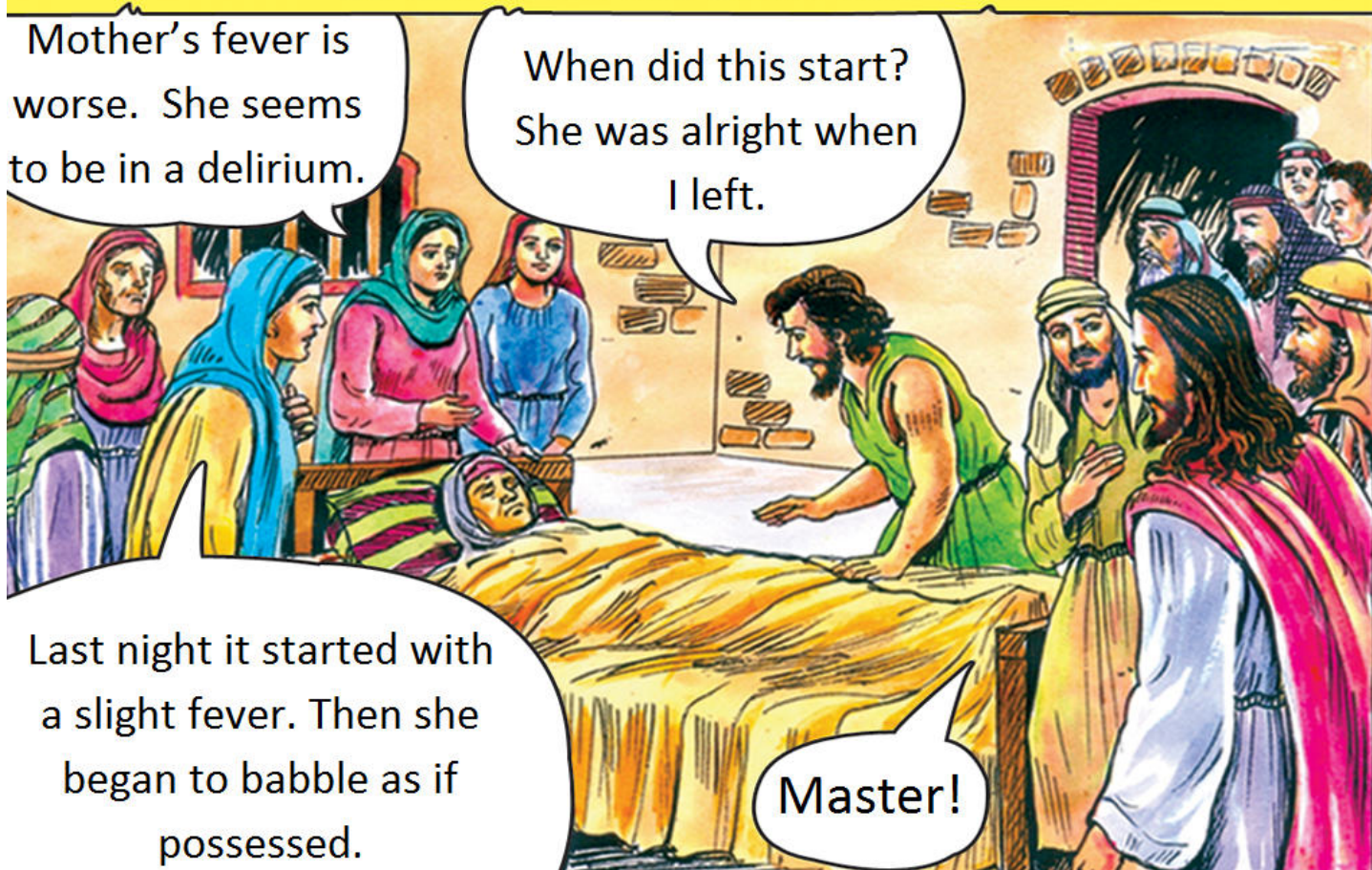
After pulling the boat to the shore, they went to Simon's. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with fever.

Mother's fever is worse. She seems to be in a delirium.

When did this start? She was alright when I left.

Last night it started with a slight fever. Then she began to babble as if possessed.

Master!



Jesus lifted her by hand and
the fever left her.

What are you all staring
at? Simon, Don't you see
that the Master is still
standing? Ruth, go to
the kitchen. I am
coming.



That evening they brought to him many who were sick, crippled or possessed by demons. Jesus cured them all.



Master I want to see.

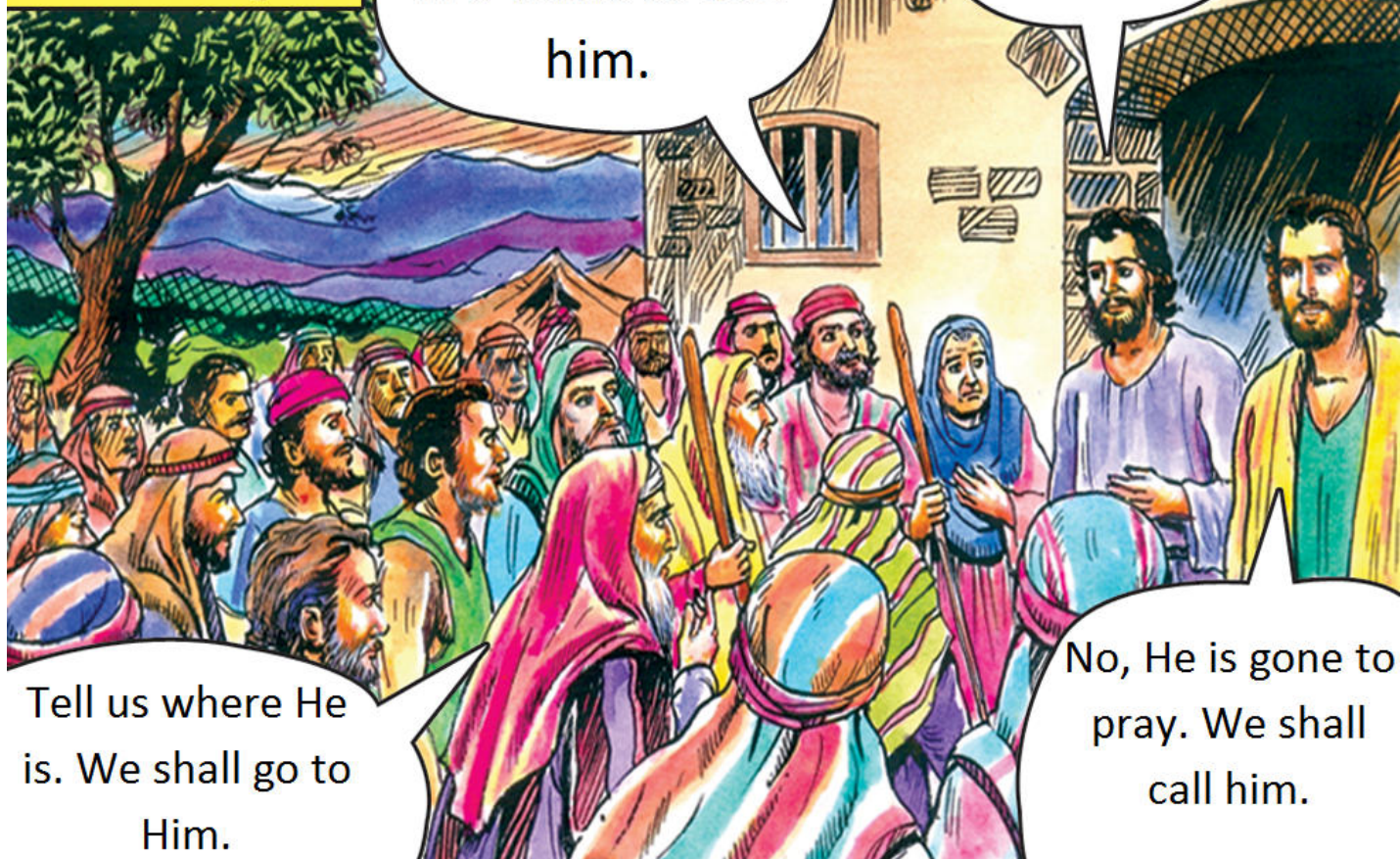
Master, I want to walk.

AA... Jesus, Son of God, leave us alone.

The next morning.

Where is Jesus?
We want to see
him.

The Master is
not here.



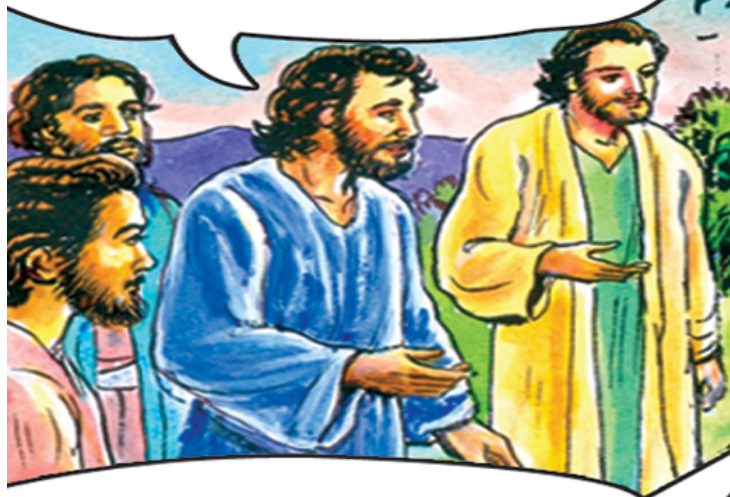
Tell us where He
is. We shall go to
Him.

No, He is gone to
pray. We shall
call him.

Early in the morning Jesus had gone to a lonely place to pray. They met him there.

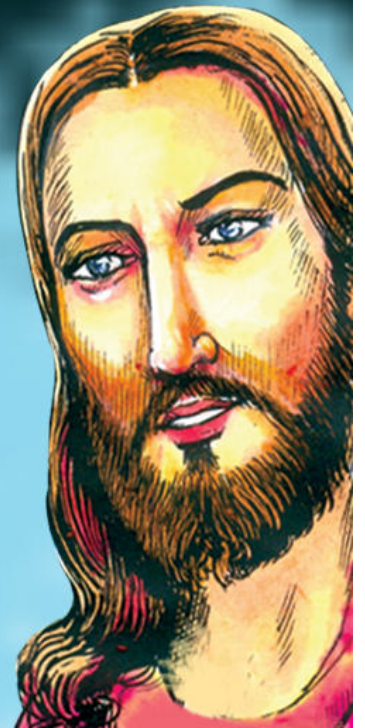
Master, there is a big crowd at our house.

Please come with us.



Come, let us go. I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom in other towns also.

It is for this that
I have been
sent.



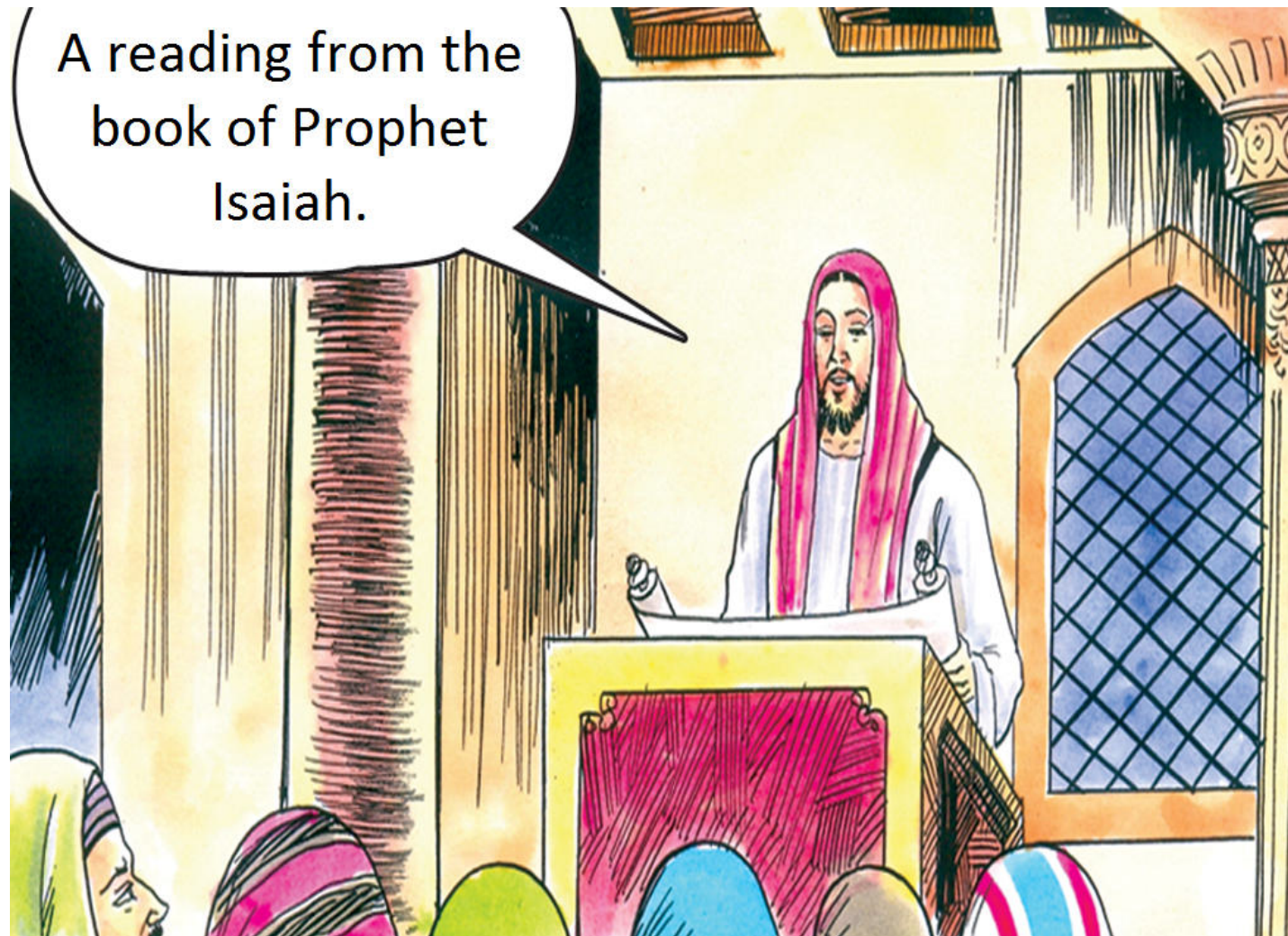
Jesus went through the villages and towns of Galilee, preaching the Good News and healing the sick. On a Sabbath day he came to Synagogue at Nazareth.



After the
introductory
prayers.



A reading from the
book of Prophet
Isaiah.



“The spirit of the Lord is upon me.
For he has anointed me. He has
sent me to bring the good news to
the poor”.



“Liberty to the captives, sight to the blind, freedom to the oppressed and to proclaim the Lord’s year of favor”.



After the reading.

These are the very words the prophet spoke to the exiles who returned and were forced into slavery by hunger and unpaid debts.

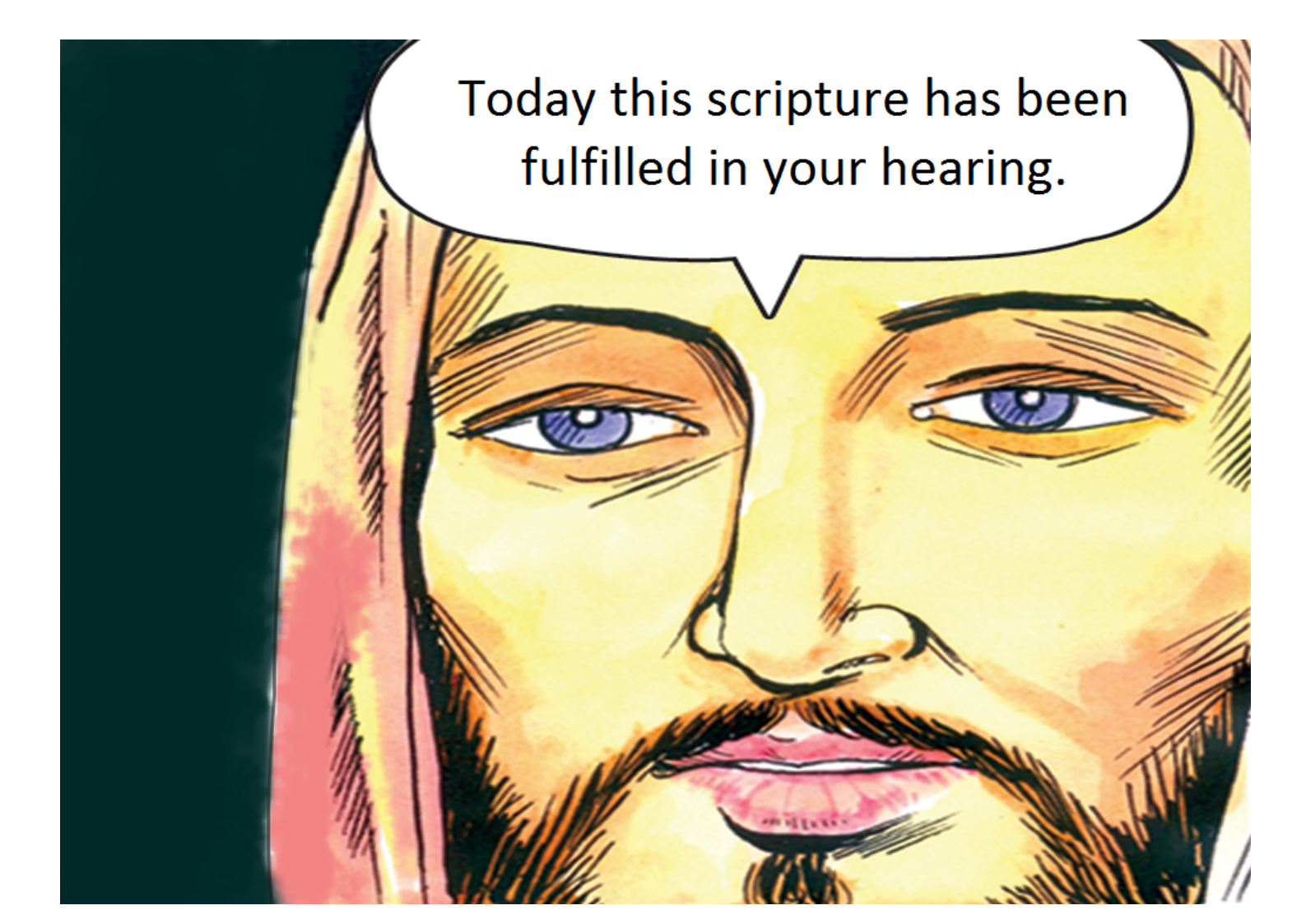
Why did he stop the reading in the middle? He left out the day of Punishment.

Keep quiet! Let us hear what he is saying.



The Words of the prophet are the promise of the Lord. Promise to all who live in slavery.



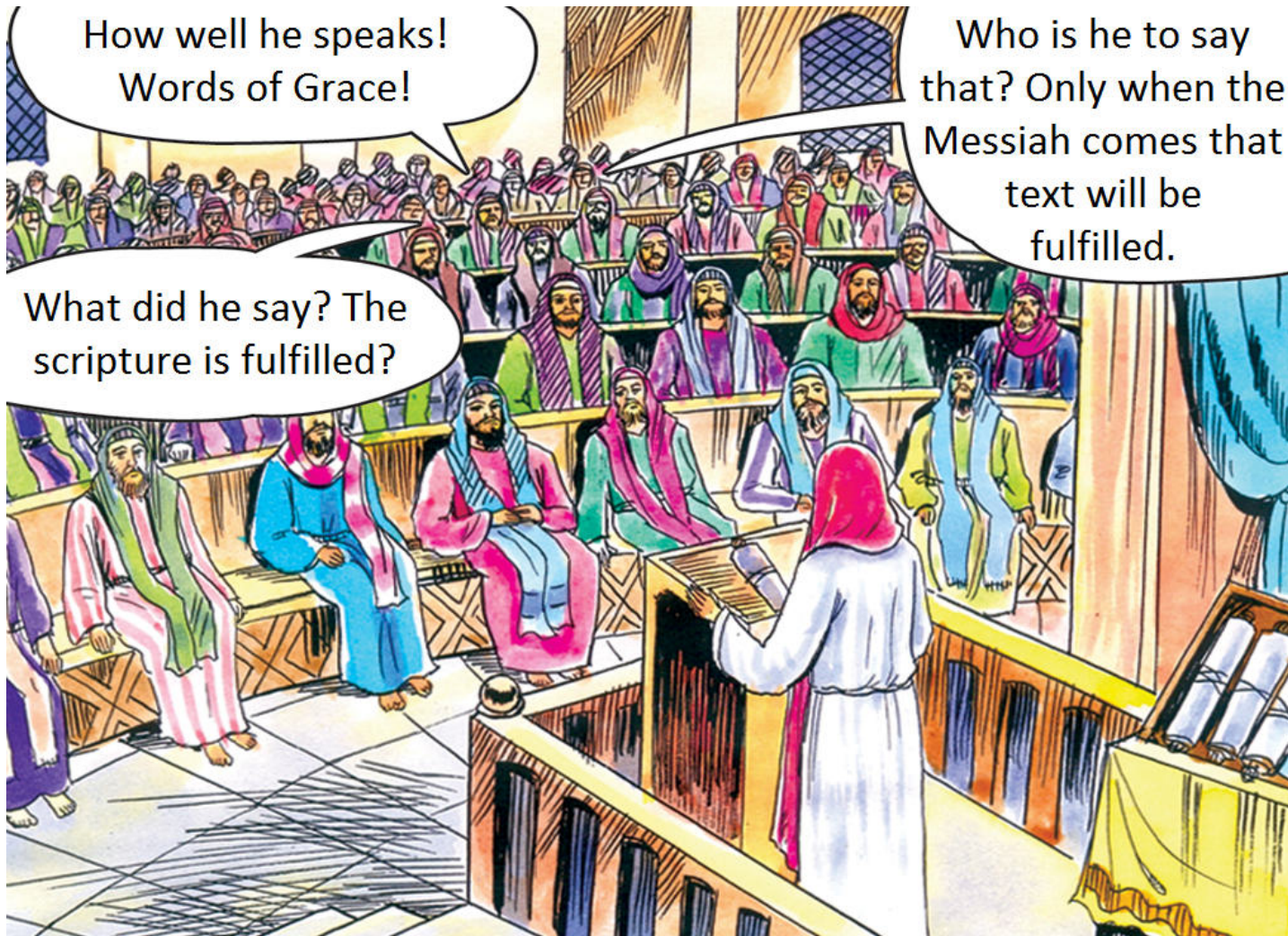
A close-up illustration of a man's face, likely Jesus, with a beard and blue eyes. He is speaking, and a speech bubble is positioned above his mouth. The background is dark green.

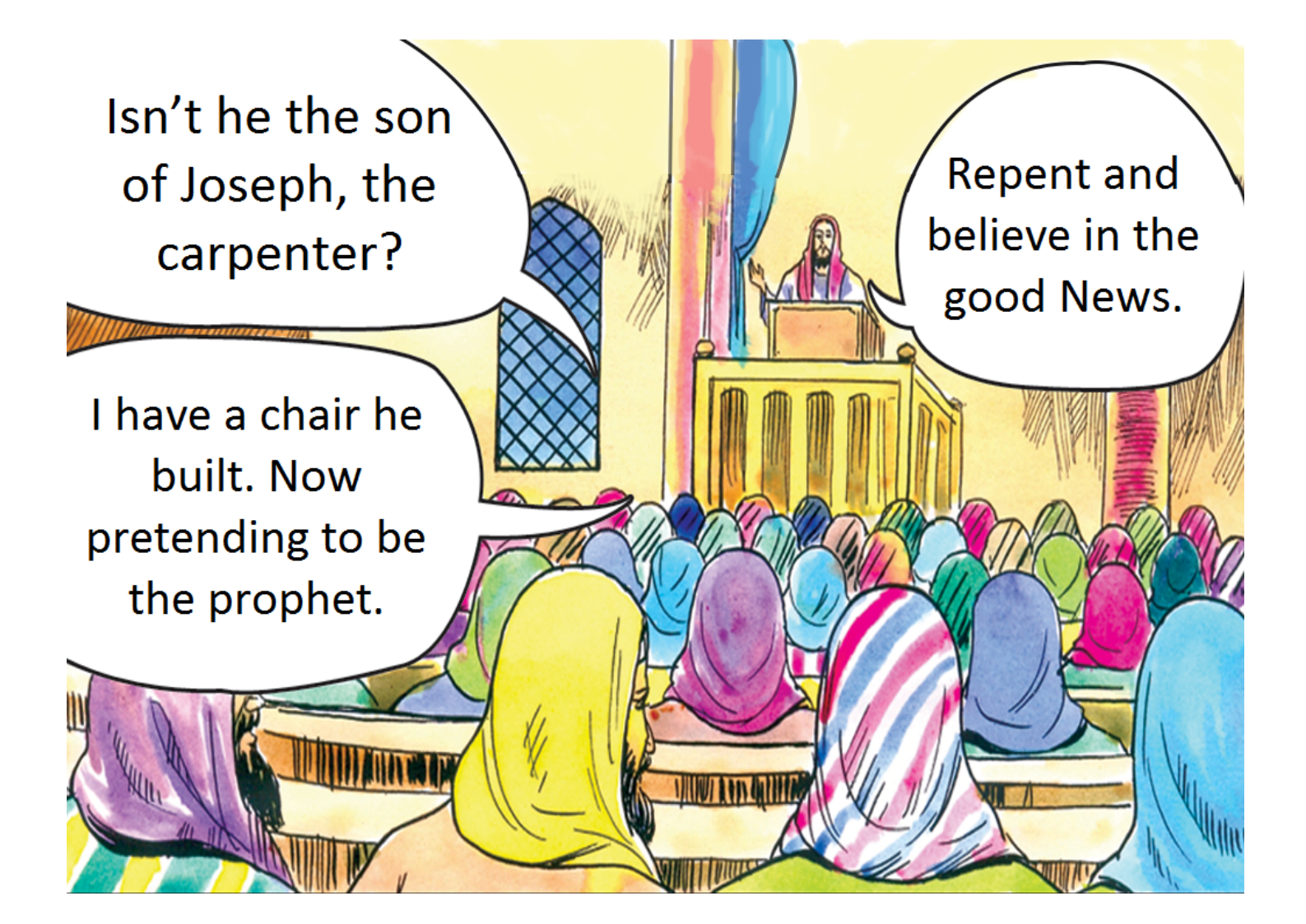
Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.

How well he speaks!
Words of Grace!

Who is he to say
that? Only when the
Messiah comes that
text will be
fulfilled.

What did he say? The
scripture is fulfilled?





Isn't he the son
of Joseph, the
carpenter?

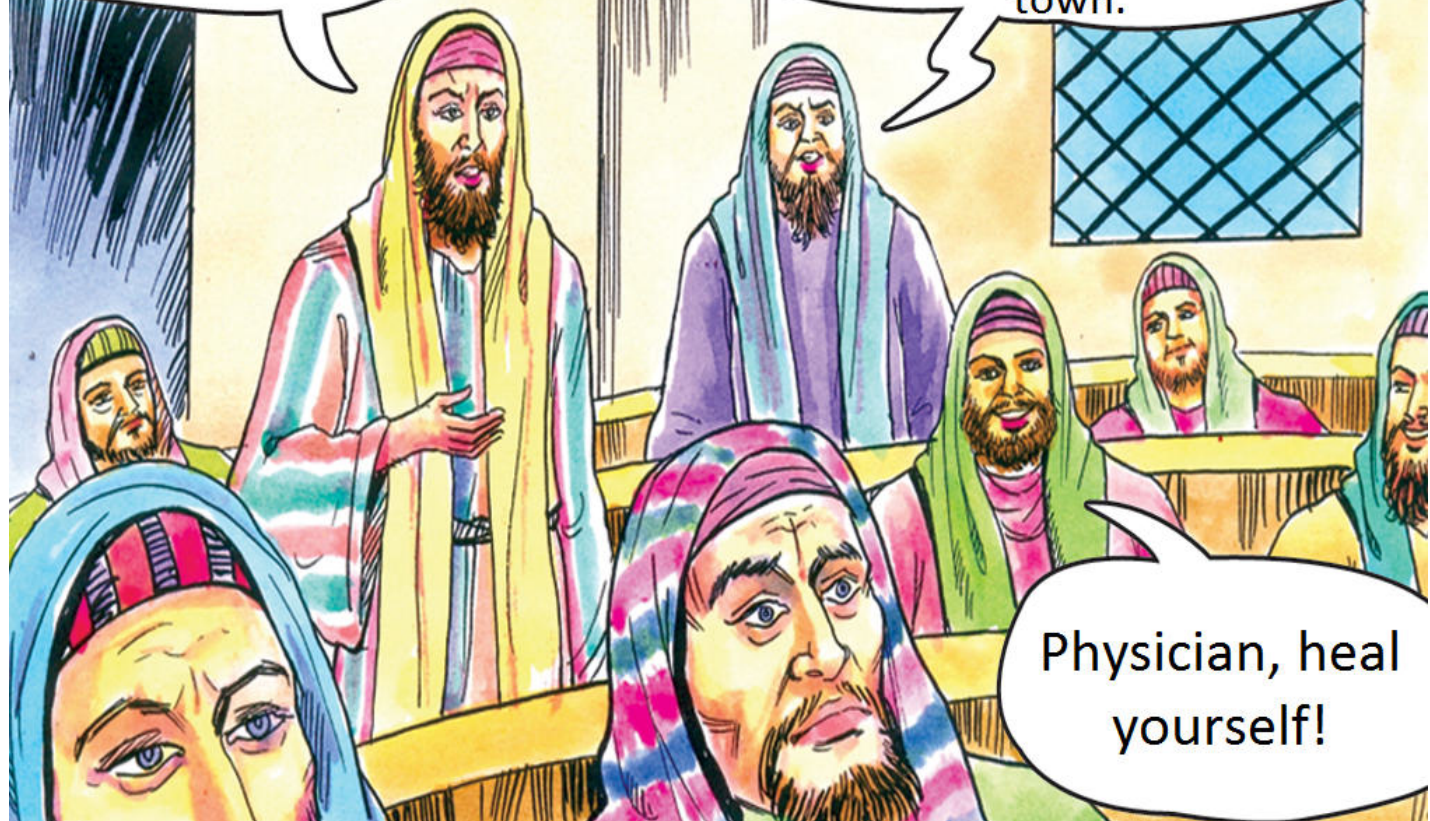
I have a chair he
built. Now
pretending to be
the prophet.


Repent and
believe in the
good News.

What sign do you show that we may believe in you?

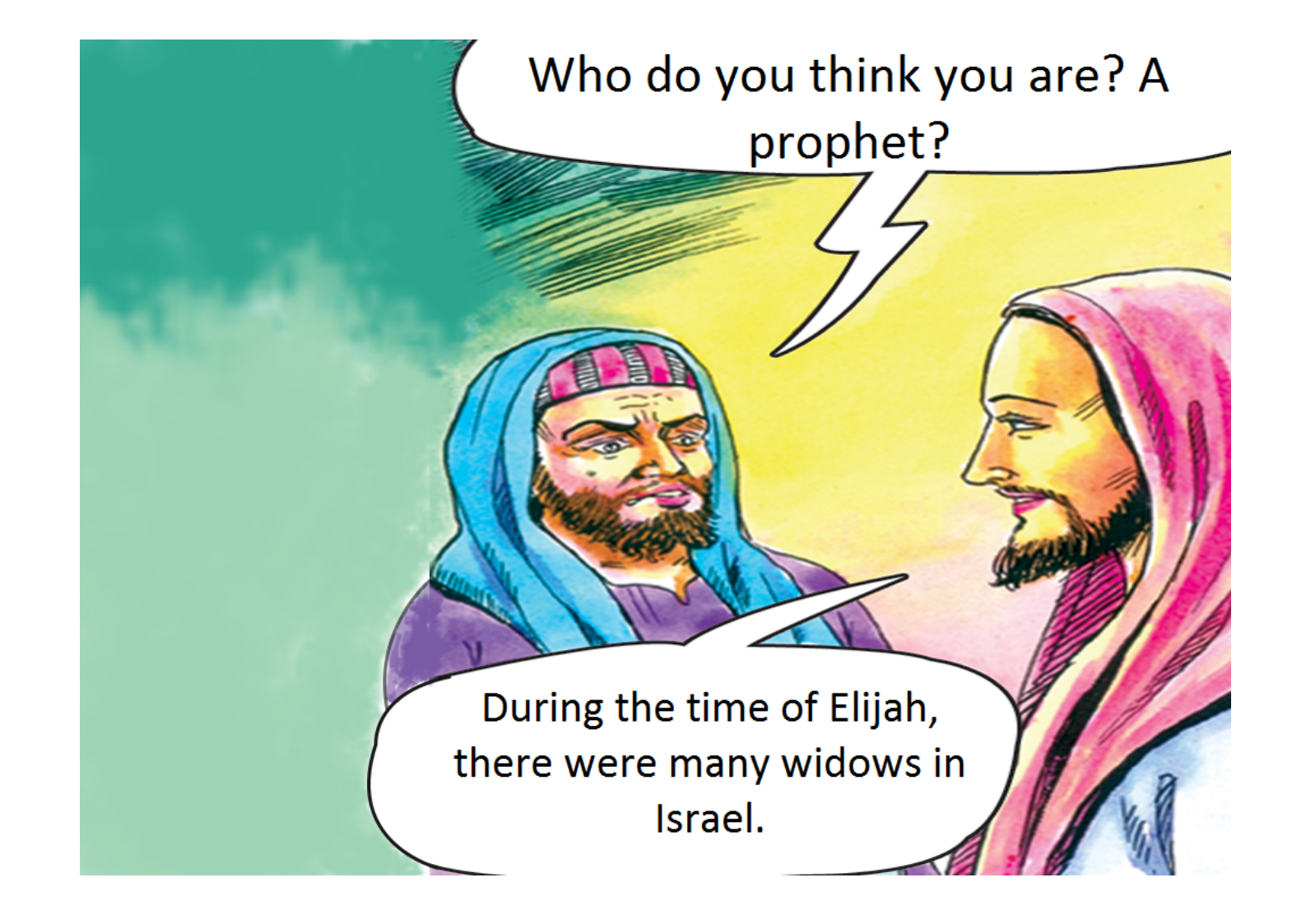
We heard you worked many miracles in Capernaum. Do the same here, in your home town.

Physician, heal yourself!





I tell you solemnly, a prophet is never accepted in his own country.

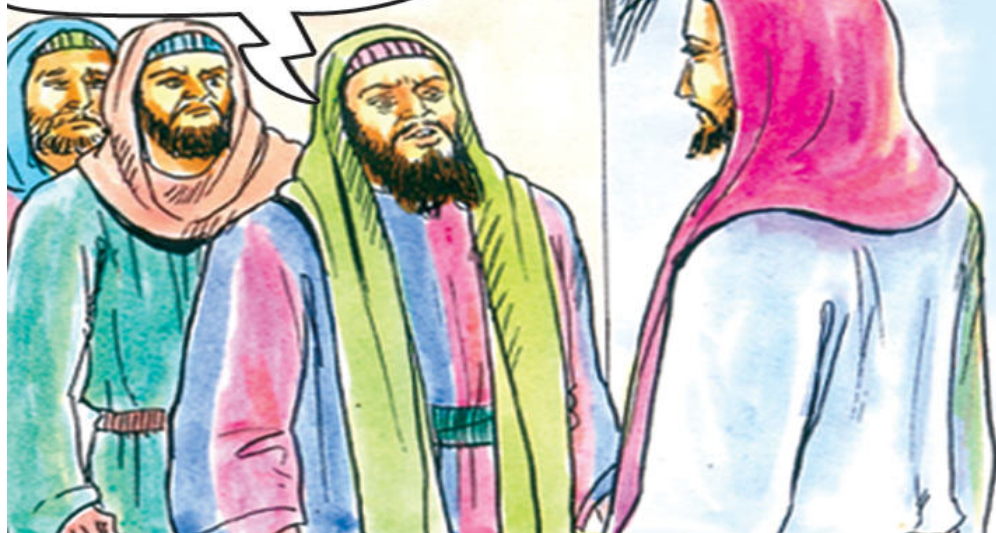


Who do you think you are? A prophet?

During the time of Elijah,
there were many widows in
Israel.

But when there was drought
and famine, it was a widow of
Zarephath that the prophet
was sent.

Be careful of what you
are saying, a prophet.




During the time of the prophet Elisha, there were many lepers in Israel, but none of them were healed except Naaman the Syrian.



Did you hear what he said? He considers us lepers and widows!

According to him God prefers the accursed gentiles to Israel.

Catch him!



The people in the Synagogue became furious and took him out of the city.

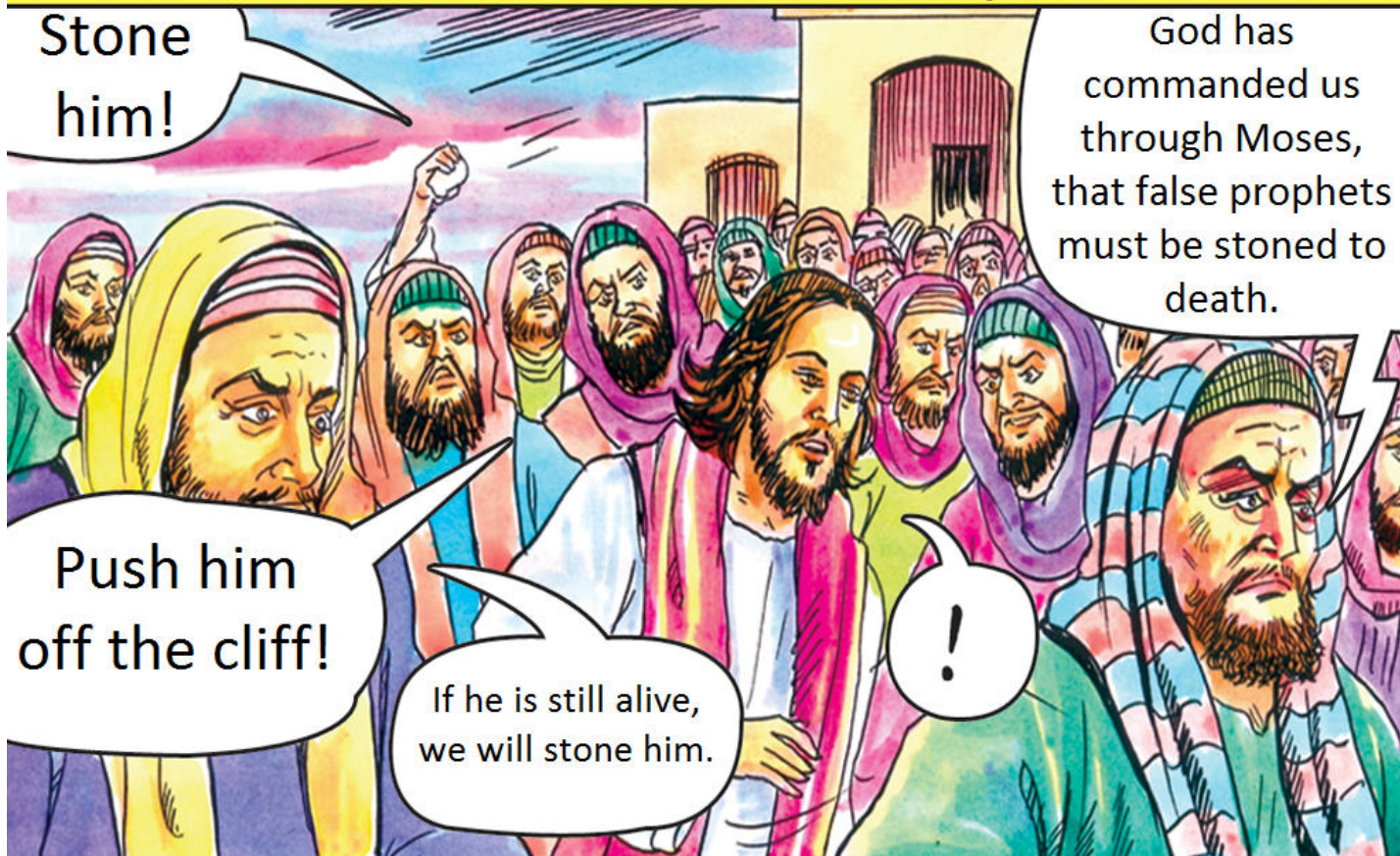
Stone him!

God has commanded us through Moses, that false prophets must be stoned to death.

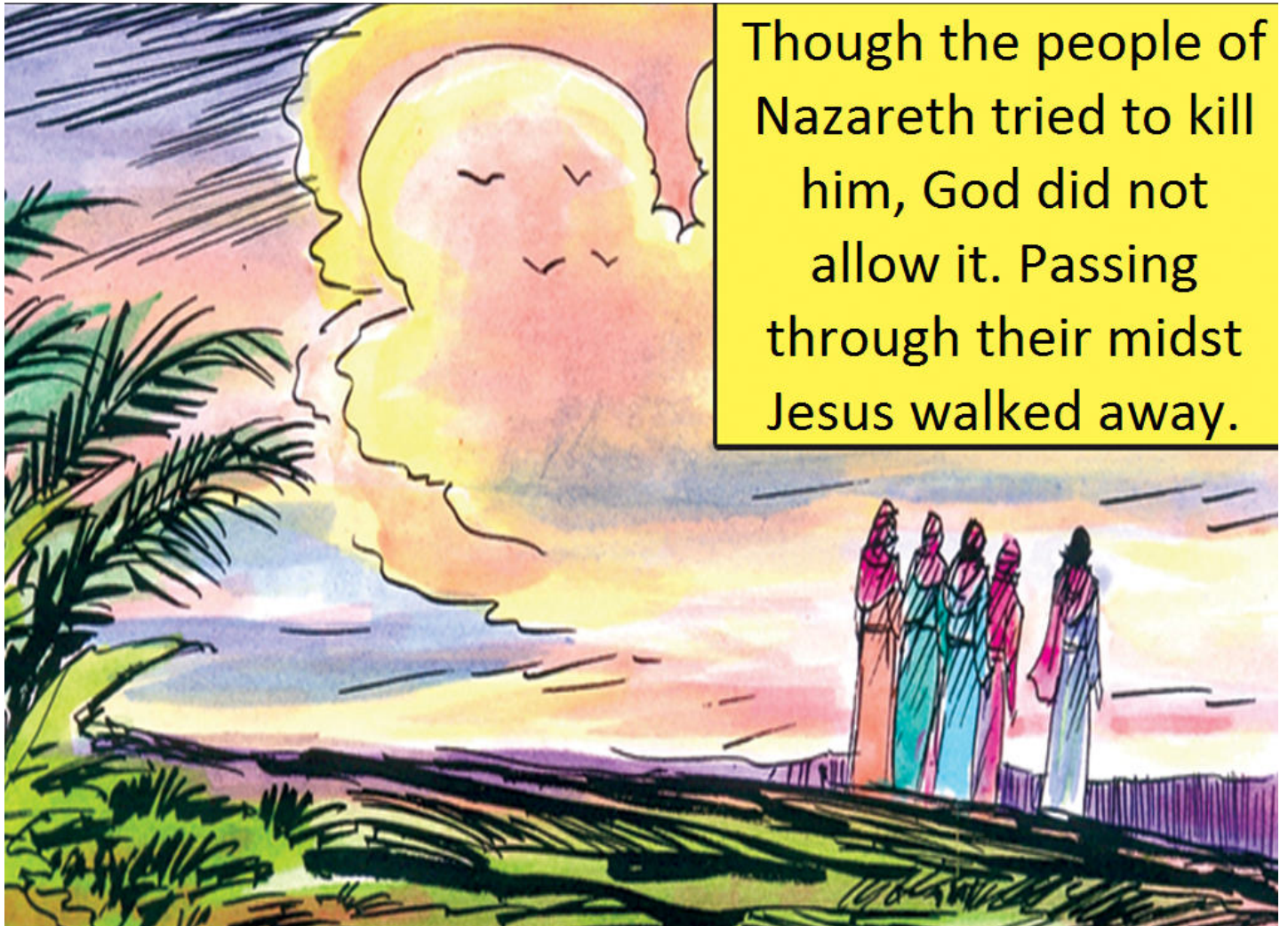
Push him off the cliff!



If he is still alive, we will stone him.

!



Though the people of Nazareth tried to kill him, God did not allow it. Passing through their midst Jesus walked away.





The shadow of the cross fell
on the path of Jesus who
proclaimed the Good News
of liberation. In the midst of
opposition Jesus carried out
his mission.

Next Story

The Liberator



Questions

1. According to the Bible who is a prophet?
2. What did Jesus say to the tempter who told him to turn the stone into bread?
3. How did Jesus defeat the tempter?
4. What did Jesus mean by “my time”?
5. What do water and wine of Cana symbolize?
6. How did Jesus respond to Mary’s intercession?
7. What should one do to enter the kingdom of God?
8. What was the programme Jesus announced at Nazareth?
9. Why did Peter ask Jesus to go away from him?
10. Why did the people of Nazareth reject Jesus?

Memorize: *“The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to Proclaim the Good news to the poor.”*(Luke 4, 18)

THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN COMICS

1. Cain and Abel
2. Abraham
3. Jacob
4. Joseph
5. Moses
6. Joshua
7. Samson
8. Ruth
9. Samuel
10. Saul
11. David
12. King David
13. Solomon
14. Elijah
15. Amos
16. Hosea
17. Micah

18. Isaiah
19. Jeremiah
20. Ezekiel
21. Zechariah
22. Jonah
23. Job
24. Tobit
25. Daniel
26. Susanna
27. Esther
28. Judith
29. Maccabeus
30. The Maccabees
31. A World Awaiting
32. Light of the world
33. The Herald
34. The Prophet
35. The Liberator

36. The One to come
37. The Lord of the Universe
38. Son of God
39. The Son of Man
40. In the shadow of the cross
41. The Way
42. Son of David
43. Bread of Life
44. The Redeemer
45. With us forever
46. Tongues of fire
47. Baptism in blood
48. The chosen vessel
49. Libation
50. Come, Lord Jesus
51. Woman