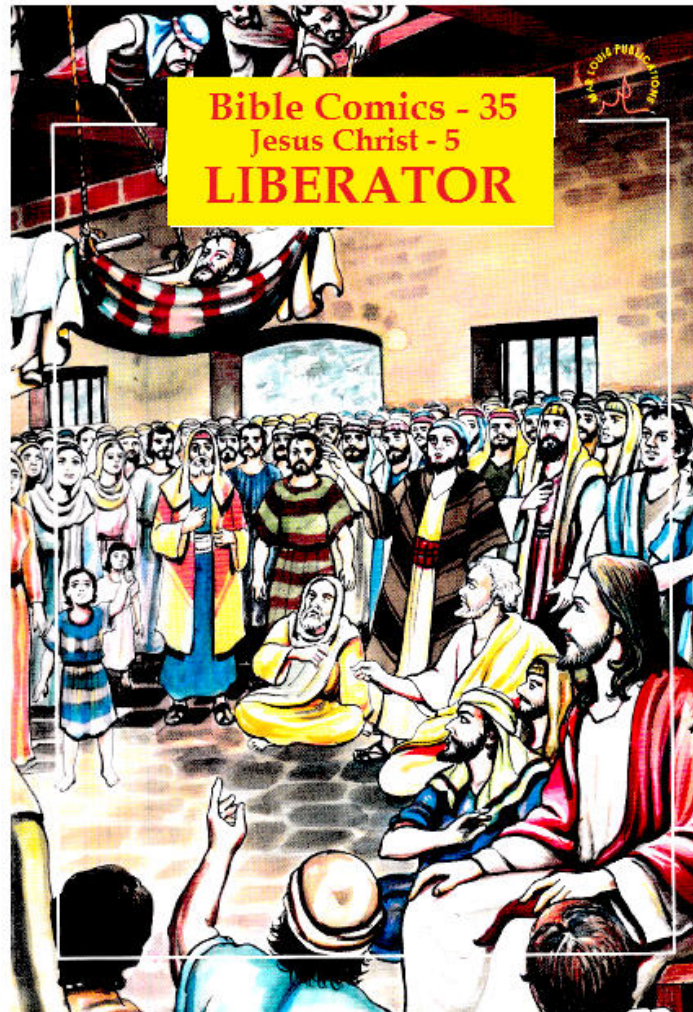


Bible Comics - 35  
Jesus Christ - 5  
**LIBERATOR**



# The Liberator

Today, more than ever, People are looking to Jesus as the liberator of mankind. But in defining the nature of liberation, there exists a variety of opinions. Some emphasize the socio-political liberation while others restrict it entirely to the spiritual sphere, as liberation of the souls from sin. In the present story we are depicting a few

episodes that highlight the various aspects of liberation.

In the programmatic episode of Nazareth, Jesus announced that he was sent to proclaim the Good News of liberation to the oppressed. His subsequent ministry is the fulfillment of that programme. Hence in order to understand the nature of liberation Jesus proclaimed, we have to see what he did and taught and how he responded to the expectation of the people.

Among the contemporaries of Jesus, there existed various views about liberation and about the ways and means of achieving it. As Palestine was under Roman rule a political liberation foremost in the mind of the Jews. There were many revolutionary groups in Palestine, especially in Galilee. They wanted to throw out the Romans by armed revolt. A Guerilla group known as Zealots that is believed to have originated in A.D. 6 with Judas the Galilean as its leader was the

most important among them. Barabbas and the two thieves crucified with Jesus probably belonged to that group. Some of the apostles of Jesus had affinity with them and one named Simon is explicitly identified as a Zealot. However, Jesus neither shared their aspirations nor approved of their violent methods.

The Liberation Jesus proclaimed concerned the whole person and the whole world. He did not make a distinction between the Israelites and the Gentiles,

between Zealots and Romans. In the eyes of Jesus the world was under the dominion of evil that manifested itself as oppression, foreign dominion, alienation, sickness and death. Hence he started his ministry striking at the root of evil, namely sin and Satan. The various healing and exorcising activities of Jesus have to be understood as liberation from evil.

The Sinai Covenant and the laws were given to Israel in order to guarantee freedom to all. But as interpreted and

enforced by the religious leaders, these very laws became an enslaving force. Sabbath was meant to give rest to those who work, but it turned out to be an unbearable burden to the people. The Laws concerning cleanliness were intended to emphasize the need of being holy in body and soul. However, in the course of time these became the basis of discrimination. The majority of the people were branded as unclean by birth (pagans, Samaritans),

health (handicapped, Lepers, possessed),  
profession (tax collectors, shepherds) etc.

By Casting out demons, healing the sick, associating himself with outcasts and forgiving sins, Jesus set them free and restored them the dignity of the children of God. He placed human beings over the laws and explained that laws were meant to guarantee freedom and not slavery.

While liberating the people from various forms of slavery, Jesus called the



individuals and the entire nation to a radical conversion. The Samaritan woman must forsake her sinful past; the publican must renounce his greed and share his goods with the poor. In order to enter the kingdom of God, everybody must believe in Jesus Christ, turn away from the evil ways and dedicate themselves entirely to the service of God. True freedom can be obtained only through a radical change of heart, leading to creation of a new society based on love that knows no limits.

Bible Comics - 35  
**JESUS CHRIST - 5**  
**LIBERATOR**

Script  
Dr. Michael Karimattam

Illustration  
Devassy & Benny



Rejected by his own people, Jesus went around the villages and towns of Galilee with his disciples, proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom. As they approached a town.



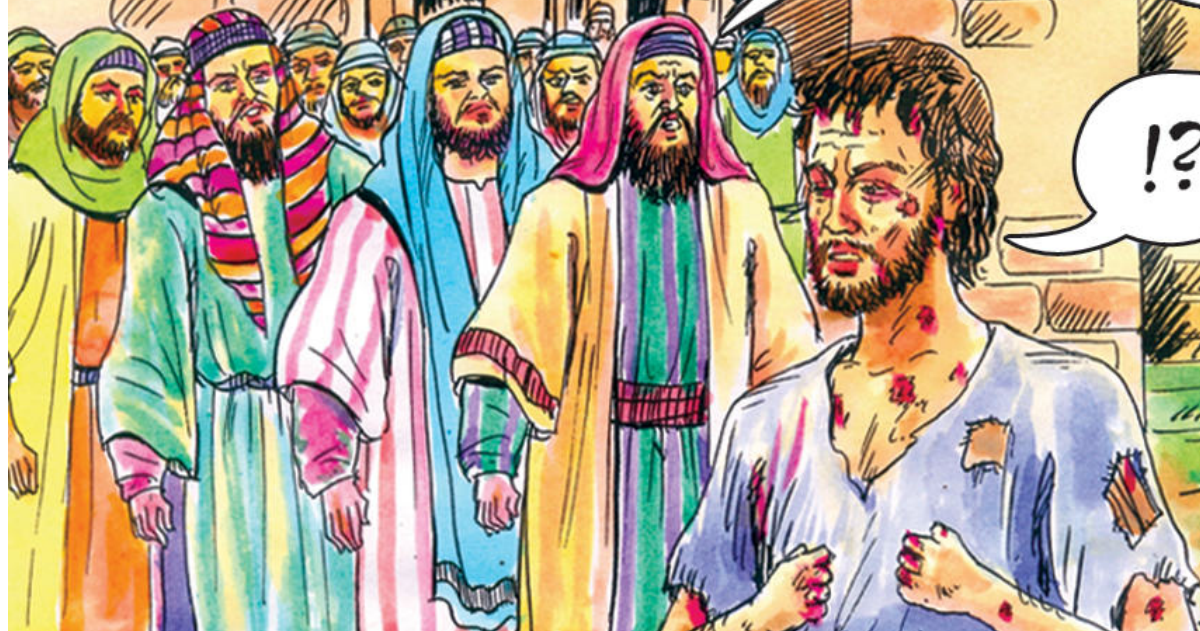
Outside the town.

Get away! You'll make the whole town unclean.

Now I have to take a bath before I go home.

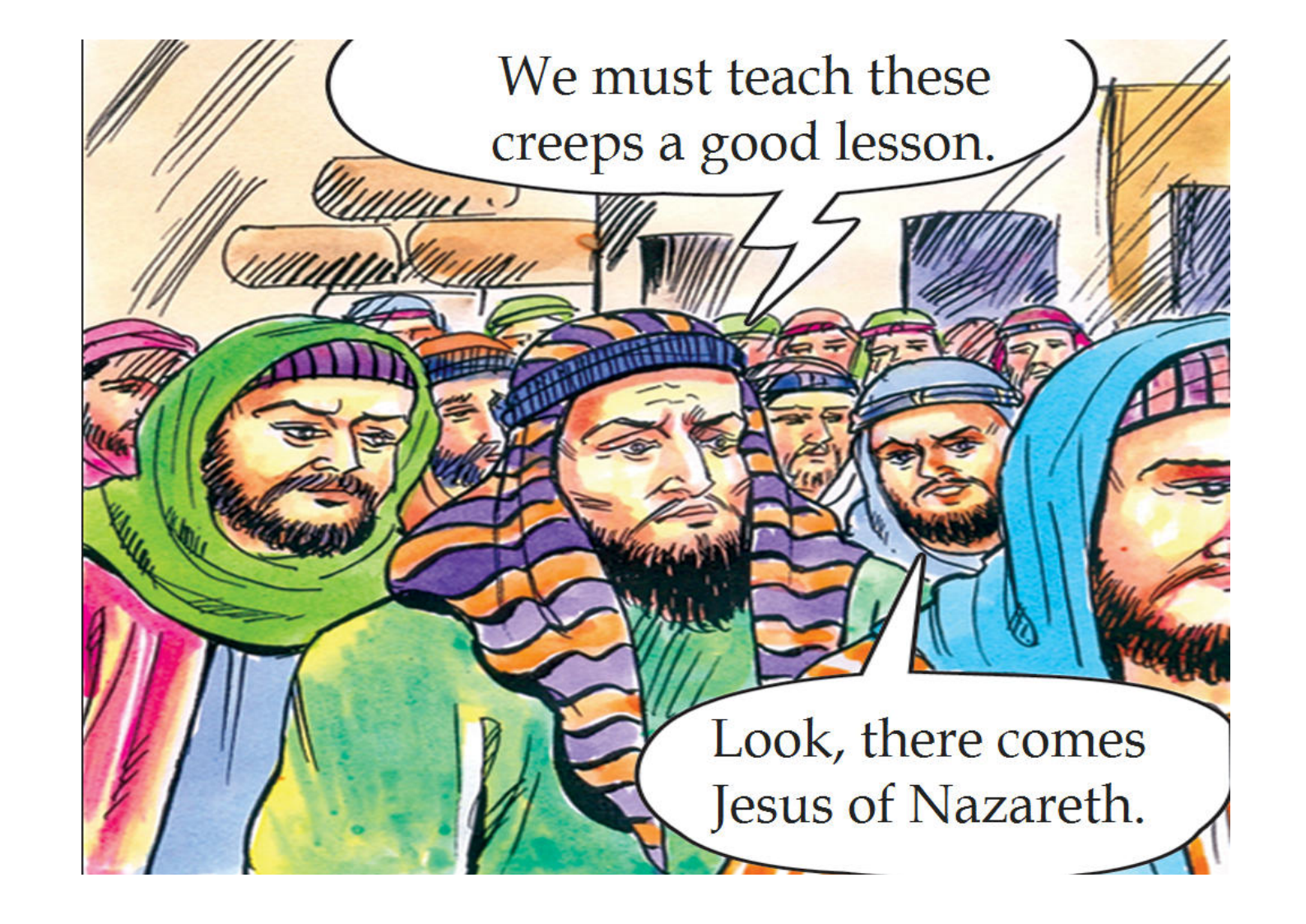
Lepers should stay away from town. They should not walk on public roads.

!?



They must wear torn clothes,  
and have your mouths  
covered a clothe and  
keep on shouting "unclean,  
unclean".





We must teach these  
creeps a good lesson.

Look, there comes  
Jesus of Nazareth.

Seeing Jesus, the leper ran to him.

Looks like a  
leper is coming  
this way.

He will make  
us all unclean.

Simon, what  
is clean?

!



Master, if you want to, you  
can make us clean.

Of course! I want  
to. Be cured!

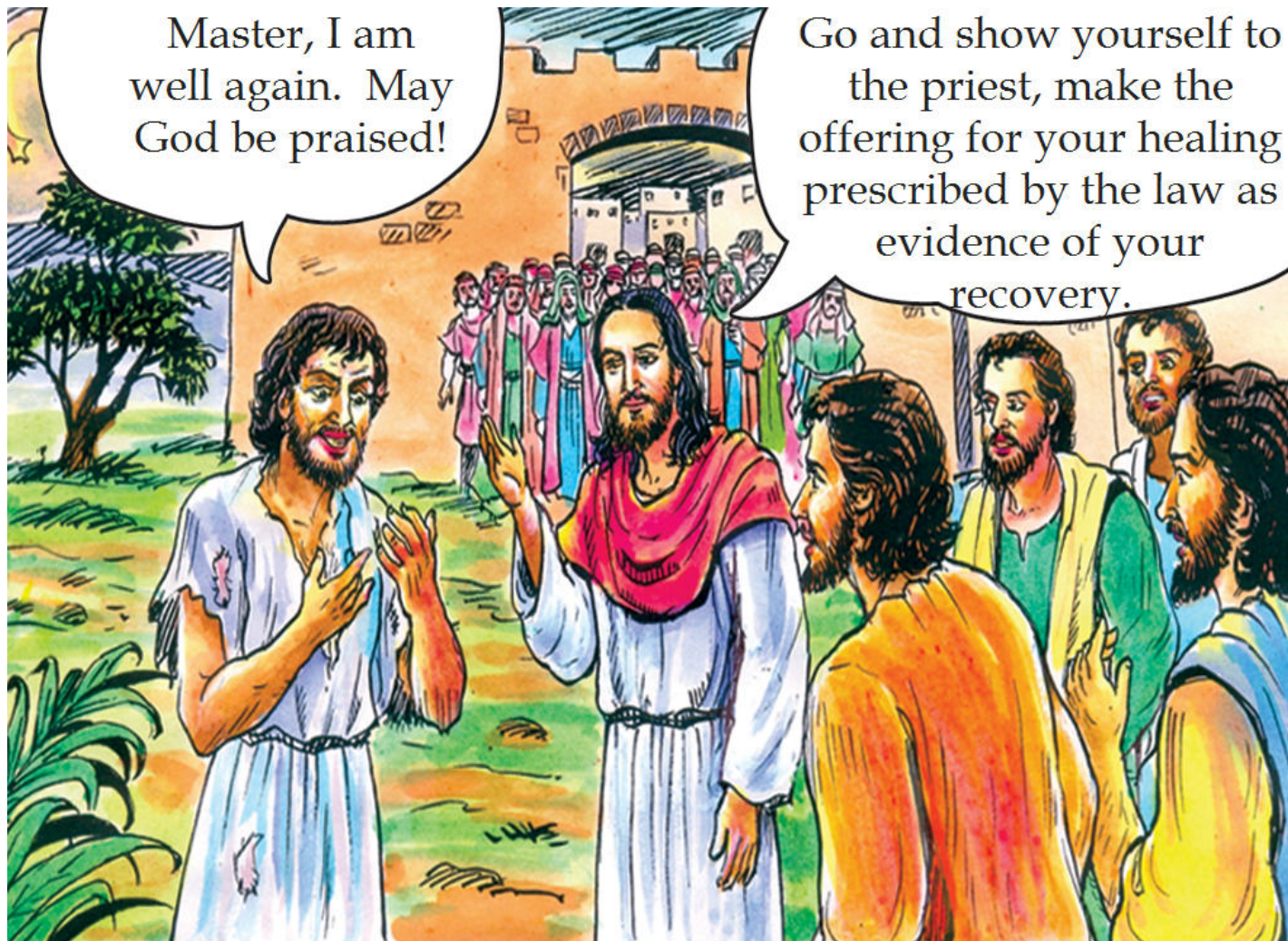






Master, I am well again. May God be praised!

Go and show yourself to the priest, make the offering for your healing prescribed by the law as evidence of your recovery.



At the same time, outside the town.

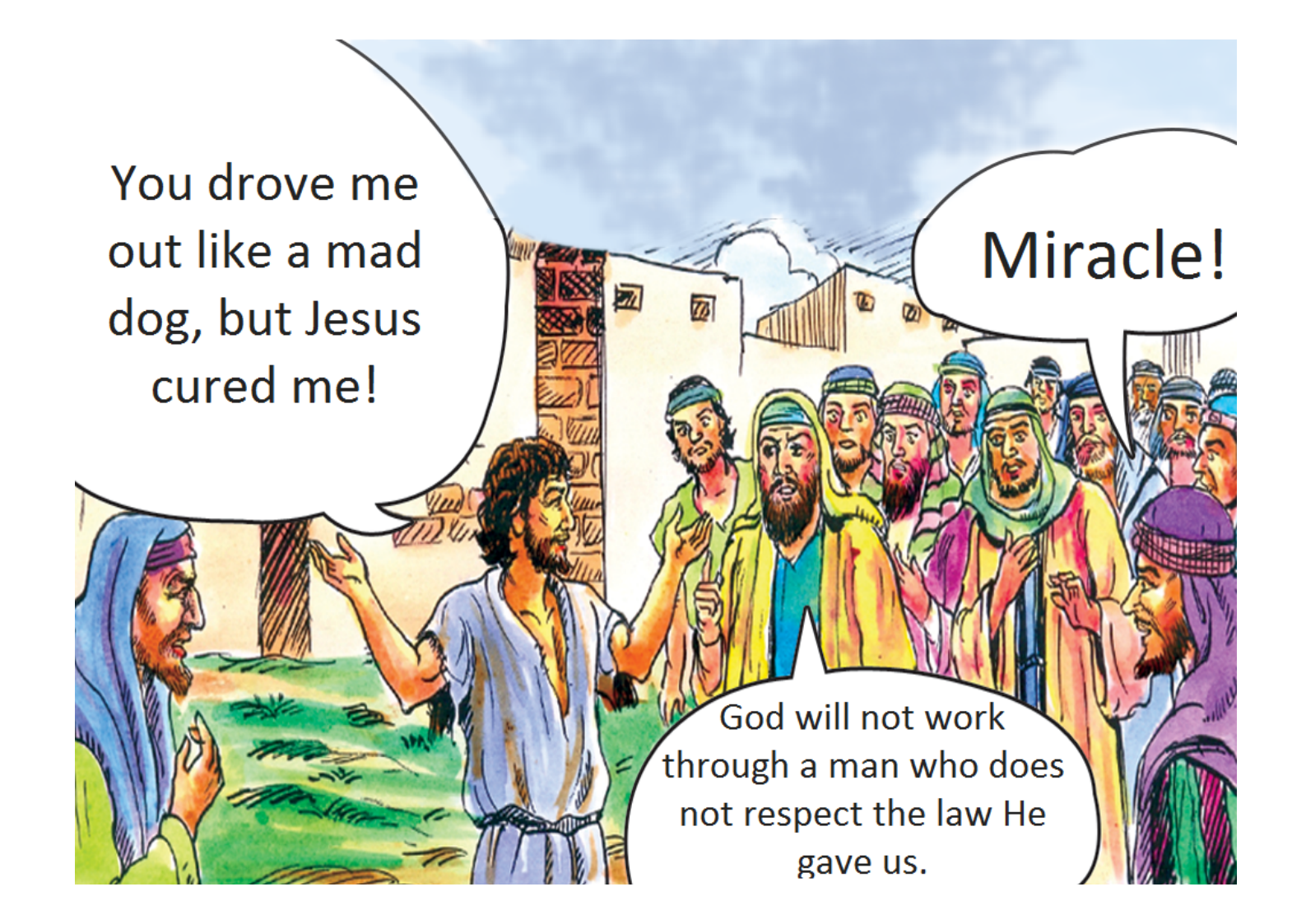
Jesus touched him!

Touched him? No, embraced him.

Whoever touches a Leper becomes unclean. We shouldn't allow him to enter the town.



Look, that leper is coming back.



You drove me  
out like a mad  
dog, but Jesus  
cured me!

Miracle!

God will not work  
through a man who does  
not respect the law He  
gave us.

You are just  
imagining. Go  
away.

Where is the  
priest, examine  
me.



The priest examined the leper.

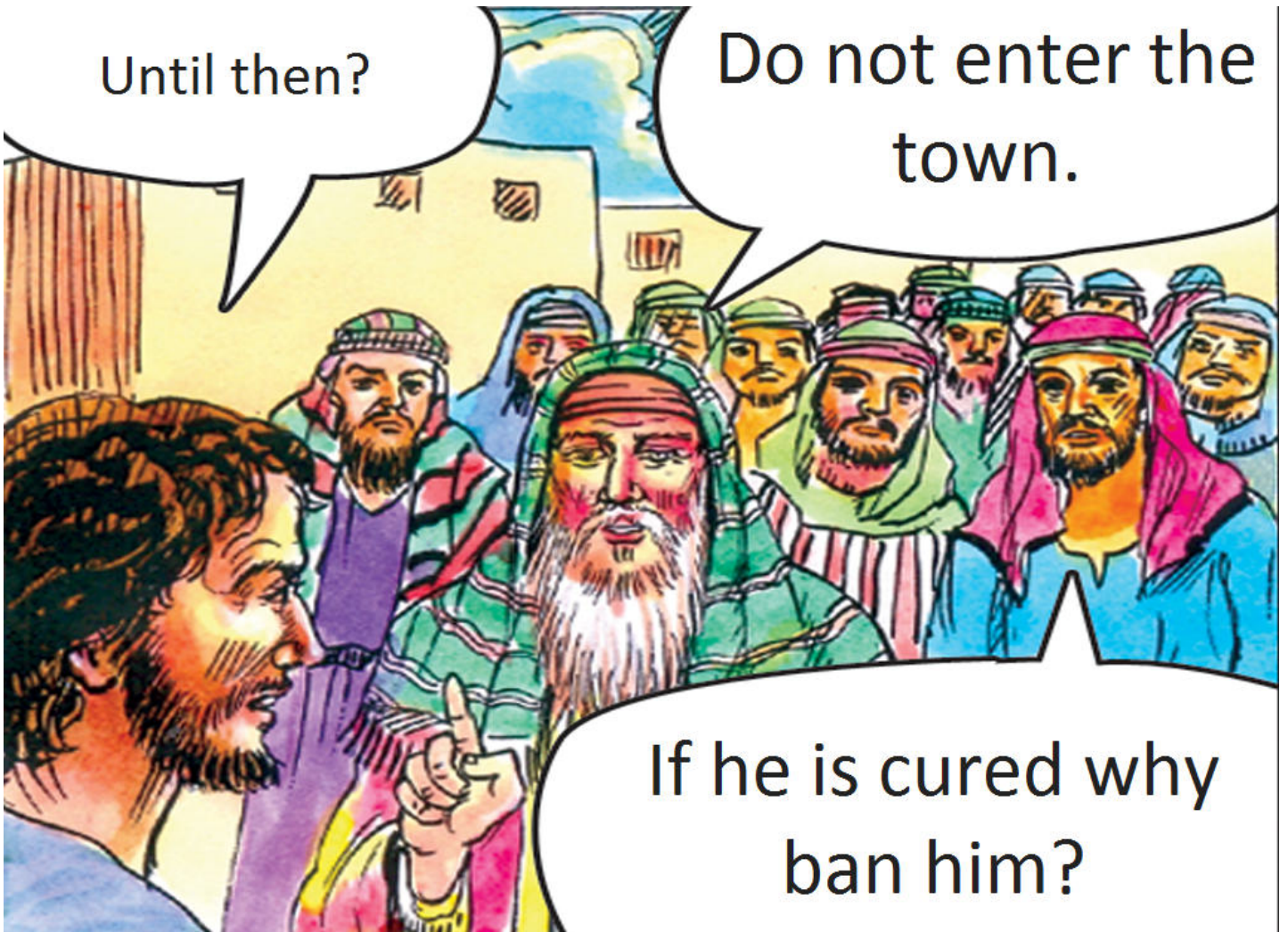
Look, examine me carefully.  
I am cured. The Lord hasn't  
abandoned us lepers!

Come back after  
seven days.



Until then?

Do not enter the town.



If he is cured why ban him?

We have to make  
sure that he is really  
cured.

Not even God  
can convince  
you?



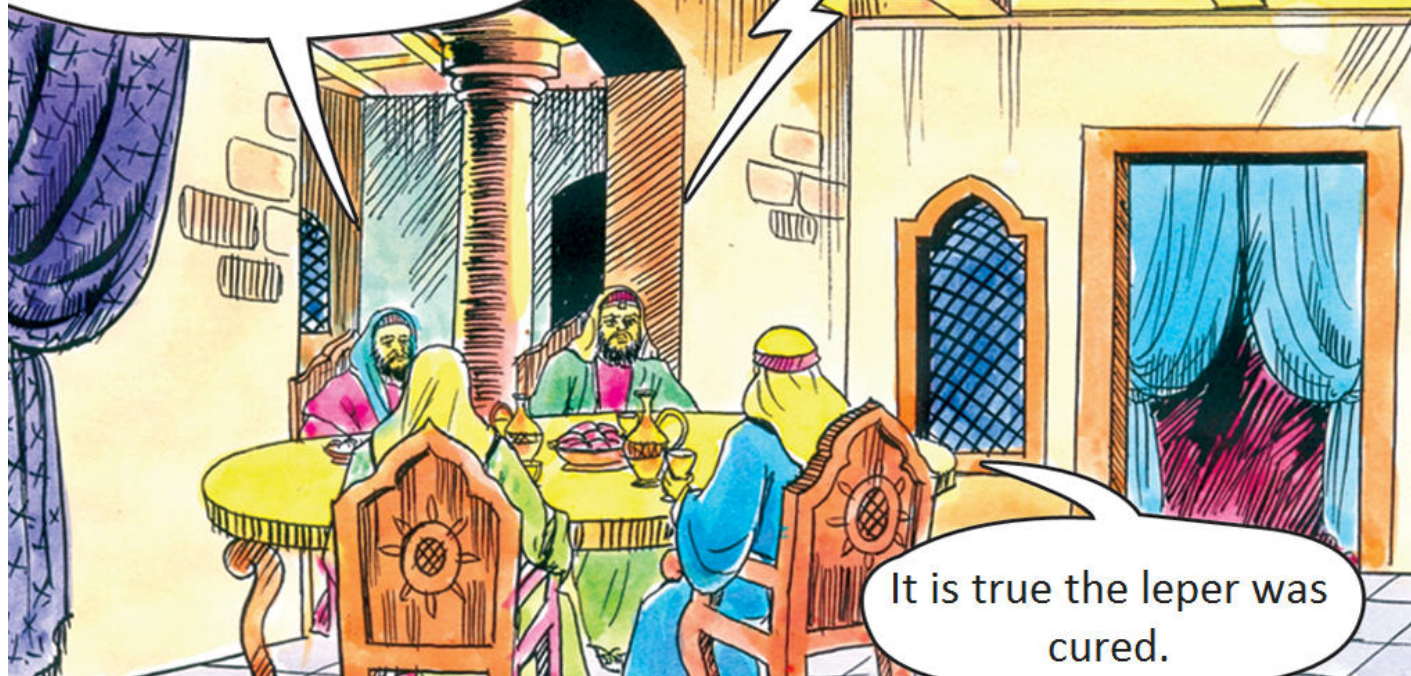



The Pharisees, lawyers, and the priest of the town called an urgent meeting.

We have to do something about this Jesus, he is a threat.

Right before our eyes he is breaking the law. This is outrageous!


It is true the leper was cured.





It must be some kind of  
sorcery.

He is from  
Nazareth. We have  
no power over him.



Then, we shouldn't allow him to enter the town.

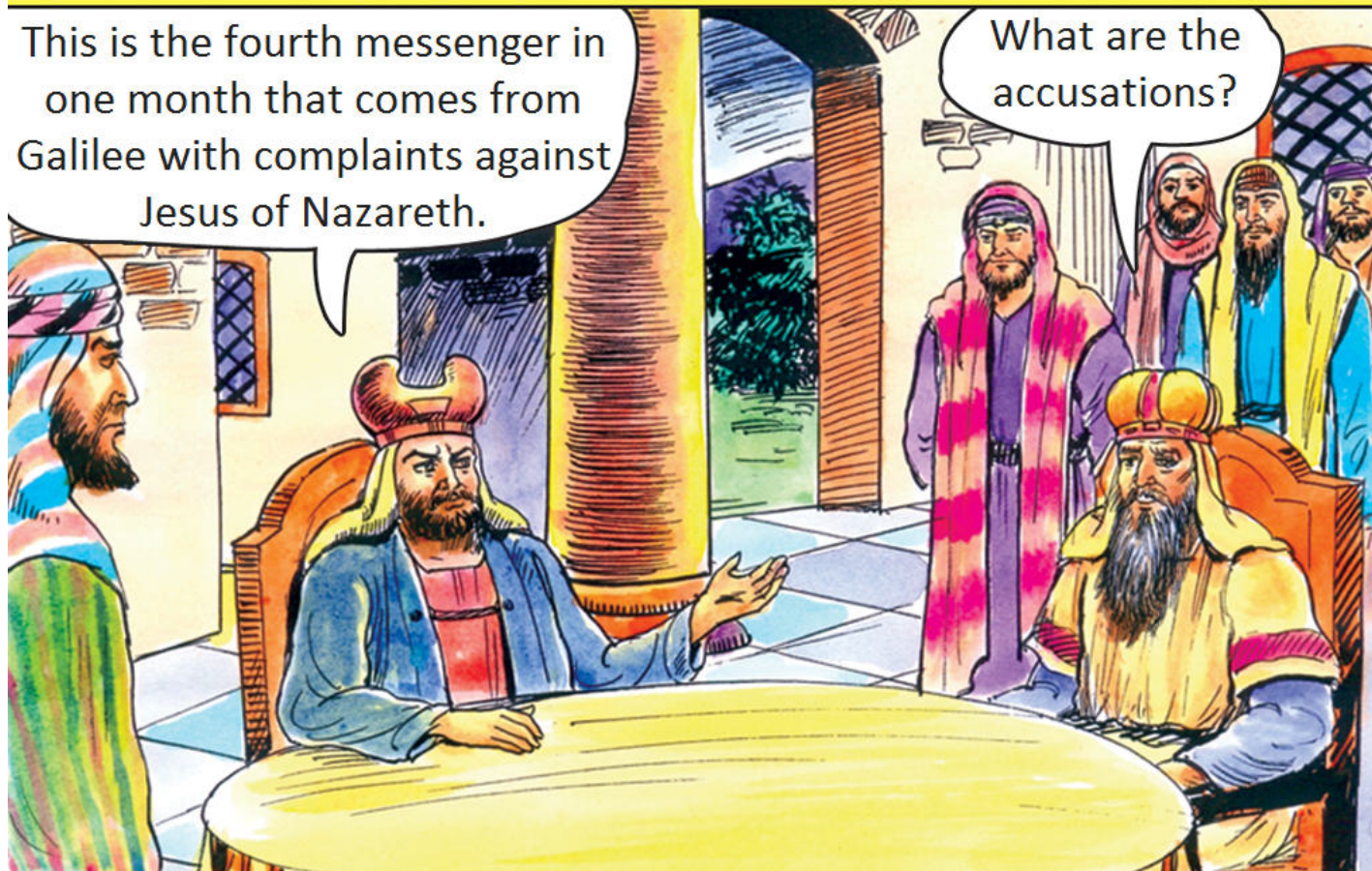
We must inform the High Priest in Jerusalem.


At the same time watch him closely.

A discussion between Caiaphas the High priest Annas, the retired High priest.

This is the fourth messenger in one month that comes from Galilee with complaints against Jesus of Nazareth.

What are the accusations?





He breaks the Sabbath, mingles with the lepers. He claims that the prophecies are fulfilled and the Kingdom of God has come.

These are serious offences. Yet we don't have to interfere now.

It is better to nip it in the bud. If not, he might lead all the people astray.

For now let us send two of our men to Galilee to observe him. Rabbi Samuel and Rabbi Haggai, you keep a close watch on his words and deeds and to report us regularly.



Jesus' fame spread all over the country. Also the Zealots began to take an interest in him.

Jesus of Nazareth is performing great miracles. He is attracting huge crowds wherever he goes.

The Baptist has said that he is the Liberator we are waiting.

We must organize ourselves under him and free the Baptist.

That can wait. First we must study him.



I suggest that Judas  
Iscairiot and Simon  
follow Jesus for a  
while.





Observe him closely and see if he is the man we are looking for. Keep us informed.

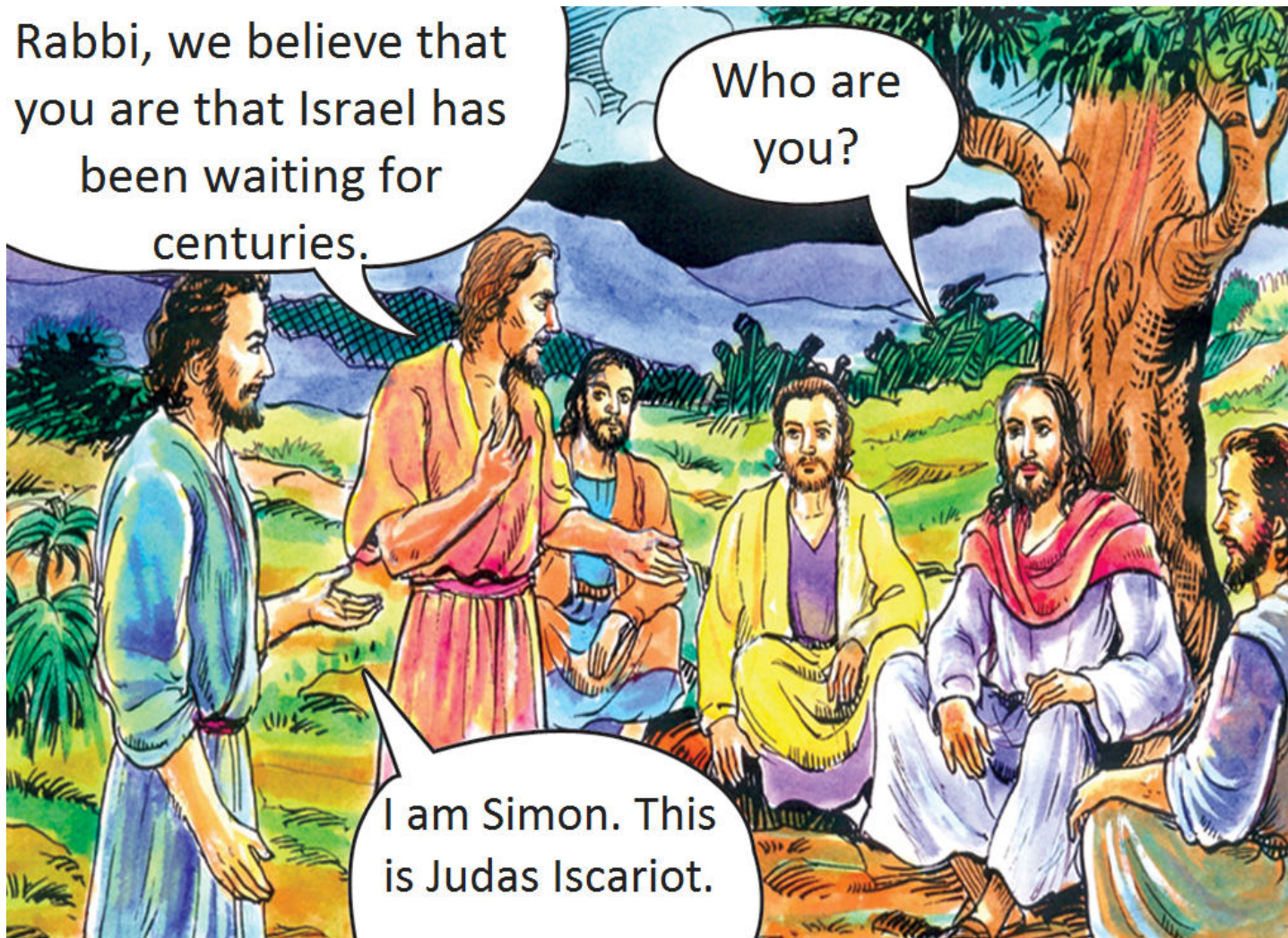


All right, Barabbas, we shall start tomorrow.

Rabbi, we believe that you are that Israel has been waiting for centuries.

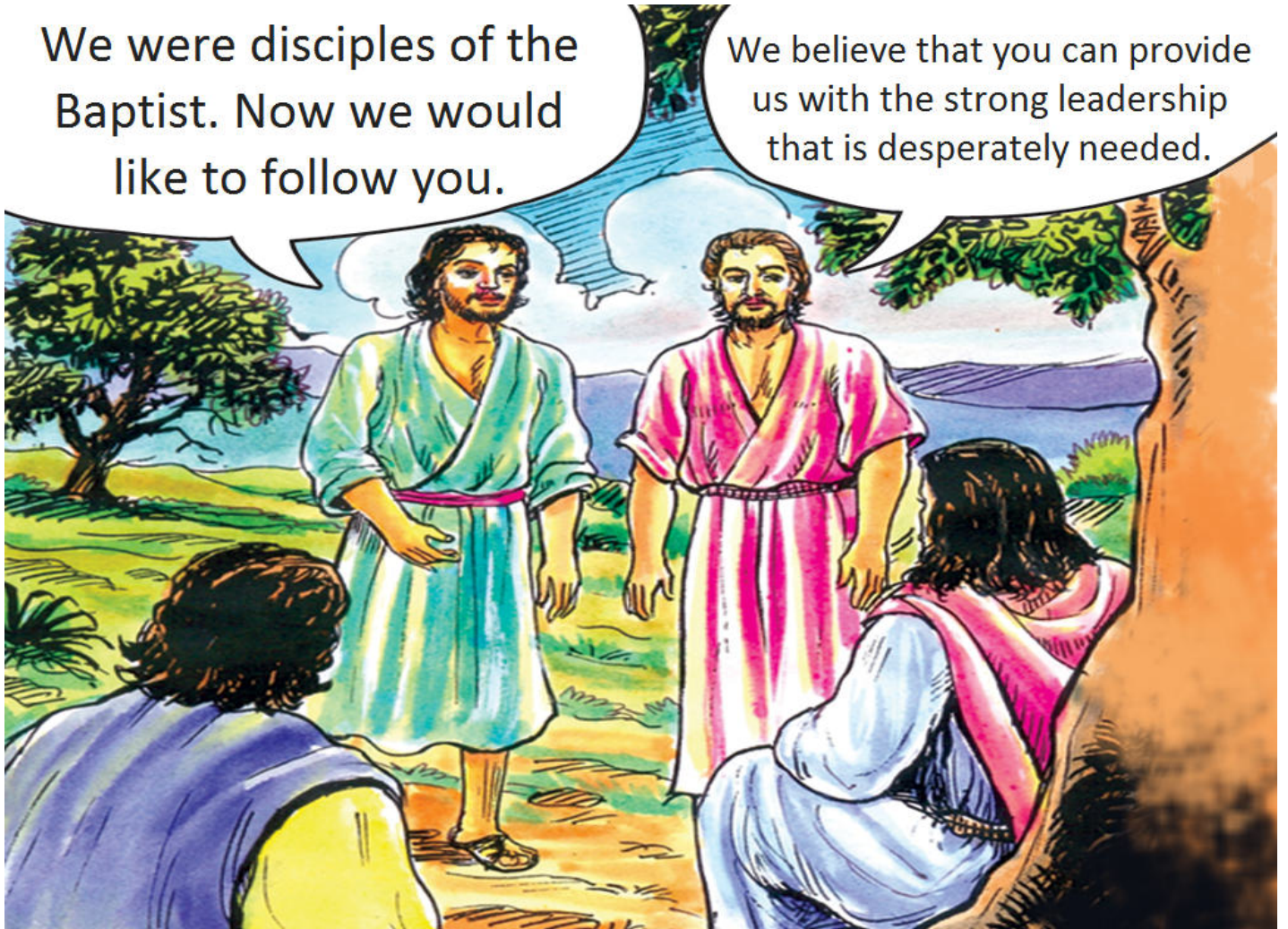
Who are you?

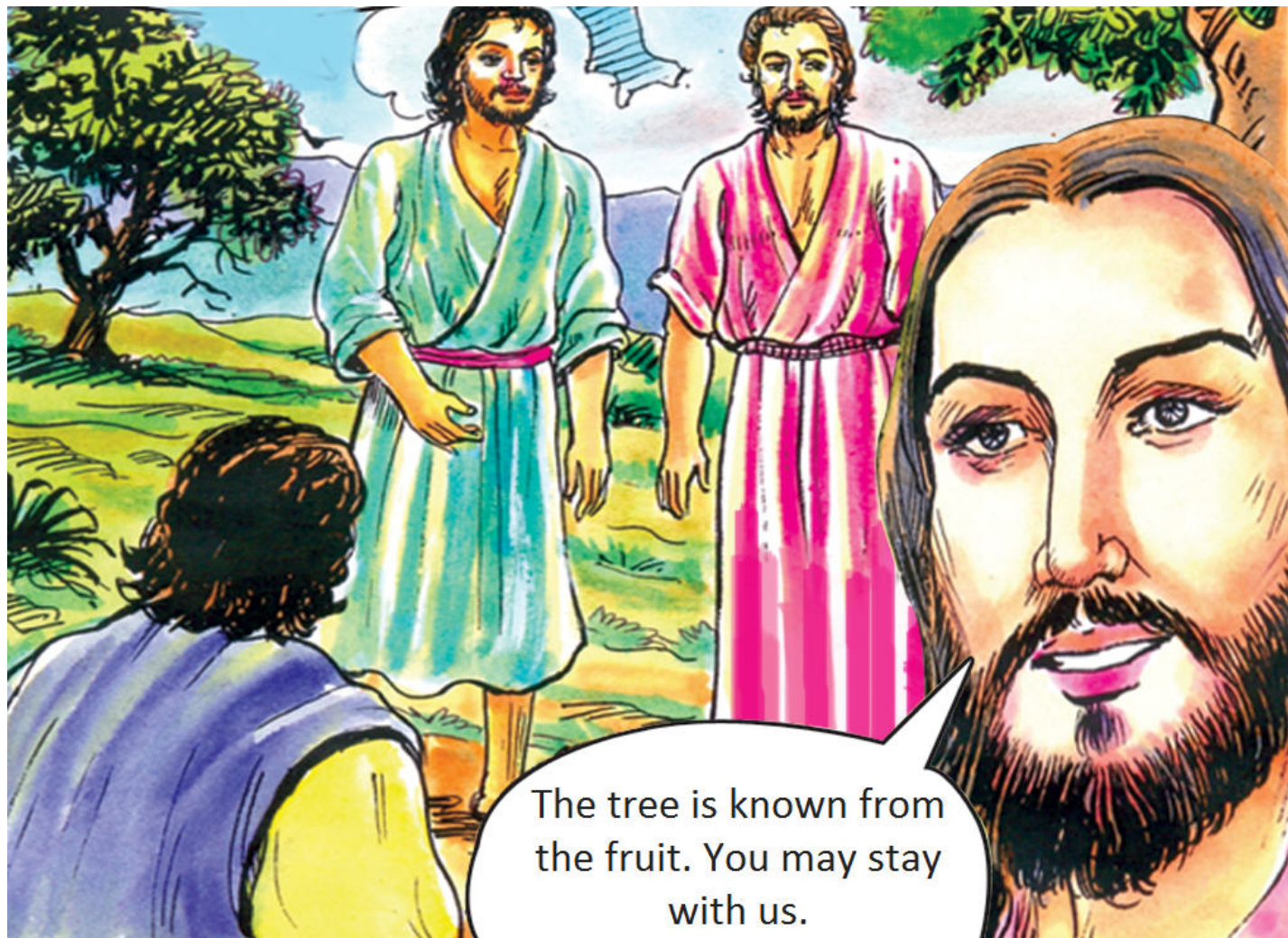
I am Simon. This is Judas Iscariot.



We were disciples of the Baptist. Now we would like to follow you.

We believe that you can provide us with the strong leadership that is desperately needed.





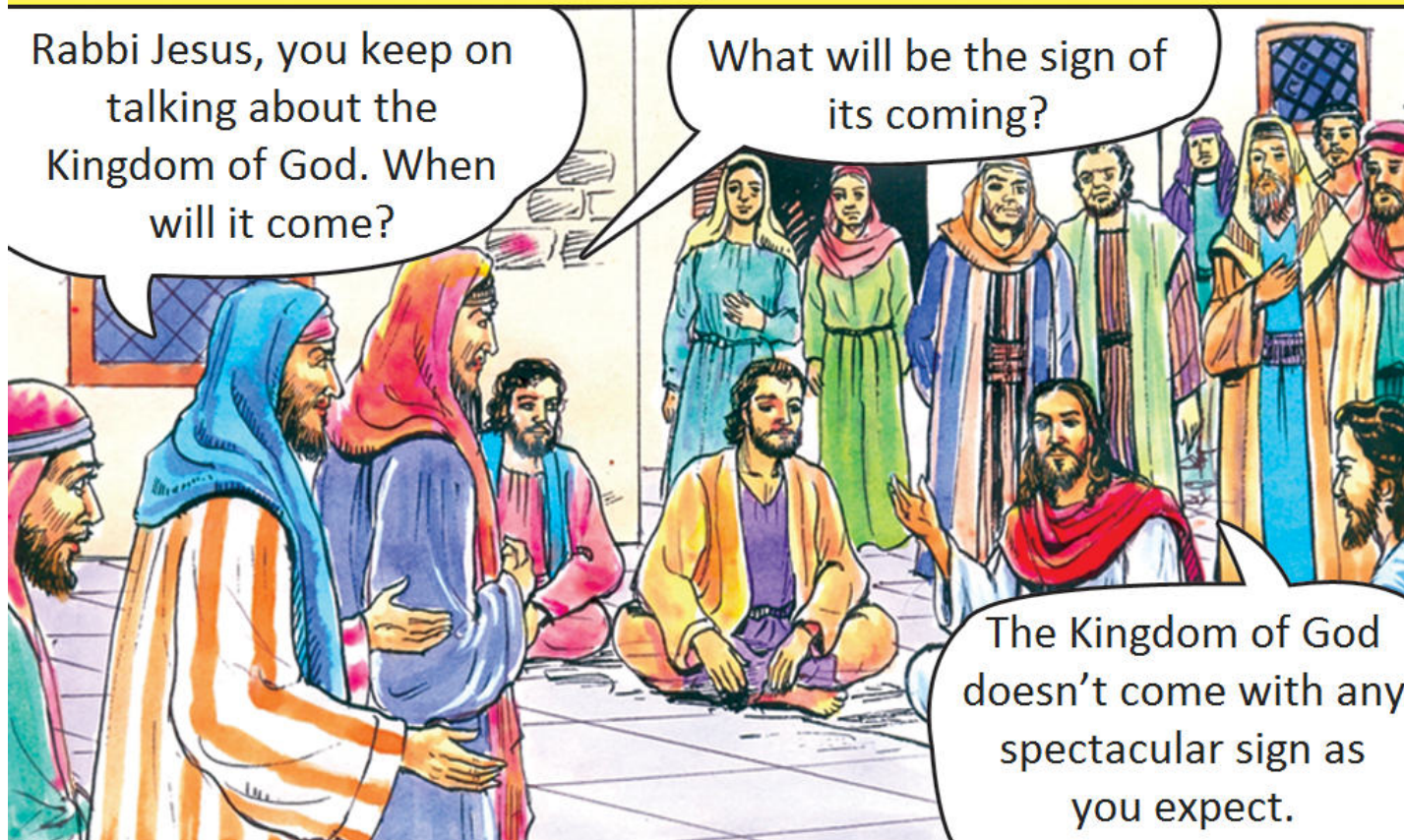
The tree is known from  
the fruit. You may stay  
with us.

Jesus reached Capernaum and entered Simon's house. A great crowd gathered in and around the house. The spies from Jerusalem also were among the crowd.

Rabbi Jesus, you keep on talking about the Kingdom of God. When will it come?

What will be the sign of its coming?

The Kingdom of God doesn't come with any spectacular sign as you expect.



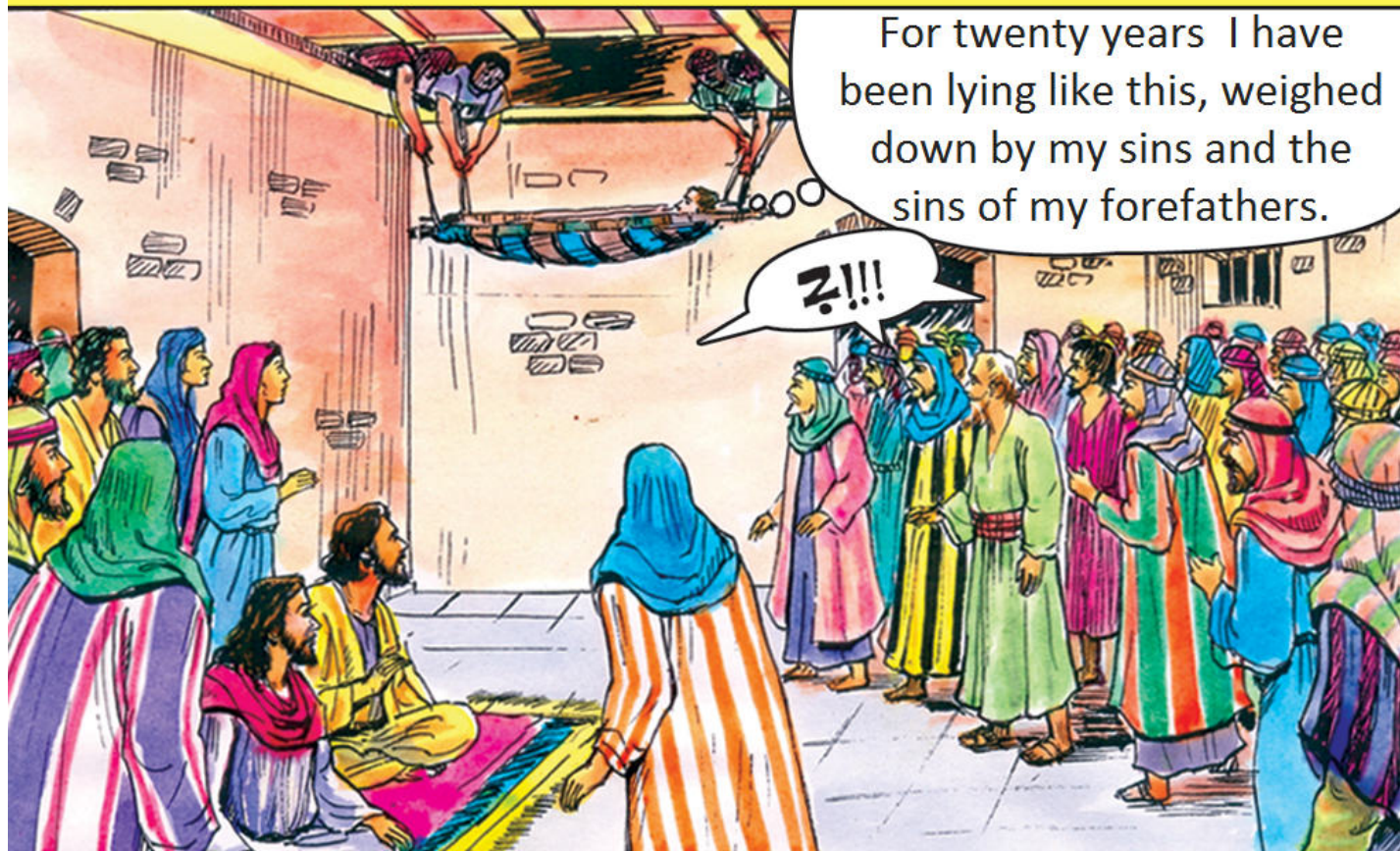
When you see a cloud in the West  
you say that it is going to rain.  
When the south wind blows you  
say it is going to be hot.



You know how to read the signs of nature. Why do you fail to recognize the signs of the time? The Kingdom of God is in your midst.



Some people brought a paralytic to Jesus. Because they could not enter the house through the door, they lowered him through the roof.





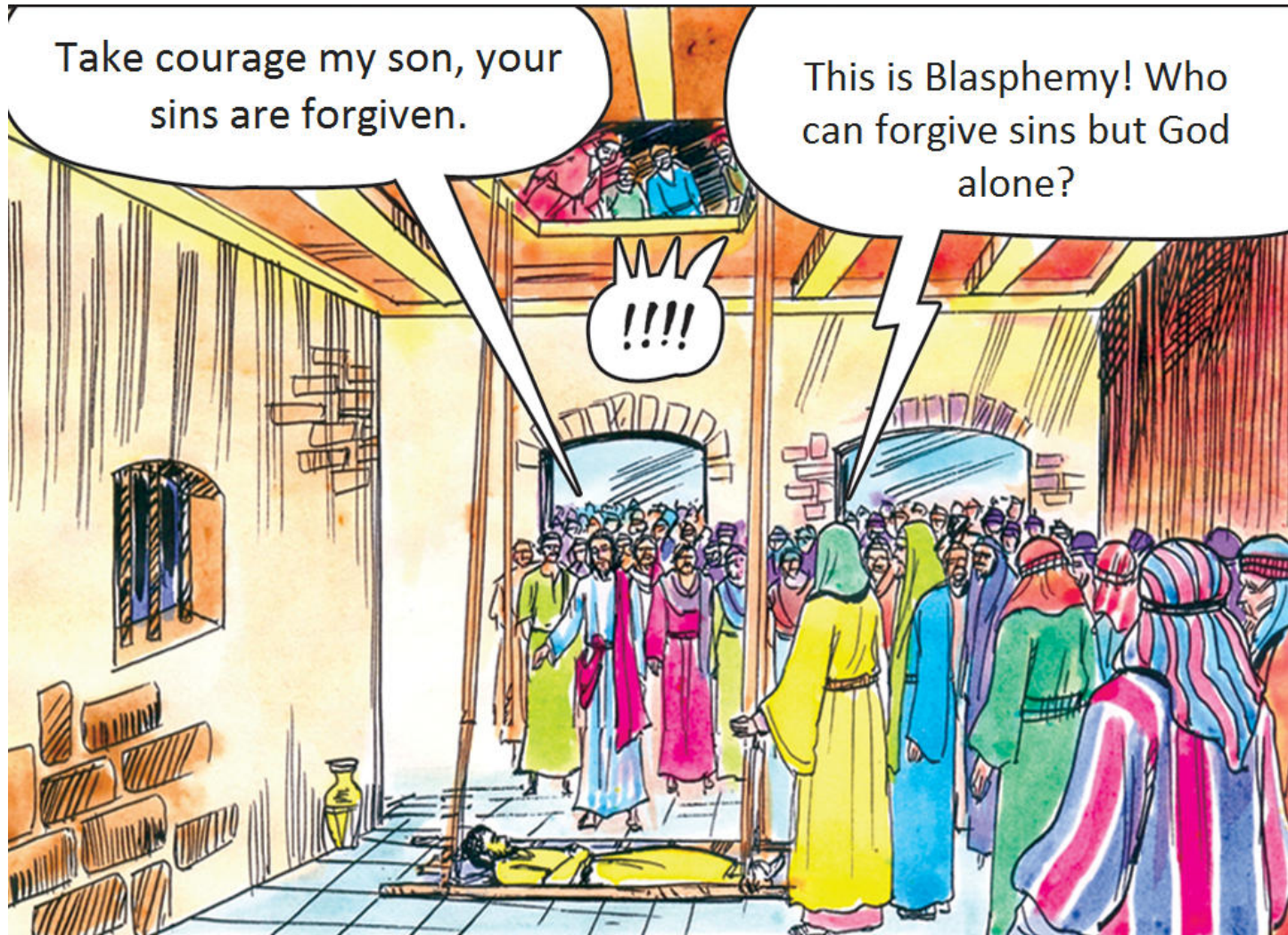
O god, is there no end to my suffering? Is there no pardon for my sins?



Take courage my son, your sins are forgiven.

This is Blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?

!!!!



Tell me which is easier?  
Forgiving one's sins or  
curing a paralytic with a  
word?



Would you believe that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins if this man picks up his bed and walks?



I say to you get up take your bed and go home.








Hallelujah!

!



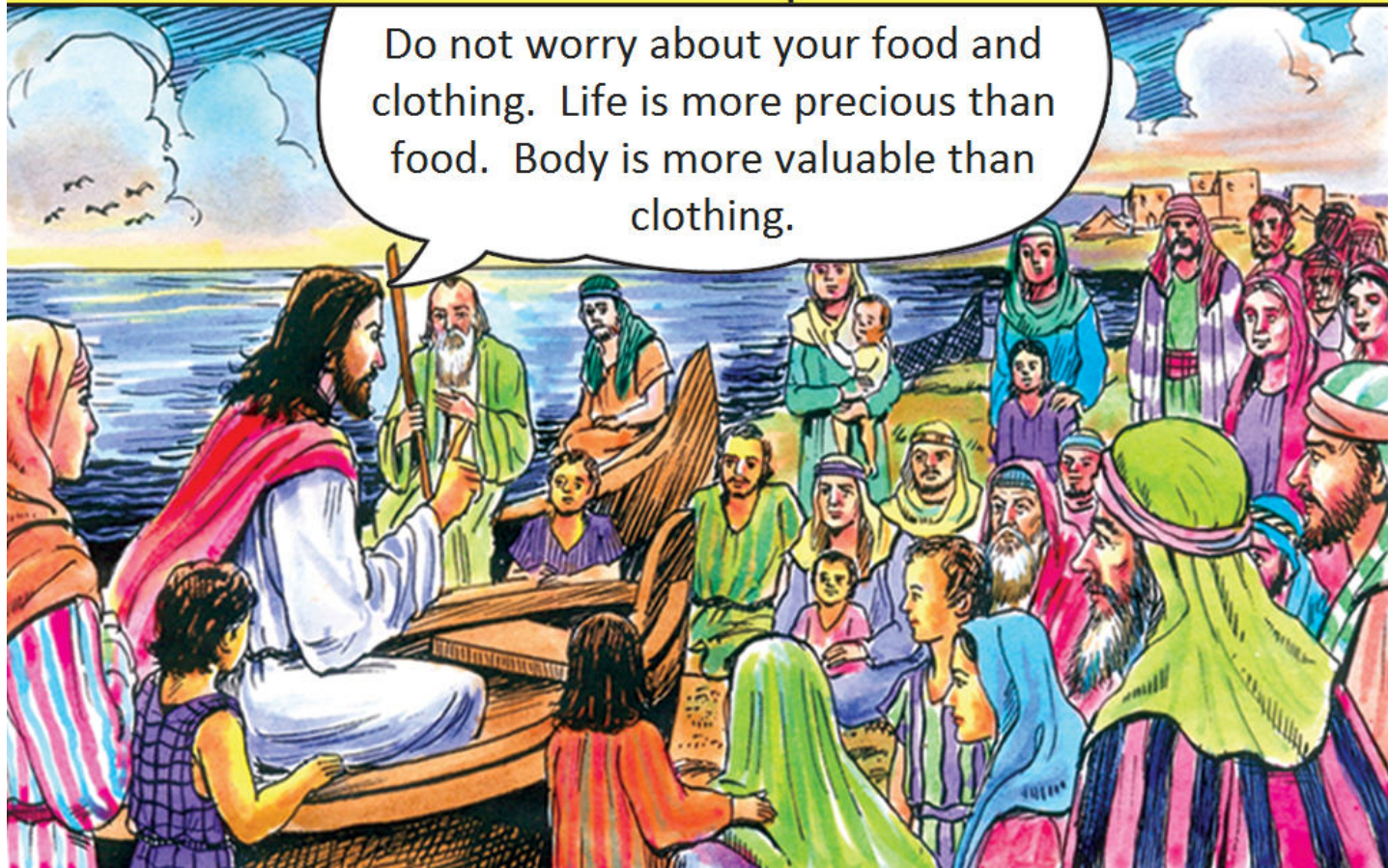
Master, thank you.  
May the lord be  
praised!

!!!!?



Jesus went to the Lake. A huge crowd gathered there from various places.

Do not worry about your food and clothing. Life is more precious than food. Body is more valuable than clothing.



Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap. They have no storehouse and Barns.



Your Father in heaven feeds them all.  
Are you not more precious than the  
birds?

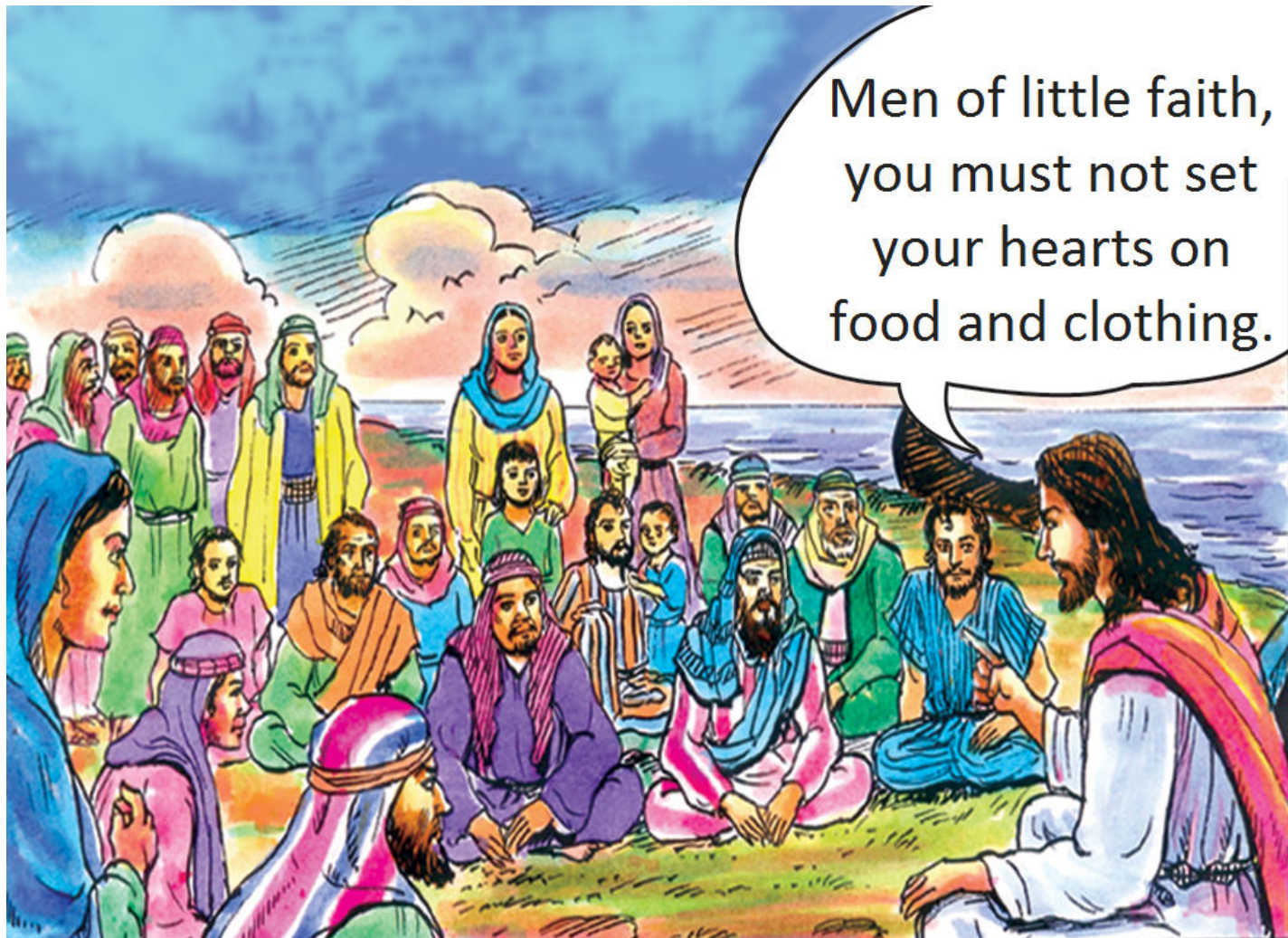


Look at the lilies of the field.  
How beautiful they are!



If that is how God looks after  
the grass, how much more he  
will look after you!



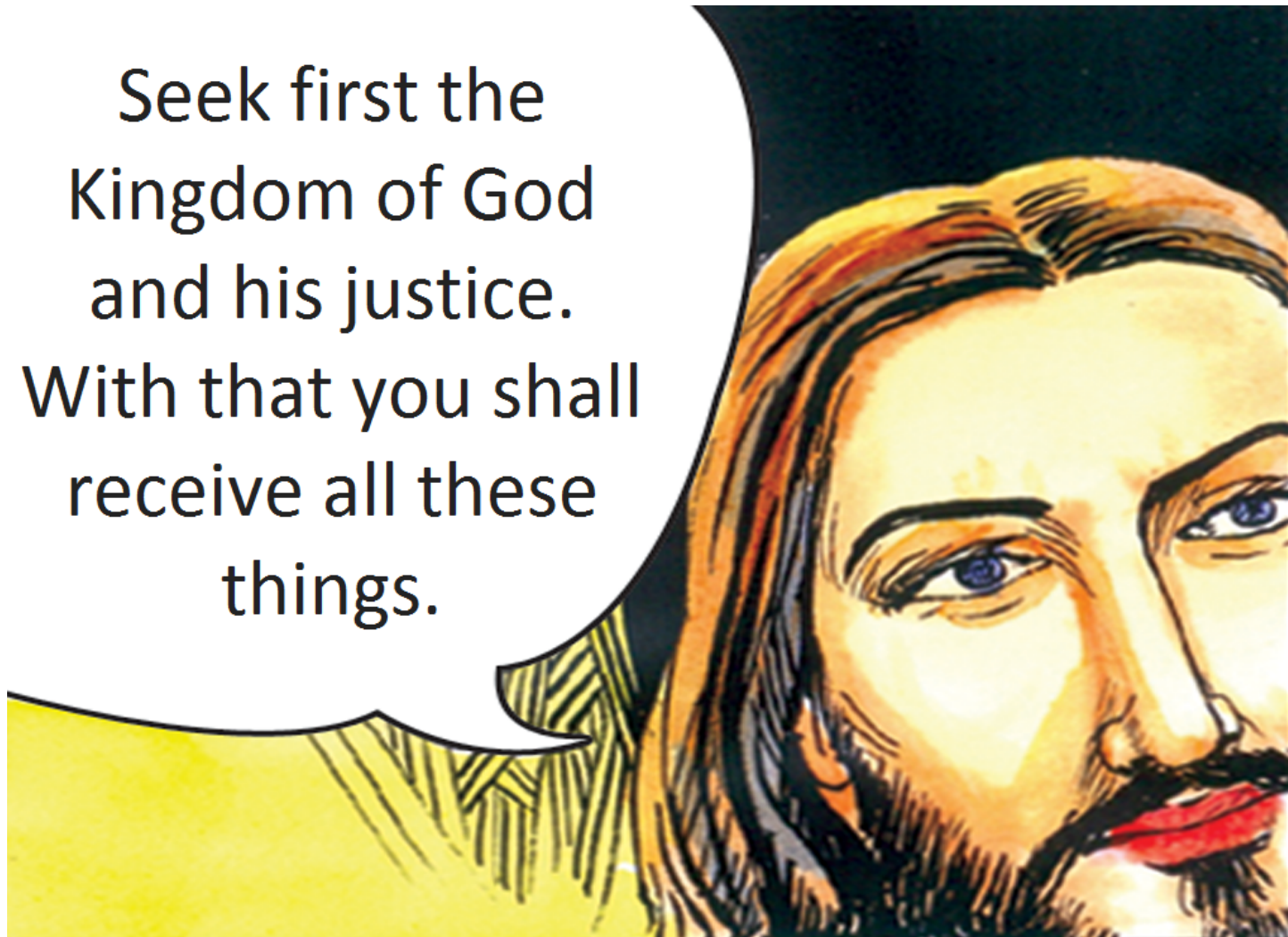


Men of little faith,  
you must not set  
your hearts on  
food and clothing.

Your Father in heaven knows  
that you need them.

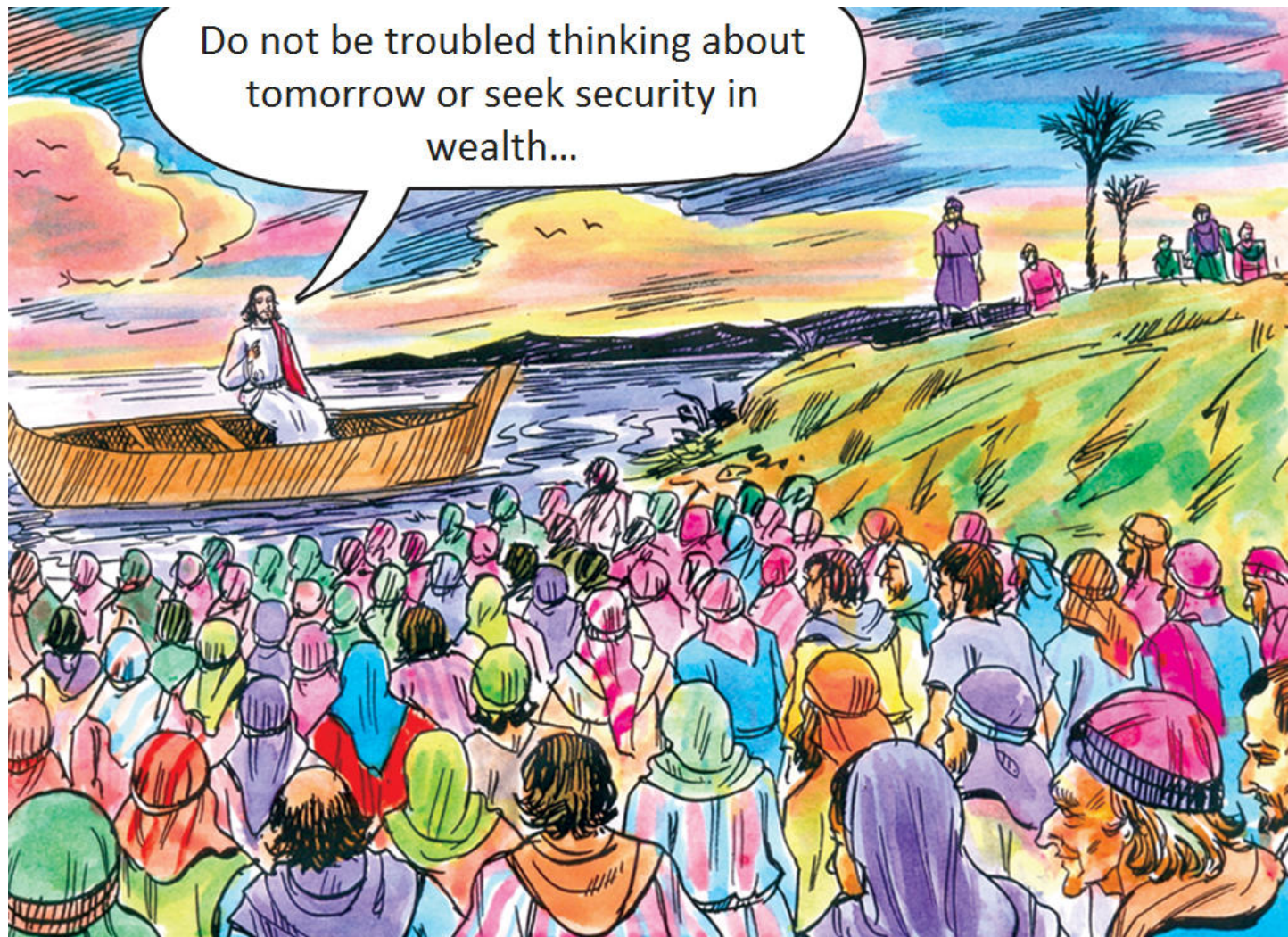


Seek first the  
Kingdom of God  
and his justice.  
With that you shall  
receive all these  
things.





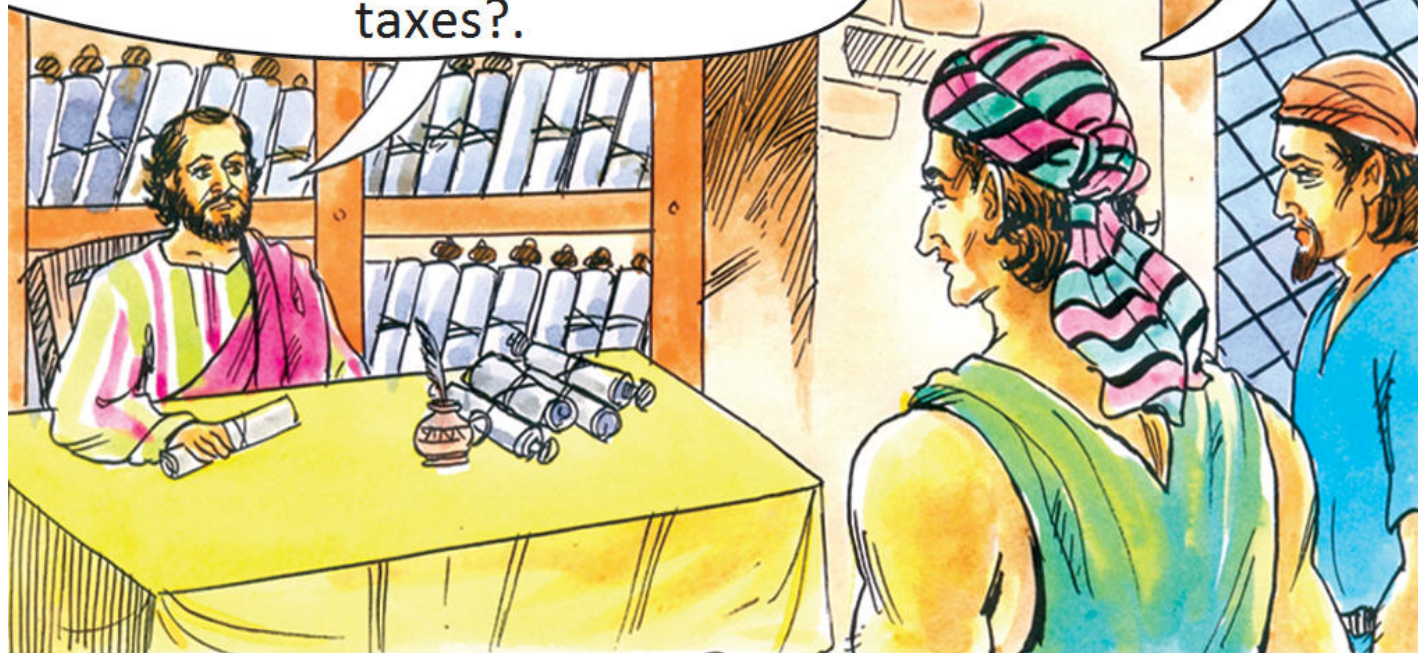
Do not be troubled thinking about tomorrow or seek security in wealth...



Jesus continued to preach at the same time at Mathew's tax office.

What happened? Had I not told you to seize Simon's boat and net if he still refuses to pay the taxes?.

When we reached there the house was empty and the roof was gone, as if hit by a Tornado.



Anyway, we went to shore to seize his boat.

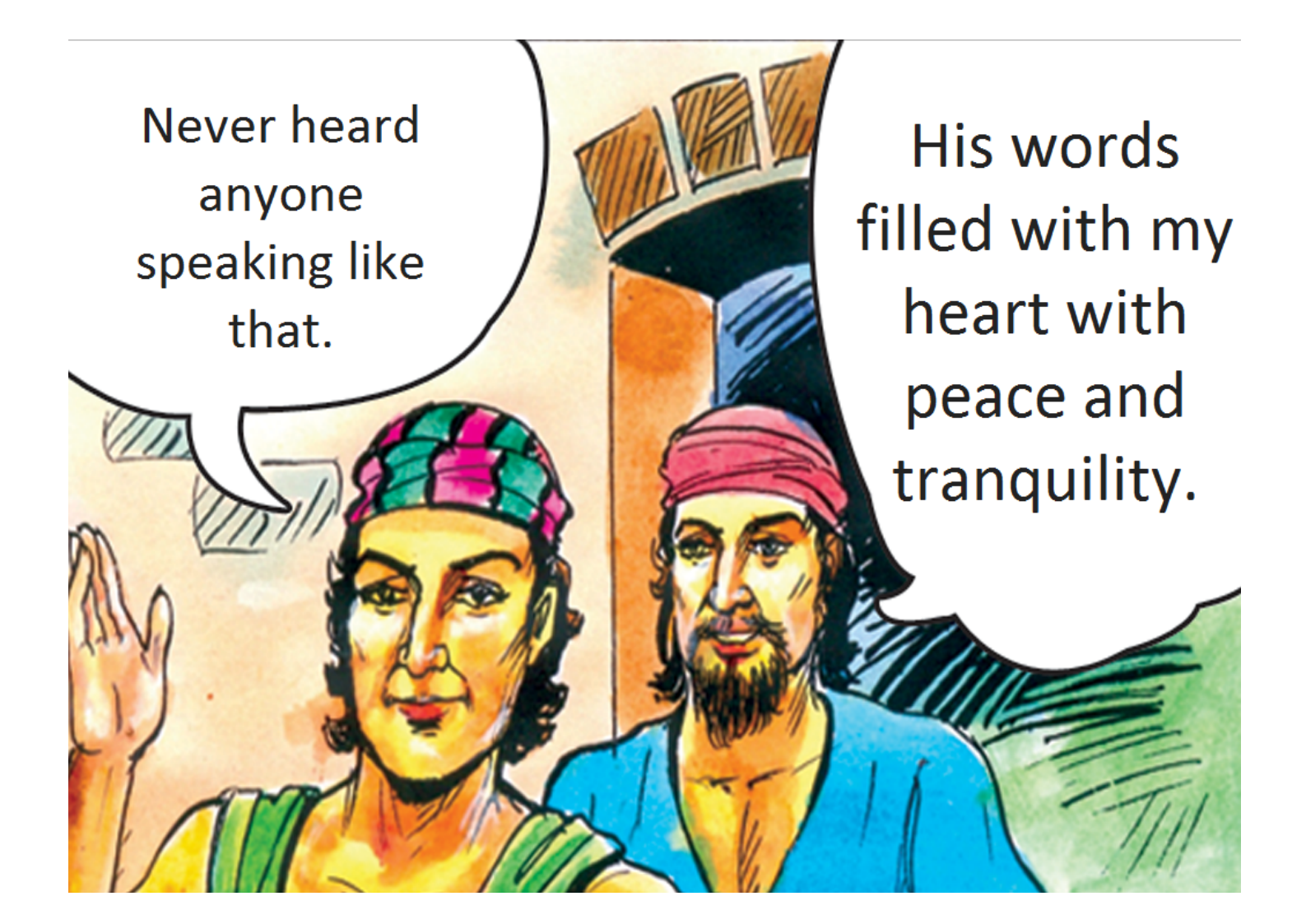
We could not get anywhere near because of the crowd. And there in Simon's sits Jesus, teaching!



When we heard him,  
we forgot about  
everything.

Then, you can forget  
about the job here  
also. You may go and  
stay with him.





Never heard  
anyone  
speaking like  
that.

His words  
filled with my  
heart with  
peace and  
tranquility.

At the end he asked a very unsettling question.



What was that?

What does it profit a man to gain the whole world if he loses his soul?



Look, He is coming  
this way. The  
crowd is behind  
him.

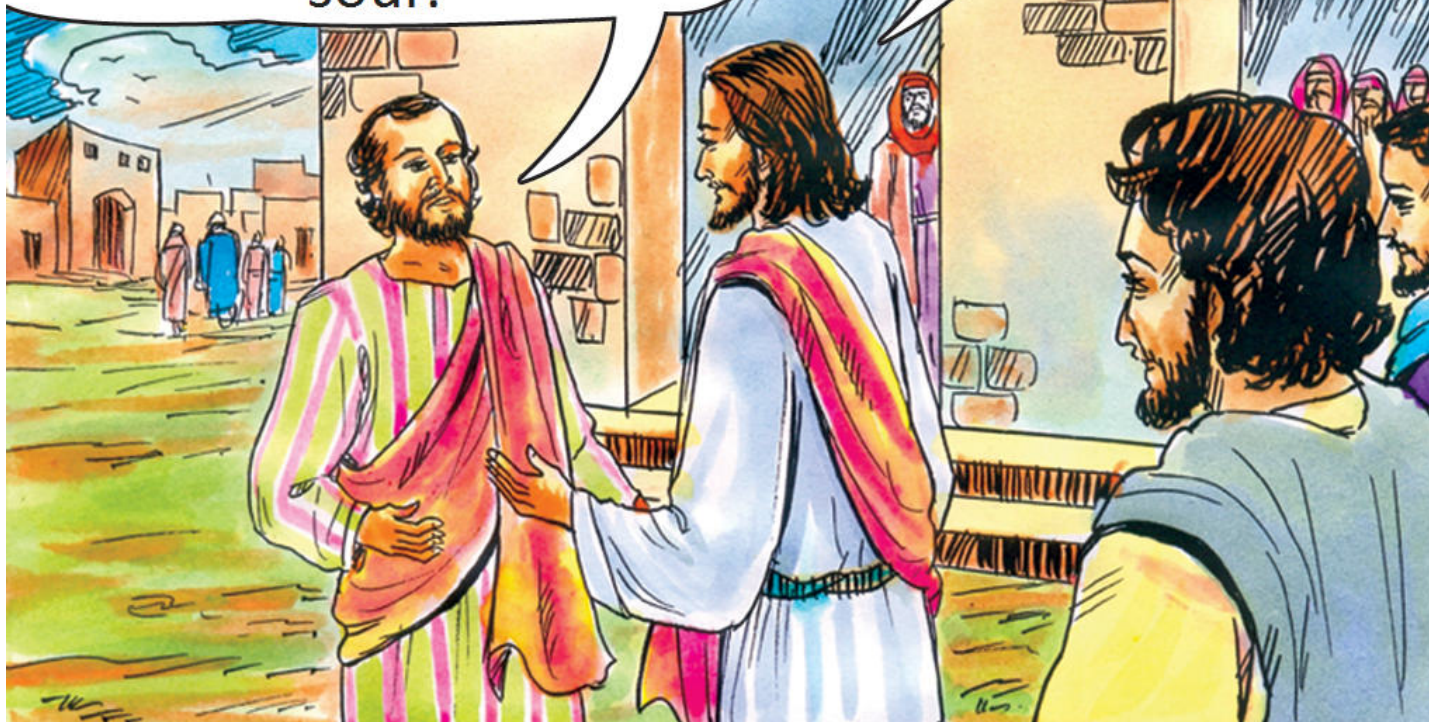
Gain the whole  
world ...what  
profit....





I am all confused. I have made a lot of money but what shall I do to save my soul?

Follow me!

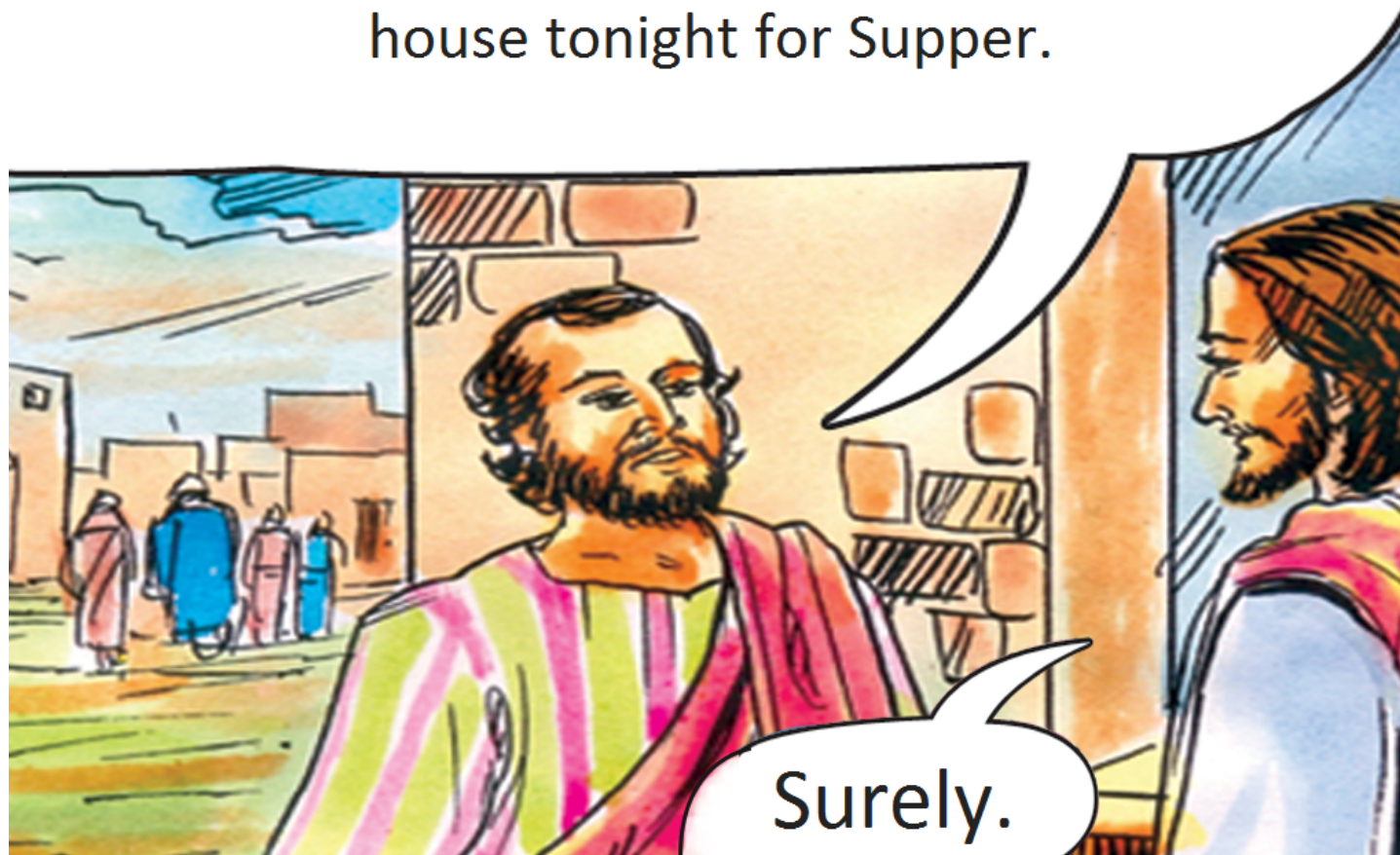




Me, a tax collector and a sinner?

The Son of Man has  
come to call the sinners.

Master if that is so, please do come to my house tonight for Supper.



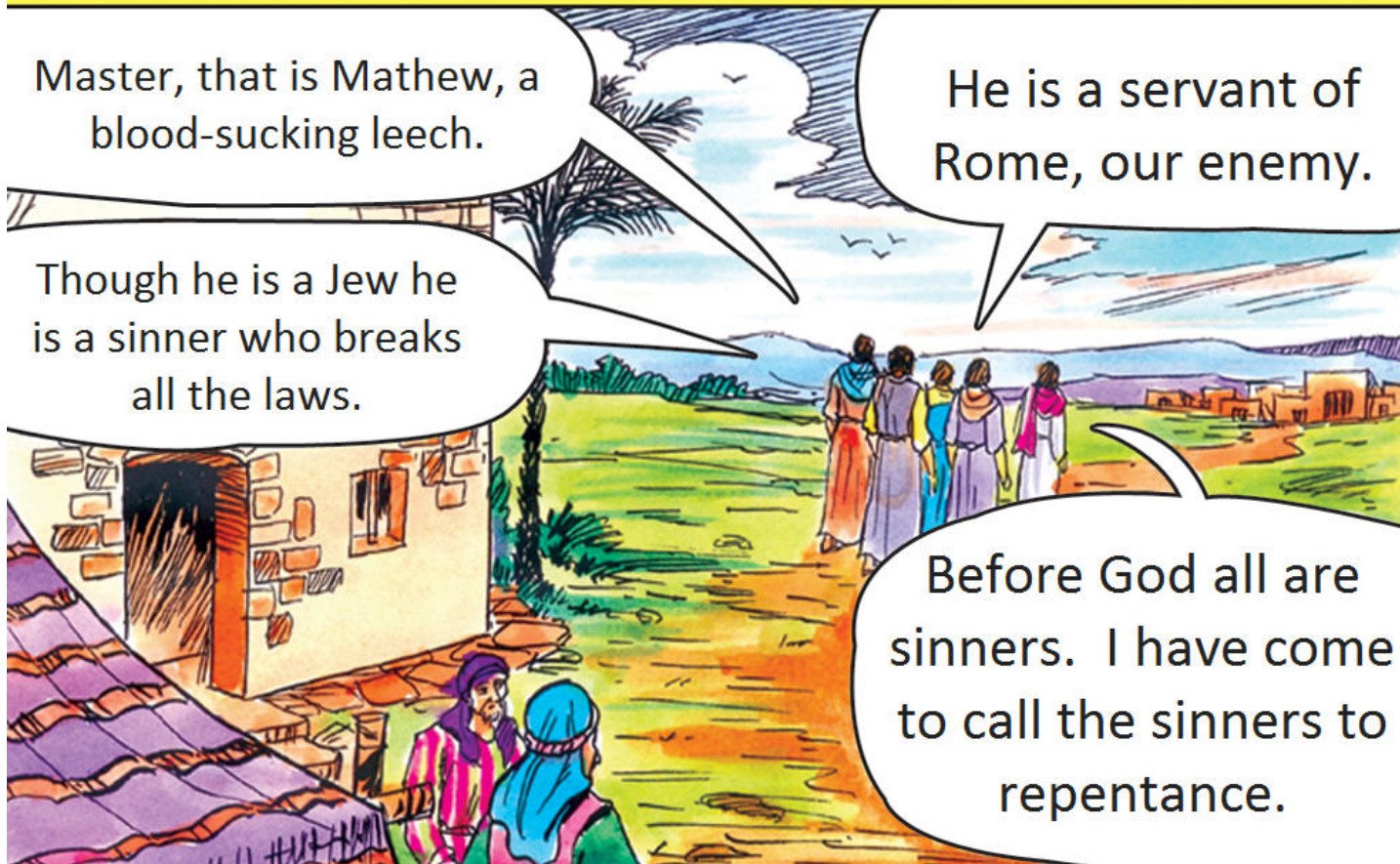
People were scandalized that Jesus called tax collector to be his follower and accepted his hospitality.

Master, that is Mathew, a blood-sucking leech.

Though he is a Jew he is a sinner who breaks all the laws.

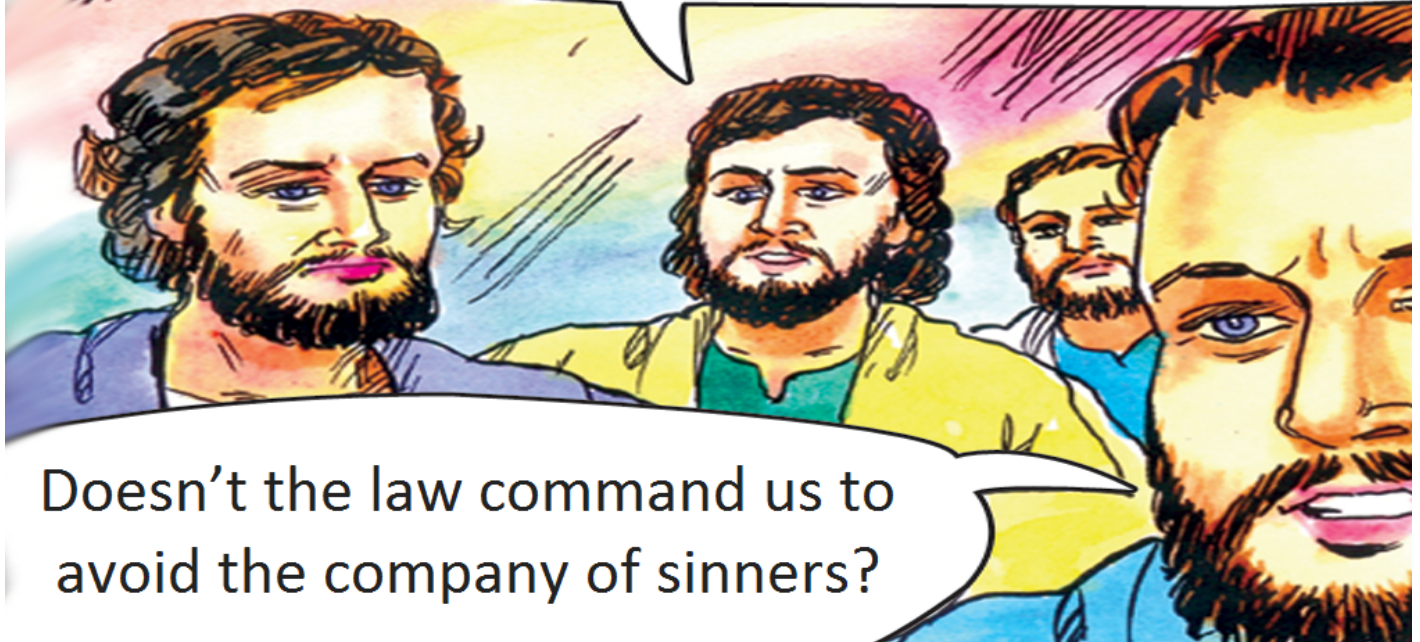
He is a servant of Rome, our enemy.

Before God all are sinners. I have come to call the sinners to repentance.



The people will hate us if we go to his house.

There will be other tax collectors and even prostitutes in his house.



Doesn't the law command us to avoid the company of sinners?

Know that the  
heart of law is  
love.



Mathew had invited many of his friends for the dinner he prepared for Jesus.

Shalom Master, we are honored by your presence. Friends please do come in.

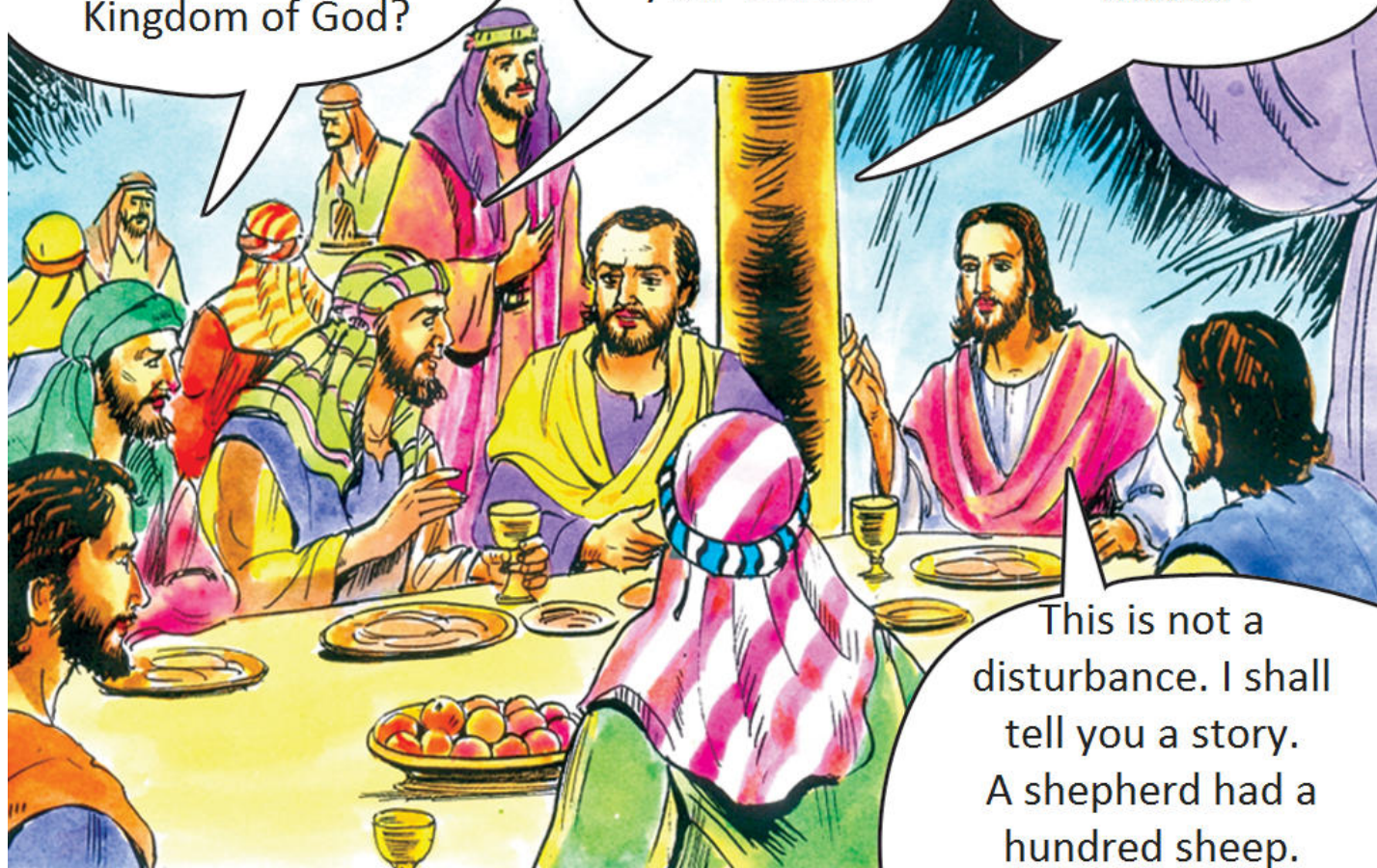
Shalom! Peace to this house.



Master, won't you speak to us about the Kingdom of God?

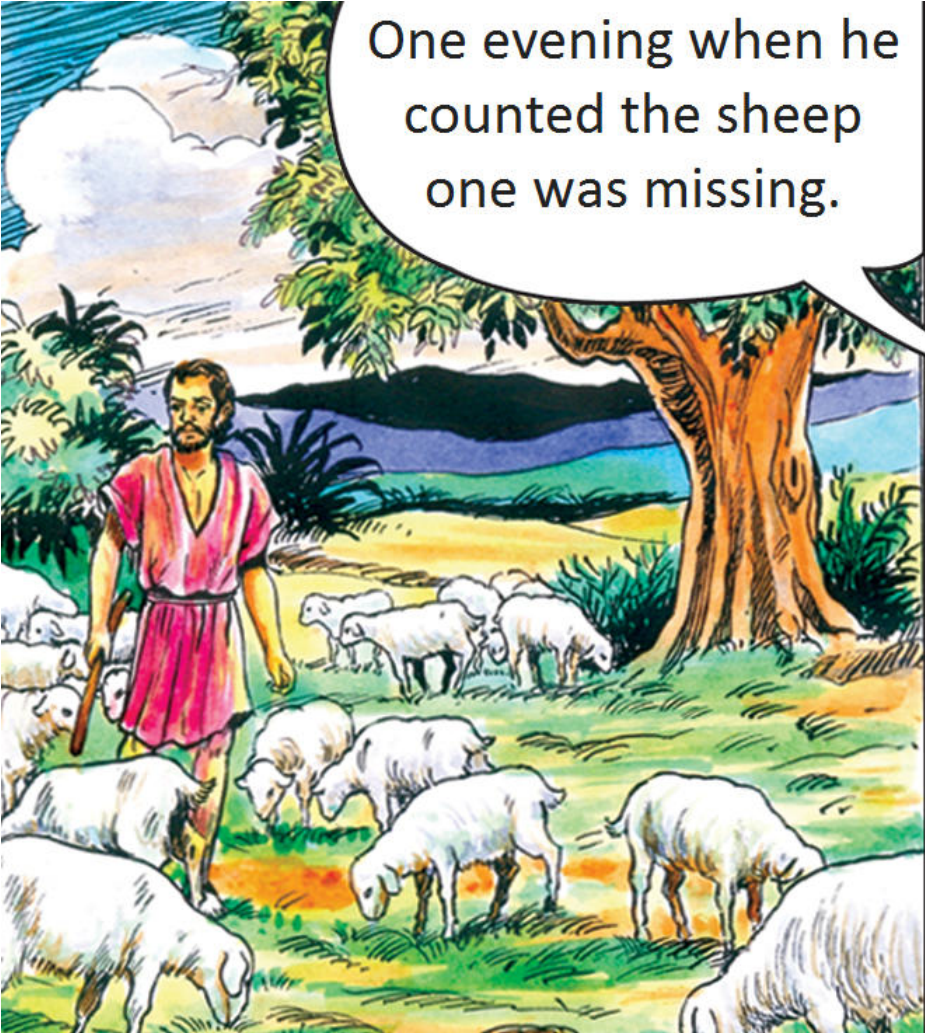
We long to hear your words.

Don't disturb the Master.




This is not a disturbance. I shall tell you a story. A shepherd had a hundred sheep.



A colorful illustration of a shepherd with a beard, wearing a pink tunic, standing in a field with a flock of white sheep. In the background, there is a large tree, rolling hills, and a cloudy sky. A speech bubble originates from the shepherd's area.

One evening when he counted the sheep one was missing.

A close-up illustration of Jesus with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a red robe over a white garment. He is gesturing with his right hand. A speech bubble originates from his area.

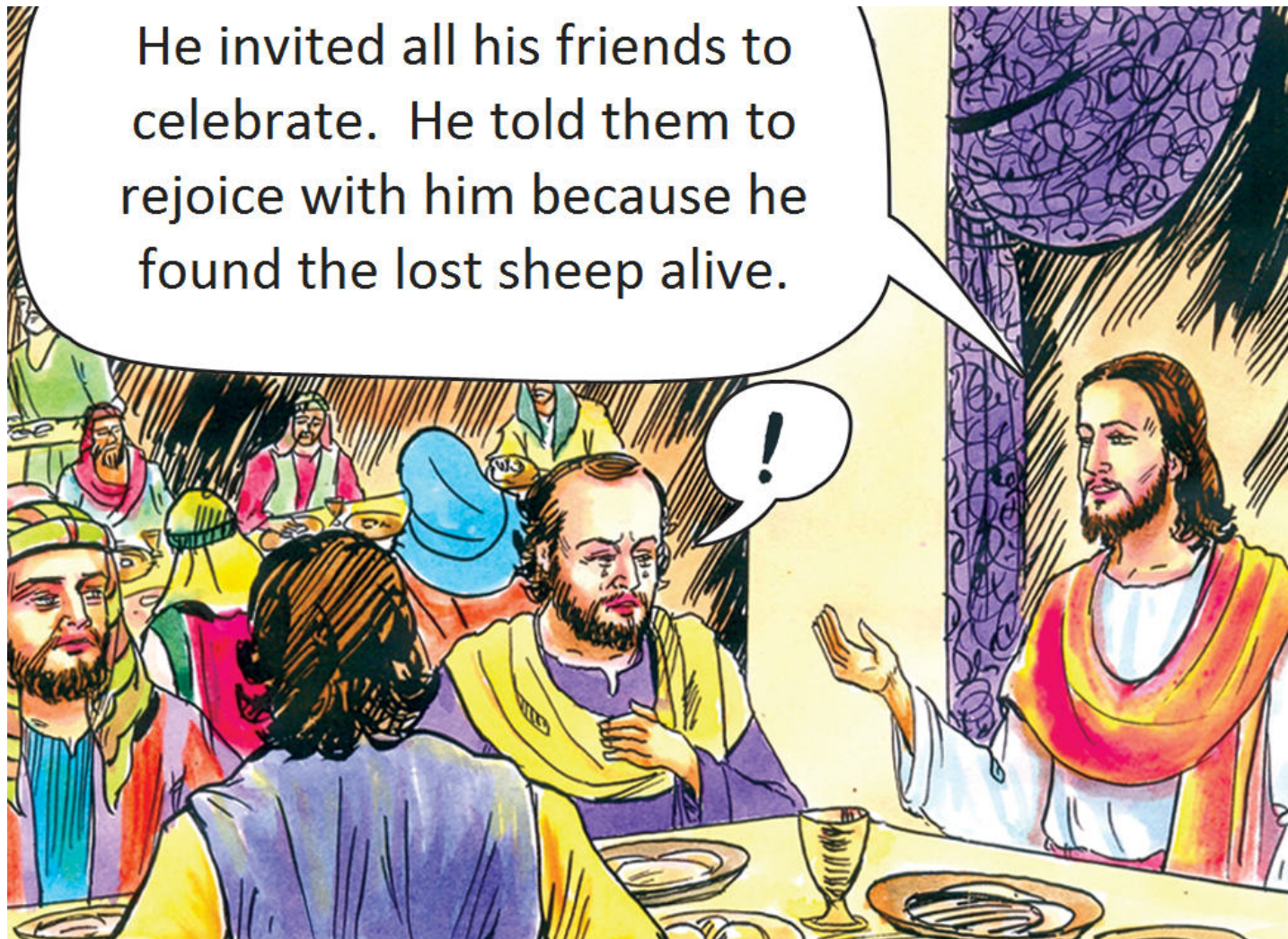
Leaving the ninety-nine sheep behind, he went seeking for the missing one.

Upon finding it he carried it home, rejoicing.





He invited all his friends to celebrate. He told them to rejoice with him because he found the lost sheep alive.



There will be more joy in heaven over a sinner who repents than the ninety-nine who has no need of repentance.



The Lord is my Shepherd. There is nothing I shall want.

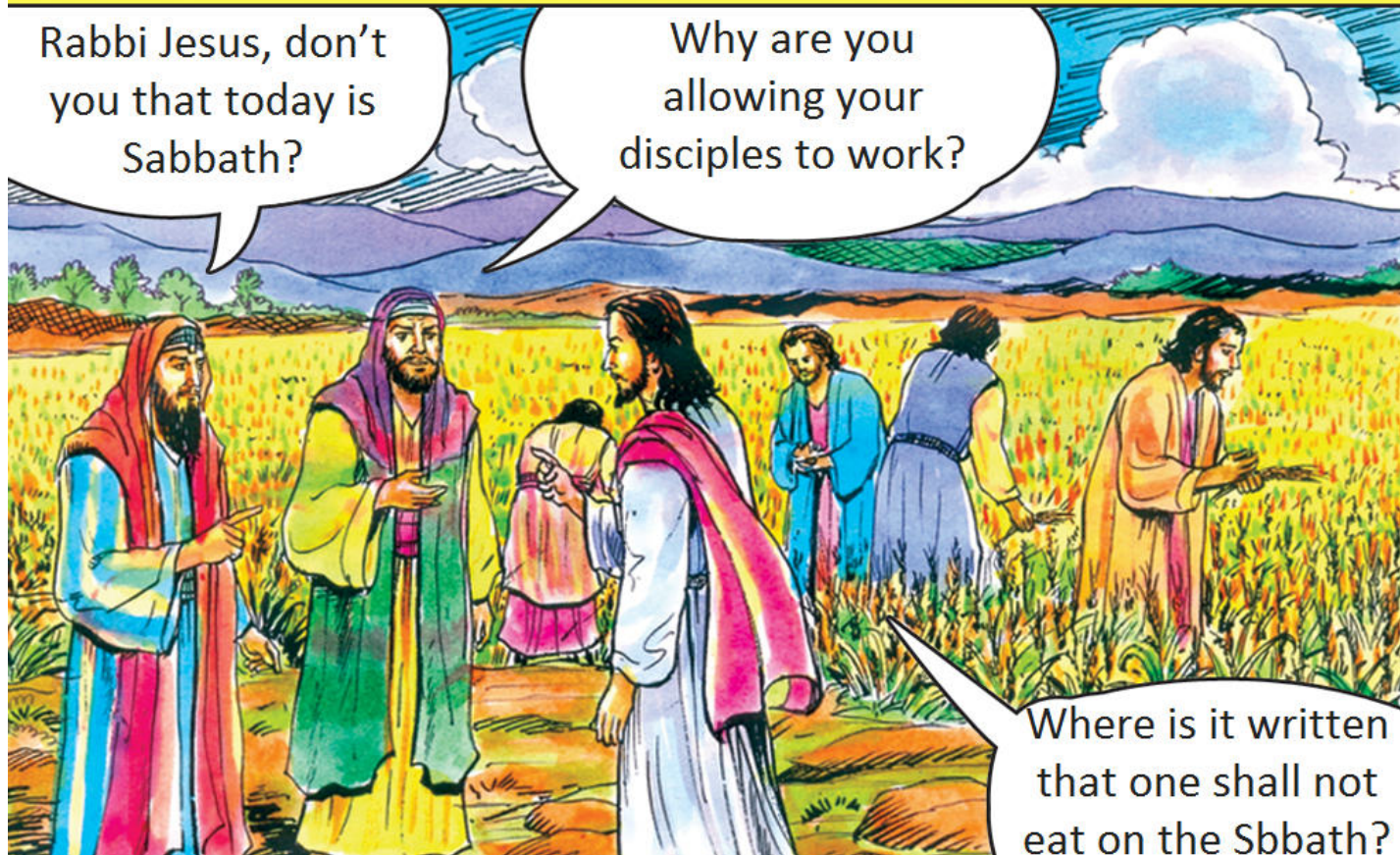


Mathew distributed all his wealth among the poor and then followed Jesus. On a Sabbath day, they were walking through the corn field.

Rabbi Jesus, don't you that today is Sabbath?

Why are you allowing your disciples to work?

Where is it written that one shall not eat on the Sabbath?



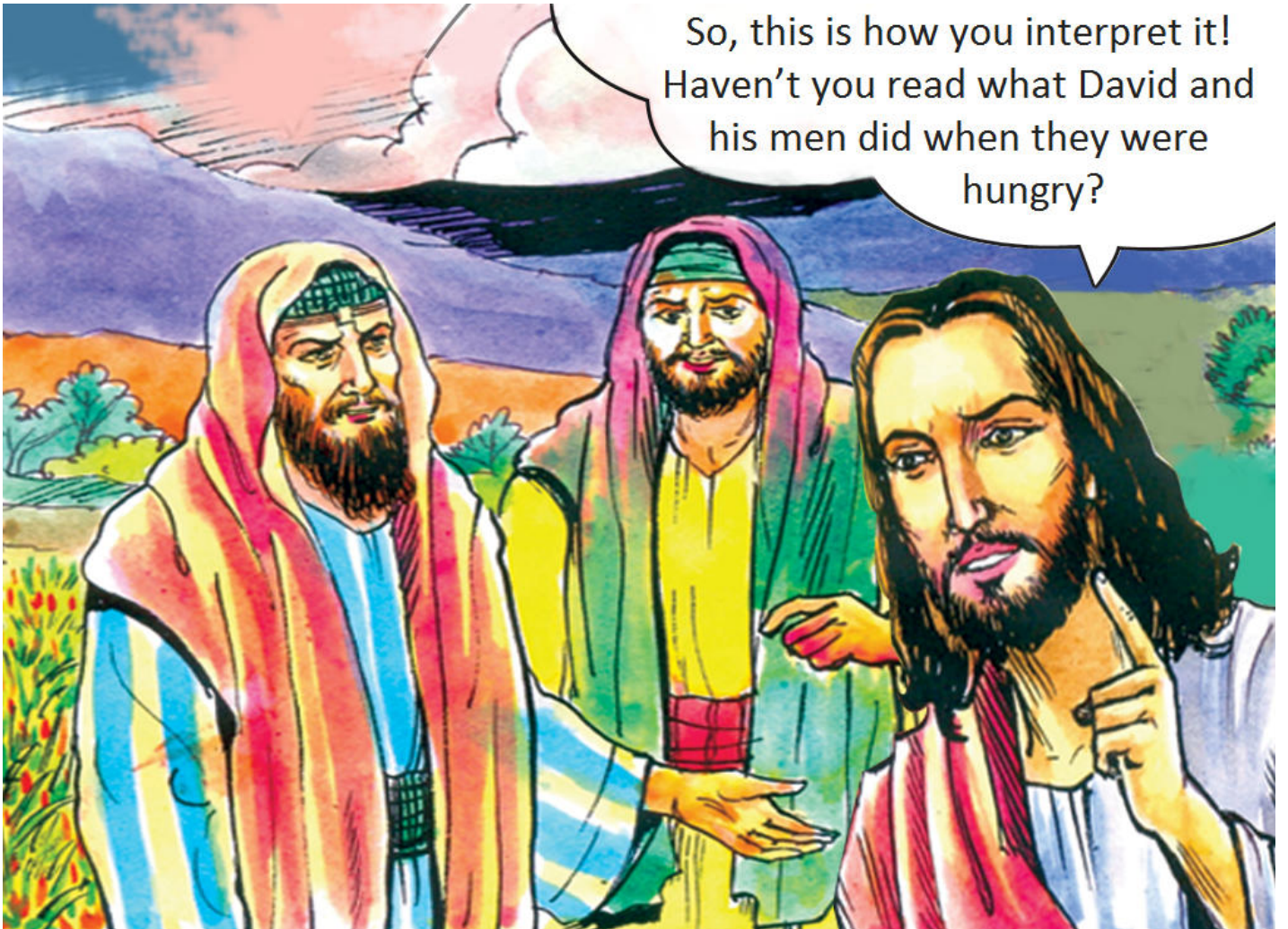
Is this eating?

Aren't they reaping,  
threshing, cooking and  
eating all at once?





So, this is how you interpret it!  
Haven't you read what David and  
his men did when they were  
hungry?



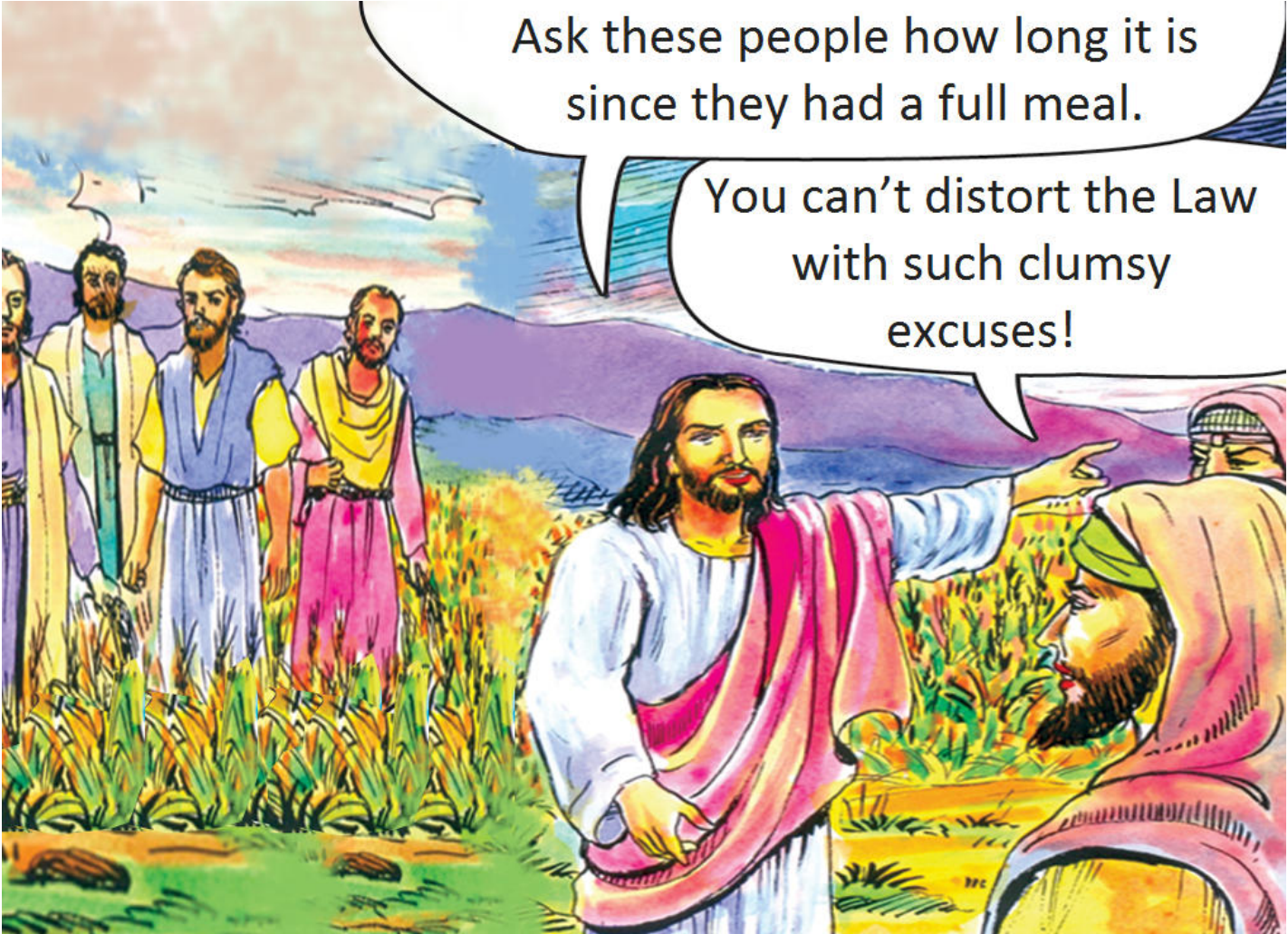
They entered the Sanctuary and ate the consecrated bread that only the priests were allowed to eat.

He was the anointed of the Lord.

?!!!



Not only that, their lives were in danger.



Ask these people how long it is  
since they had a full meal.

You can't distort the Law  
with such clumsy  
excuses!

The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. The Son of Man is master even of the Sabbath.

!!



Jesus and his disciples reached Sychar, a town in Samaria.

You go into town and buy some food. I will rest here a while.

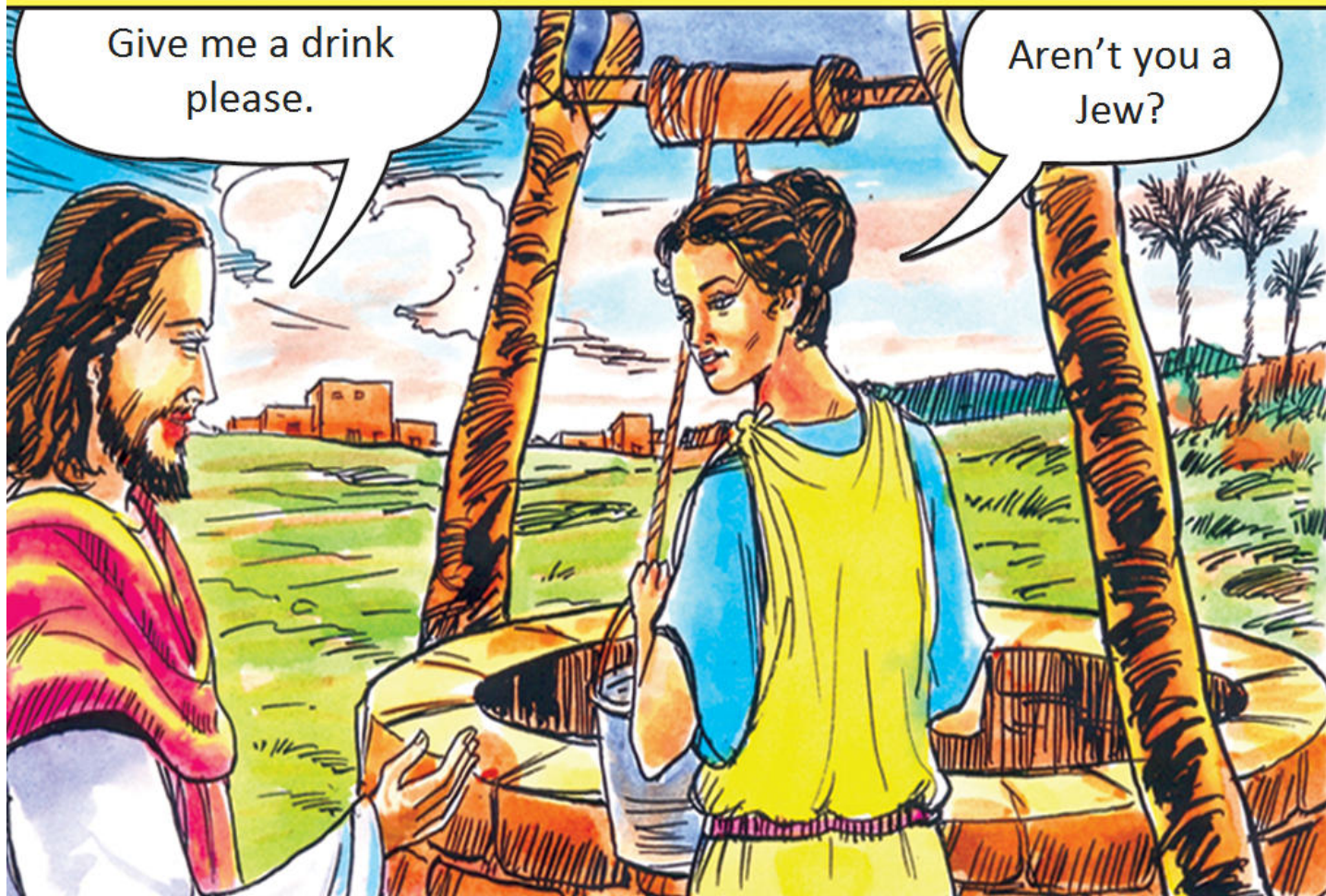
We shall return soon.




Then a woman came to draw water.

Give me a drink  
please.

Aren't you a  
Jew?



A stylized illustration of a woman's face, rendered in a comic book or graphic novel style. She has brown hair, blue eyes, and a slight smile. A large white speech bubble is positioned to her right, containing text. The background is light blue with some dark blue hatching lines.

I am a Samaritan.  
Would the Jews  
associate with the  
Samaritans?

If you only knew what God is offering and who I am, you should have asked me and I would have given you living water.

You have no bucket Sir, the well is deep.



Are you greater than our Father Jacob who gave us this well.





Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again.  
But anyone who drinks the water I give shall  
never be thirsty again.



Go, call your husband and come back here.

I have no husband.

You are right. Although you have had five husbands, the one you have now is not your husband.

I see that you are a prophet. Tell me, where should we worship, on Mount Gerizim or in Jerusalem?



Neither. True  
worshippers will  
worship the Father  
in spirit and truth.

I know that when  
the Messiah  
comes, he will  
teach us the whole  
truth.



I, who am speaking to you,  
am he.

!!



I, who am speaking to you,  
am he.

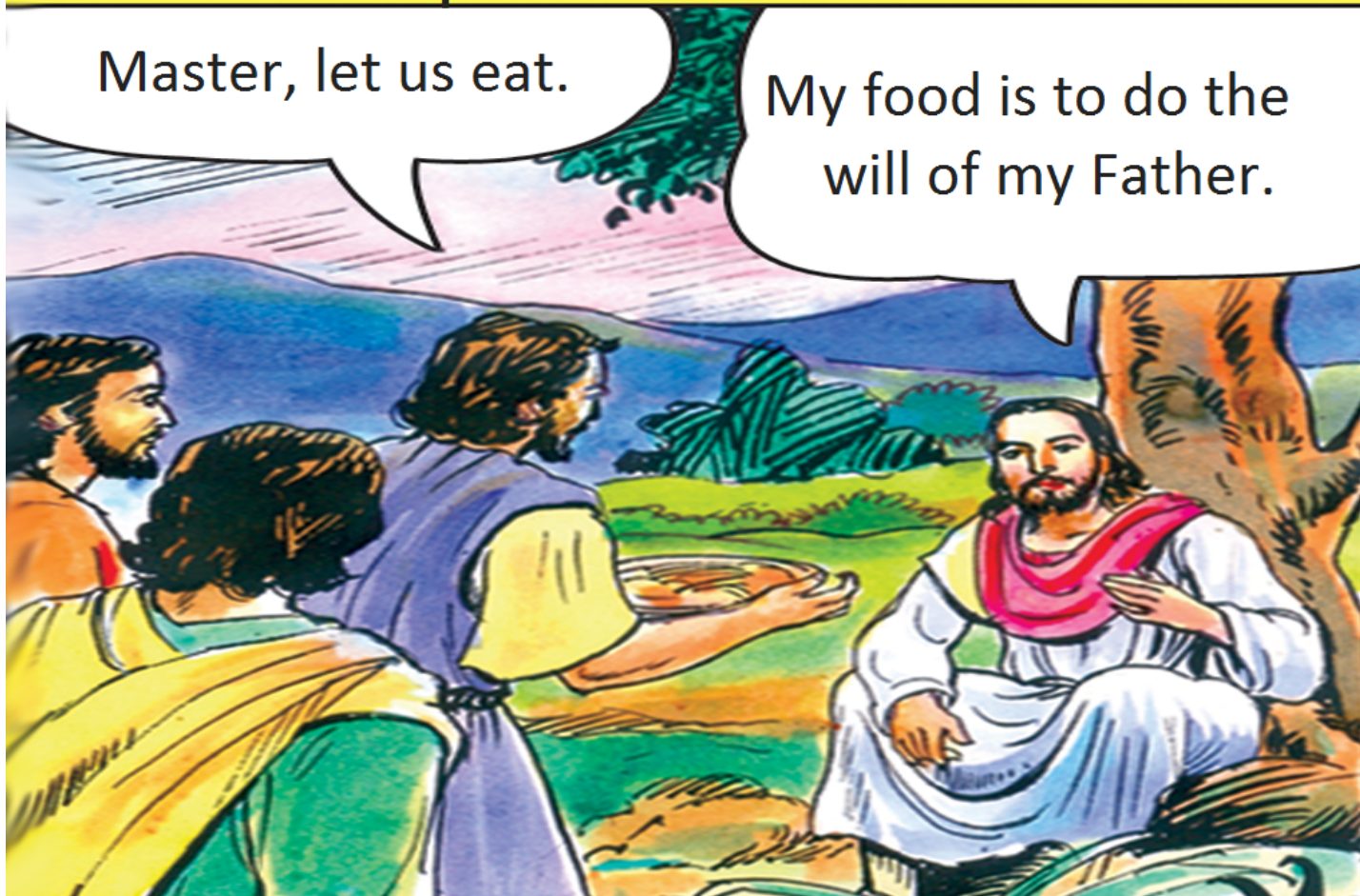
!!



# The disciples returned with food.

Master, let us eat.

My food is to do the will of my Father.

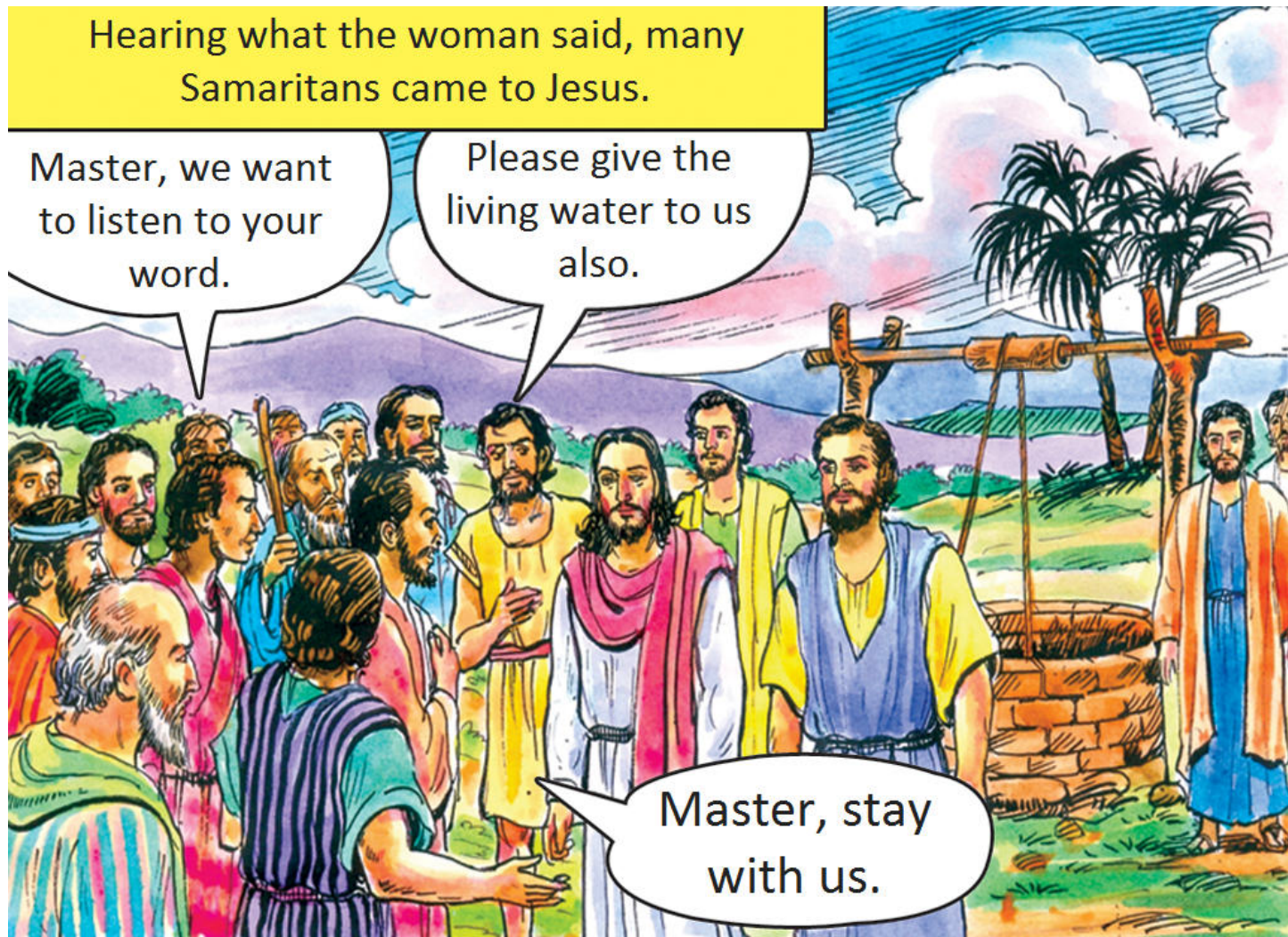


Hearing what the woman said, many Samaritans came to Jesus.

Master, we want to listen to your word.

Please give the living water to us also.

Master, stay with us.



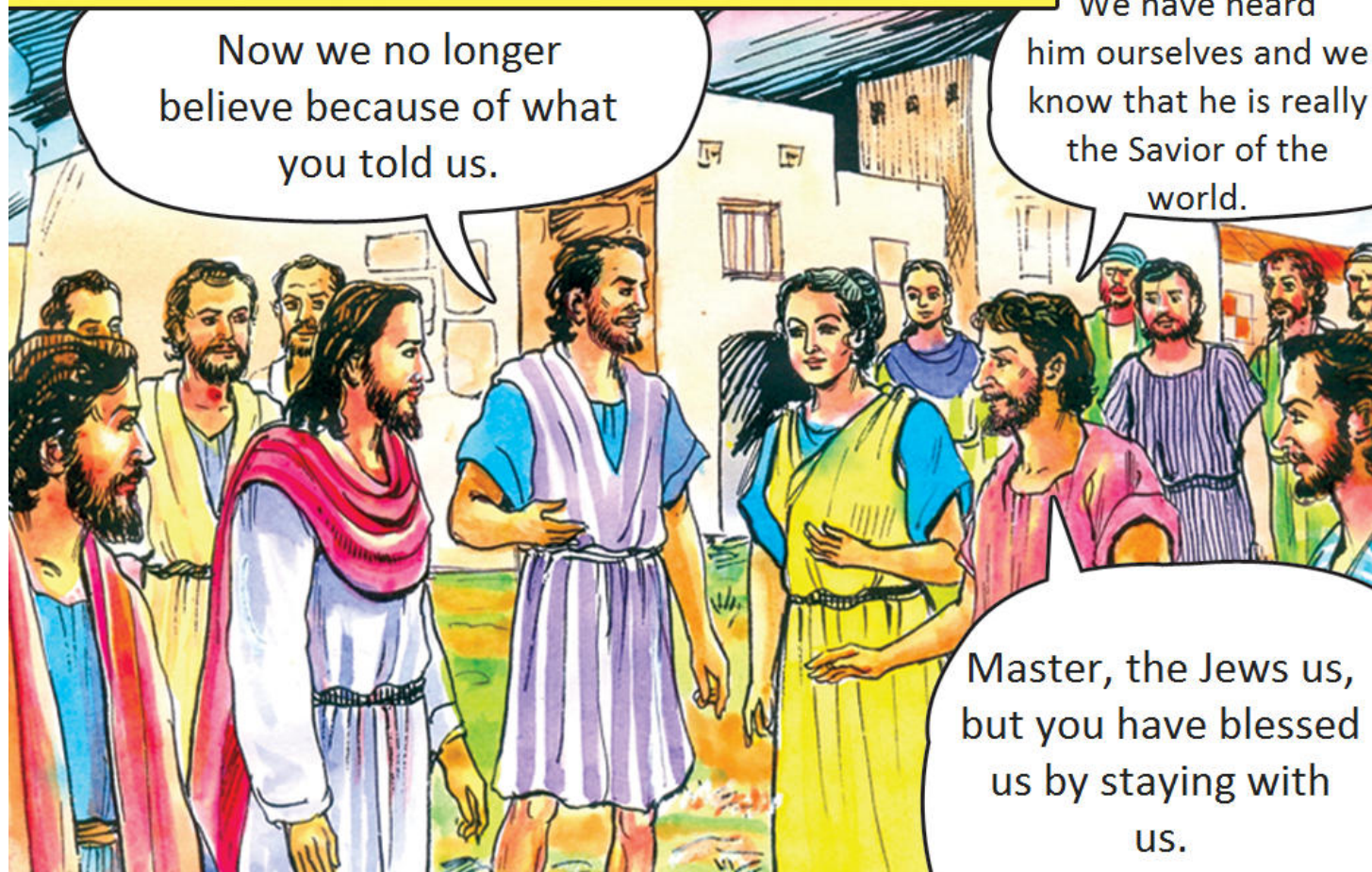


Jesus stayed with them for two days. As he was departing.

Now we no longer believe because of what you told us.

We have heard him ourselves and we know that he is really the Savior of the world.

Master, the Jews us, but you have blessed us by staying with us.



They came back to Capernaum. On a Sabbath day Jesus entered the Synagogue. There was a man with a withered hand.

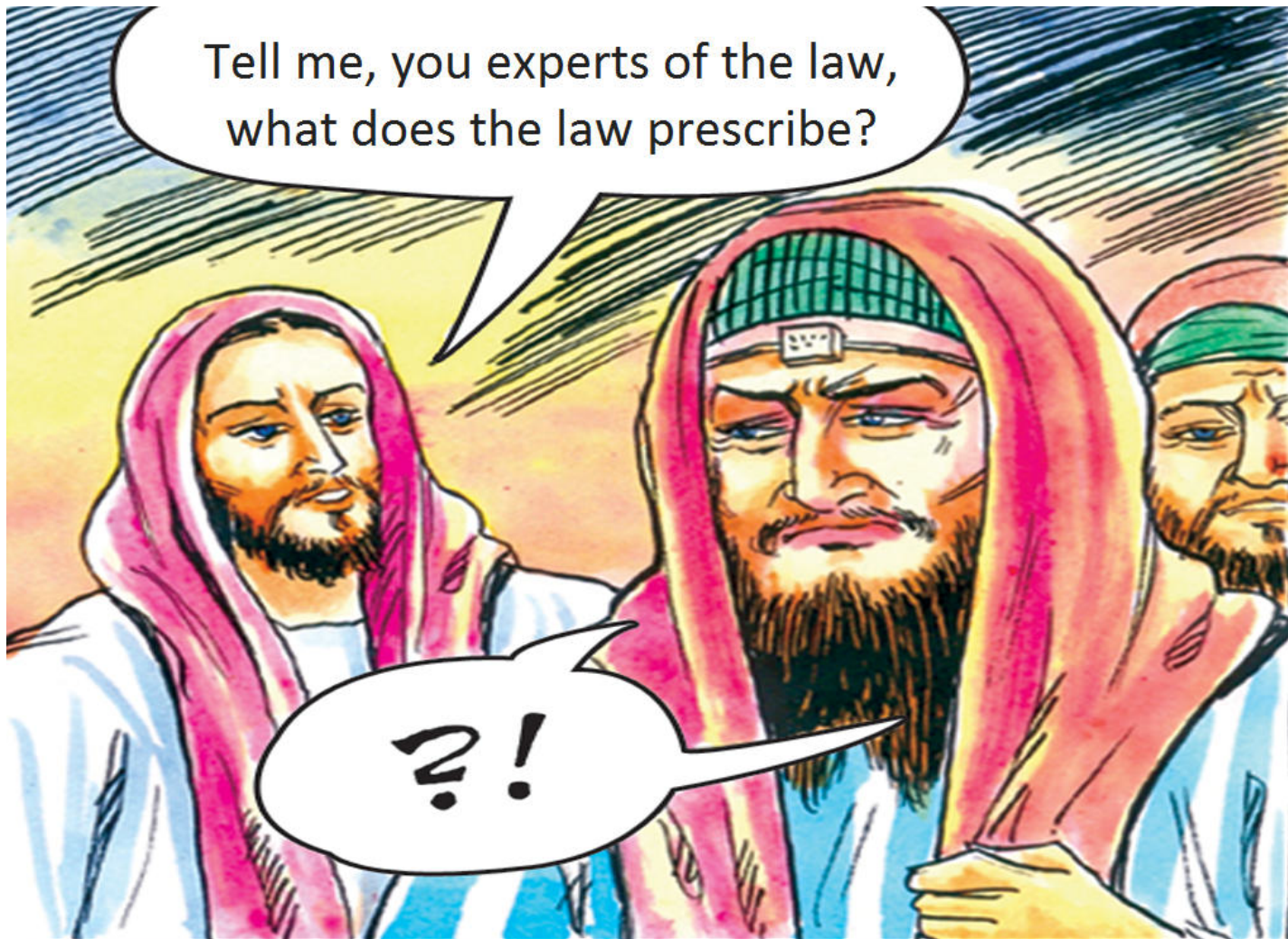


Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save life or to kill?

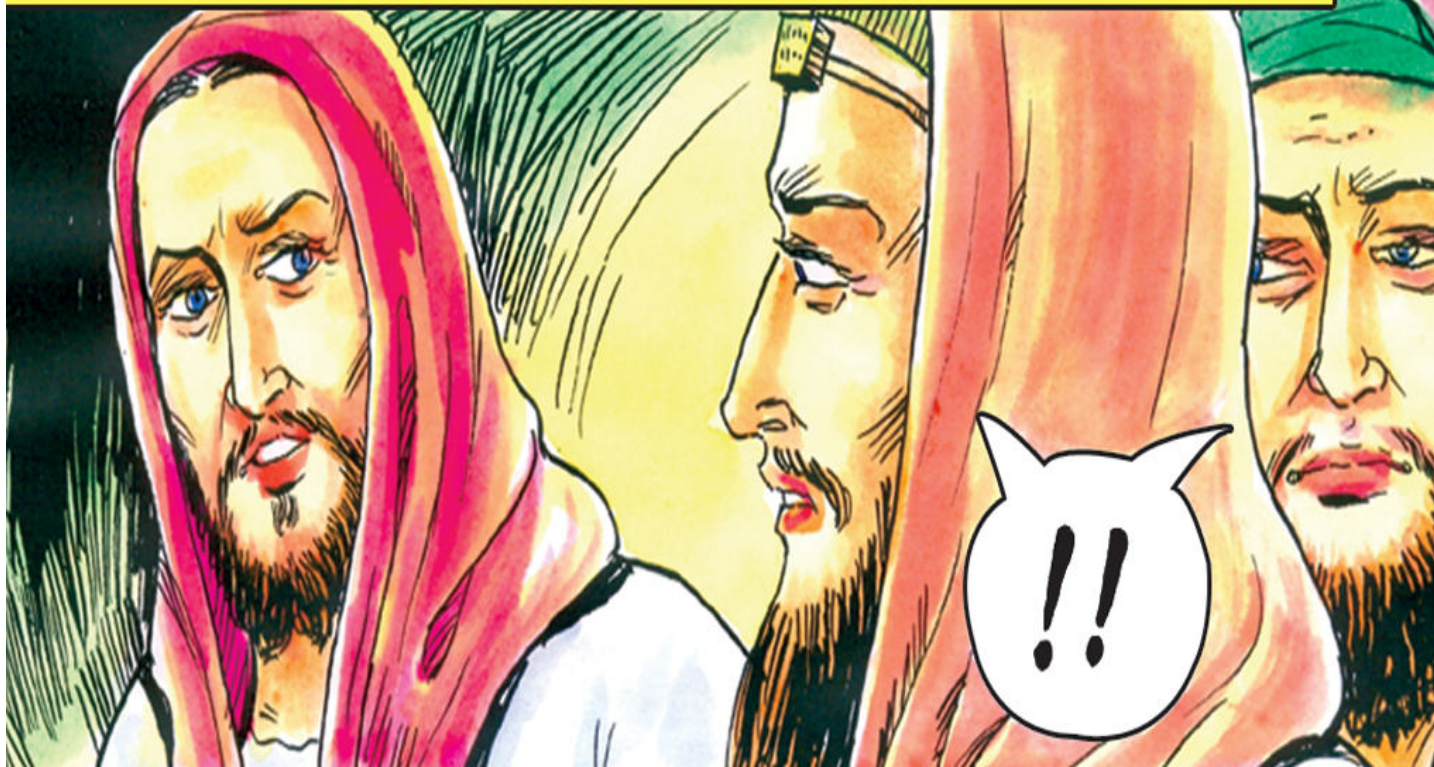


Tell me, you experts of the law,  
what does the law prescribe?

?!



They remained silent. Seeing how wicked they were, Jesus was grieved and looked at them with anger.





Stretch out  
your hand!

He stretched and he was healed.

Praise and Glory to God!

!?



We have lawyers  
and learned men to  
interpret the law.

You are  
distorting it.

It is a sin to interpret the  
law against the official  
teaching of the Holy  
Sanhedrin.





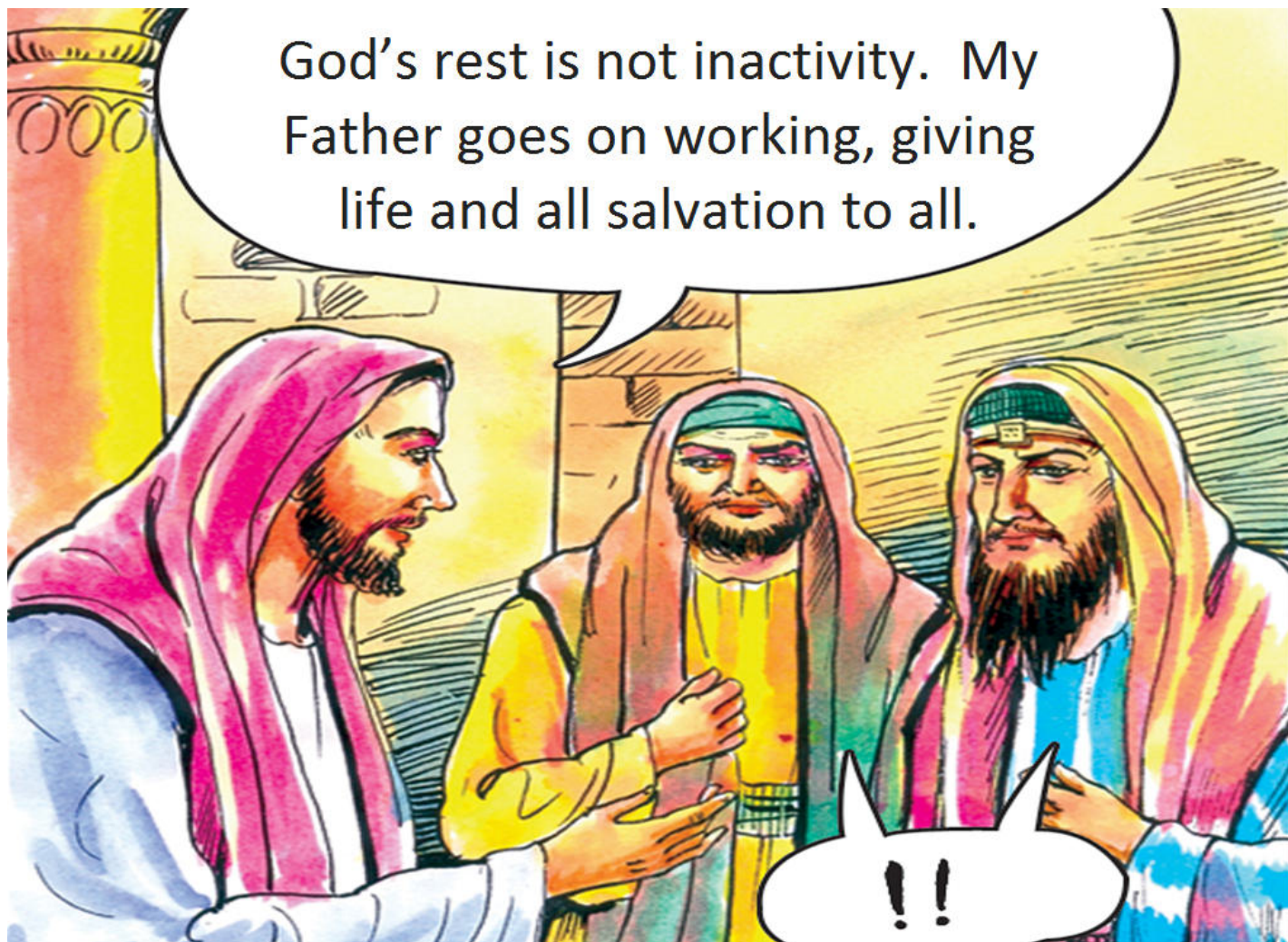
God completed the work of creation in six days and rested on the seventh day. Sabbath is taking part in that rest.



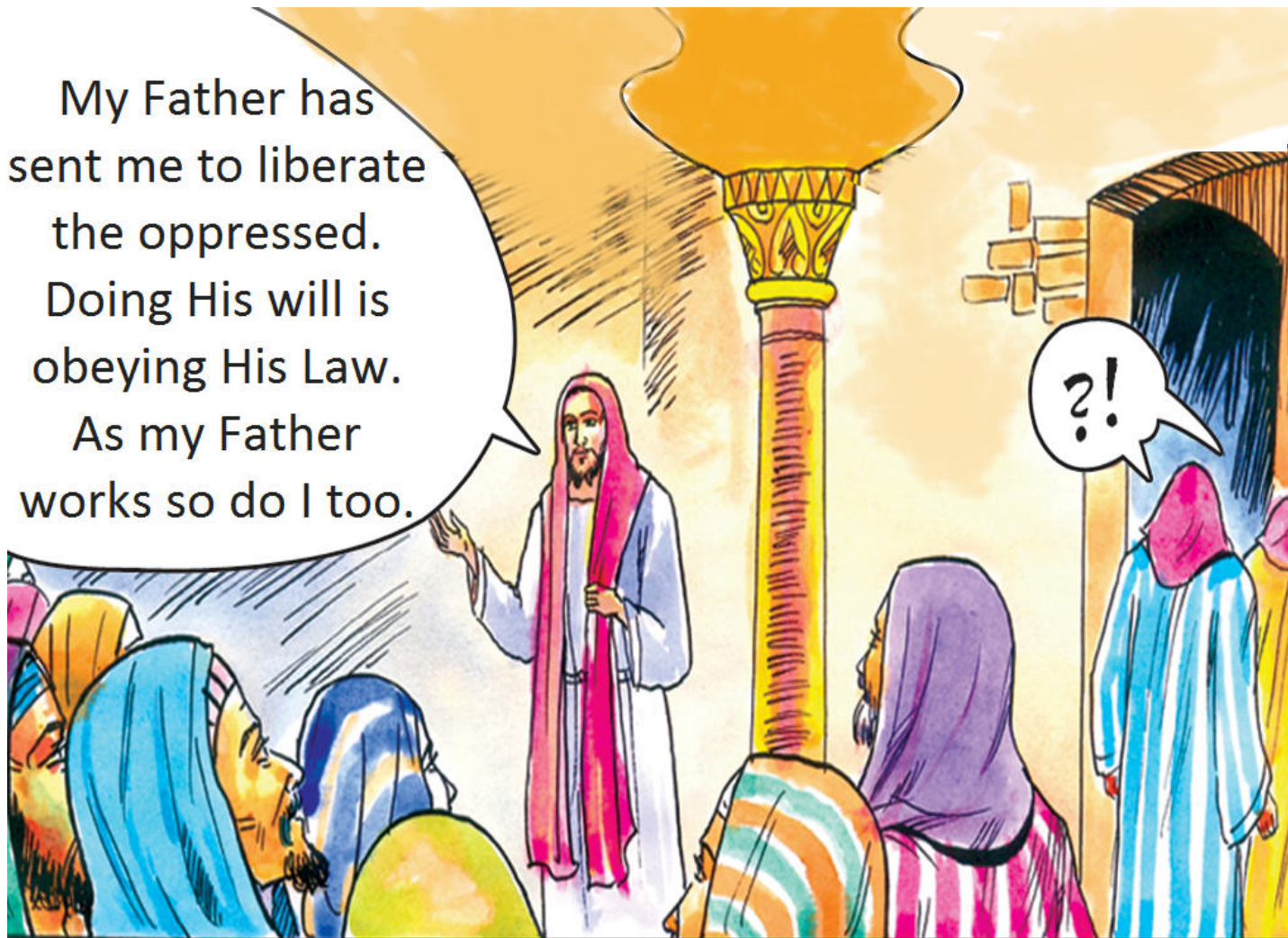
Healing is the work of the  
Doctors, a work forbidden  
on the Sabbath.



God's rest is not inactivity. My Father goes on working, giving life and all salvation to all.



My Father has sent me to liberate the oppressed. Doing His will is obeying His Law. As my Father works so do I too.



The Pharisees and lawyers walked out in rage and conspired against Jesus.

He not only breaks the Law, but even dares to call the Almighty one his Father.

Didn't he say that he acts like God? What a presumption!



Not just presumption, it is blasphemy.

He shouldn't be allowed to live. We must inform the Sanhedrin and seek a way to eliminate him.



The liberating actions of Jesus infuriated those in authority. They sought ways to destroy him. But Jesus moved ahead with firm determination and laid foundation for a new community.

**NEXT STORY**

**THE ONE TO COME**

## QUESTIONS

1. Why did the people chase away the Leper?
2. What was the goal of the Zealots?
3. Who has the authority to forgive sin?
4. According to Jesus, what should we seek first?
5. Whom did the Son of Man come to seek?
6. Give four examples of Jesus' liberating actions.
7. Why did Jesus become sad and angry?
8. Why did the Pharisees and Lawyers plot to kill Jesus?
9. Why do people try to accumulate wealth and how?
10. What should we do to achieve true and lasting freedom?

Memorize: *“Will a person gain anything if he wins the whole world but loses his life?”*(Mt 16,26)



# 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