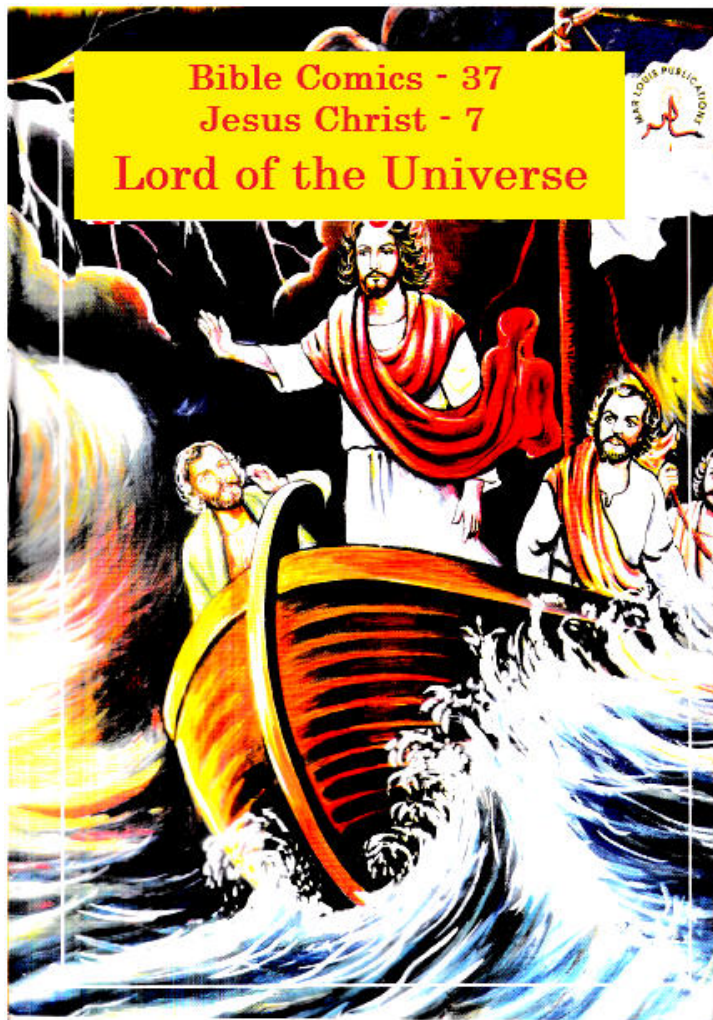


Bible Comics - 37
Jesus Christ - 7
Lord of the Universe



THE LORD OF THE UNIVERSE

The words and deeds of Jesus are the manifestations of God's love for a sinful humanity. At the same time they pose the inevitable question: who is this Jesus? At his word the lepers were cleansed, the lame threw away their crutches and leaped like a deer; the dead came back to life. Who is this man who has such power? The titles of dignity such as prophet, liberator, the One to Come, are only partial expressions of his personality.

The contemporaries of Jesus, his friends and foes alike, were confronted with an unprecedented experience. They knew very well that only God could forgive sins. So they were shocked to hear Jesus telling the sinners: “your sins are forgiven”. They could not grasp how a man could use such authority. Either he is a blasphemer or he is equal to God. But they could not imagine how a human being could be equal to God. In the present story, a few episodes are depicted that shed light into the depths of the personality of Jesus. The one who has the power

to still the storm, to calm the chaotic waters, and to call people back to life from death, could be none but the Lord of the universe. However, it was difficult for the people to draw this conclusion particularly because the one who wielded this supreme power was a humble carpenter from Nazareth.

John the Baptist was the forerunner who prepared the way for Jesus. His violent death at the hands of an immoral tyrant is an example of the end of a true prophet. The powers of evil feel threatened by prophets and try to destroy them.

John's death foreshadows and heralds the inevitable end of Jesus' prophetic ministry.

In the face of opposition and impending disaster, Jesus continued his preaching and healing ministry. He taught the people should not be discriminated against on any ground whatsoever. Jesus came to establish a new family in which God is the father and all the human beings are brothers and sisters. What matters is not blood relation to Jesus but listening to his word and putting it into practice.

Jesus' teaching was clear and simple. He spoke of the unconditional love and fatherly care of God through numerous examples taken from everyday life. To the farmers he spoke about the field and seed, about sowing and reaping; to the fishermen about fish and nets, to the housewives about oil lamps and torn clothes. All these he used to convey the message of God's love and the need of responding to it.

As the teaching was simple, his call to repentance was clear and direct. But only very few could understand the depth of the message he

was communicating and respond in faith. Even the apostles who accompanied him and witnessed the miracles he performed could not easily grasp the implications of what they experienced. They were all Jews who believed that there is only one God. In order to accept and confess that Jesus is equal to God, they had to revise their beliefs completely. Only gradually they came to this realization and confession. The miracles, especially those performed on the forces of nature, prepared them for the confession that Jesus is the Lord of the universe.



Bible Comics - 37
Jesus Christ - 7

Lord of the Universe

Script

Dr. Michael Karimattam

Illustration

Devassy & Benny

Jesus went around the towns and villages proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom of God. Among his followers there were some women whom Jesus had cured of the possession of the evil spirits. One day.

Joanna, what happened? You look so miserable.

How is Chuza? What is new at the Palace?

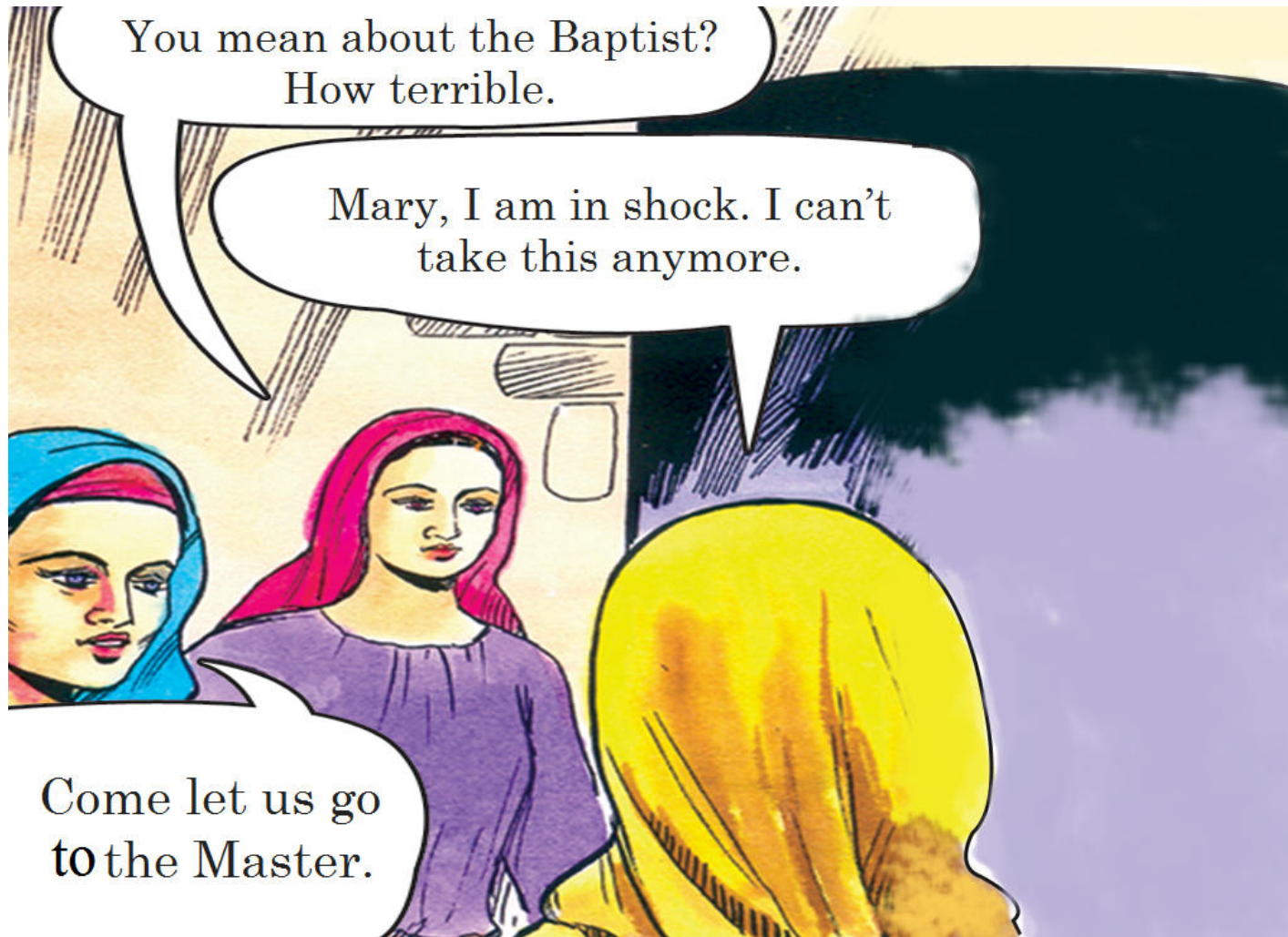
You must have heard of what happened at the Palace.



You mean about the Baptist?
How terrible.

Mary, I am in shock. I can't
take this anymore.

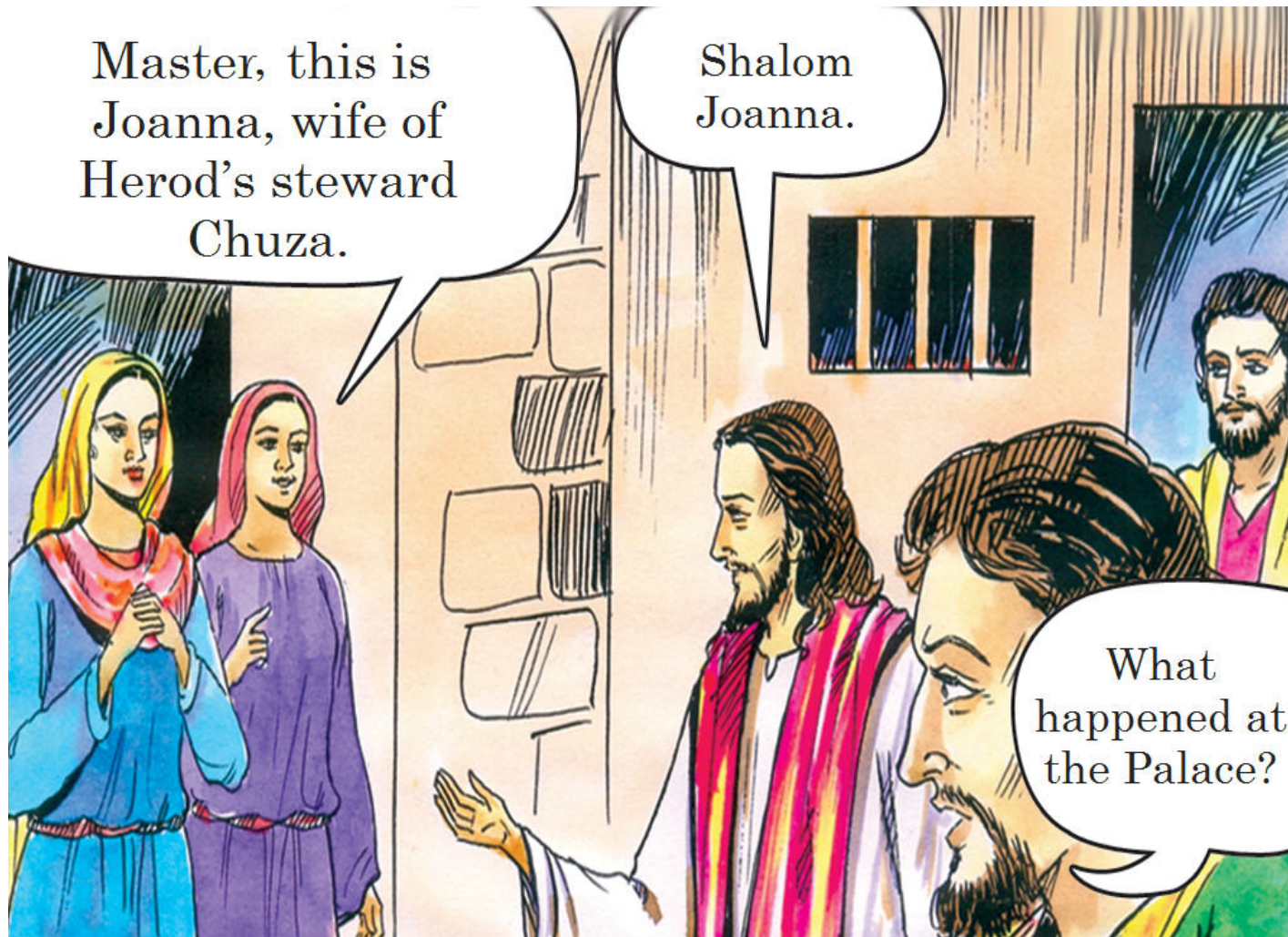
Come let us go
to the Master.



Master, this is
Joanna, wife of
Herod's steward
Chuza.

Shalom
Joanna.

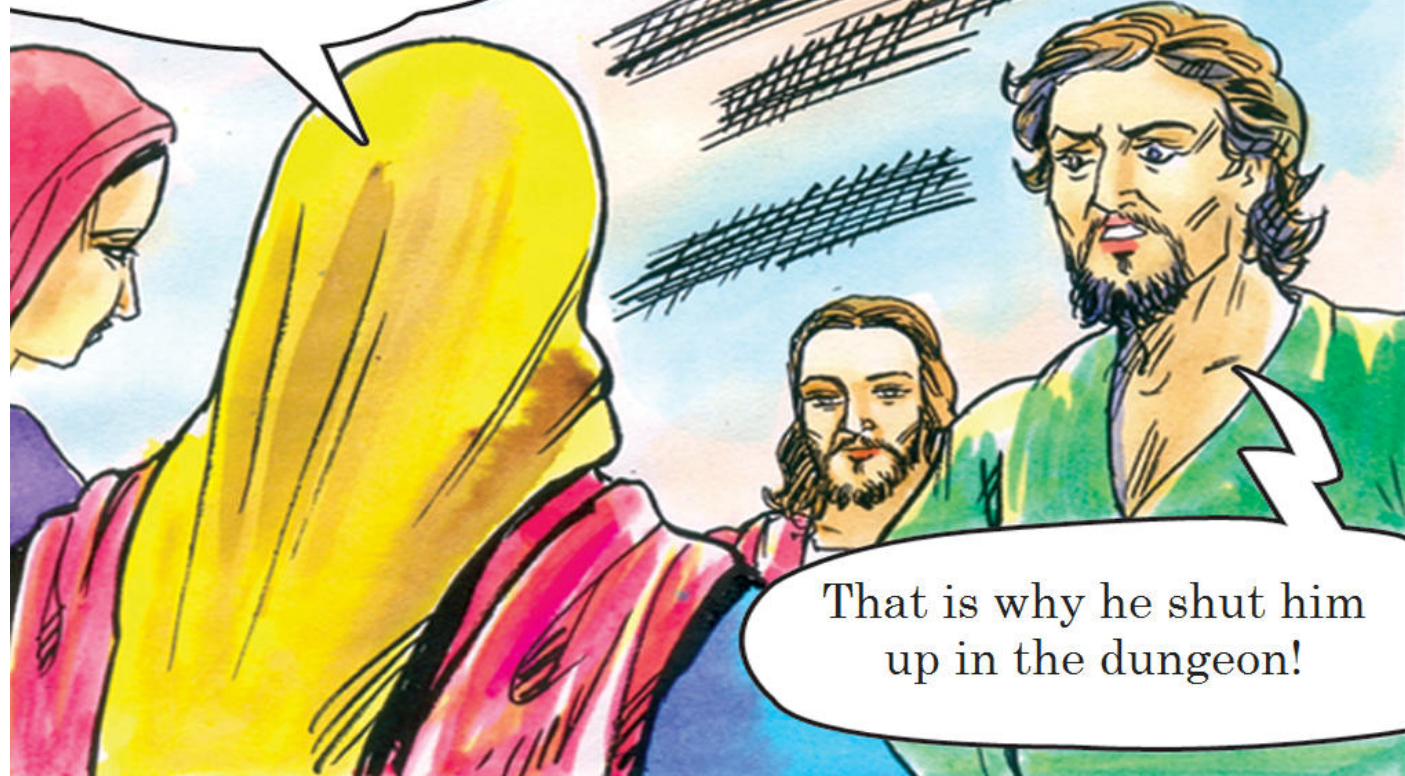
What
happened at
the Palace?



I came to tell
you about that.



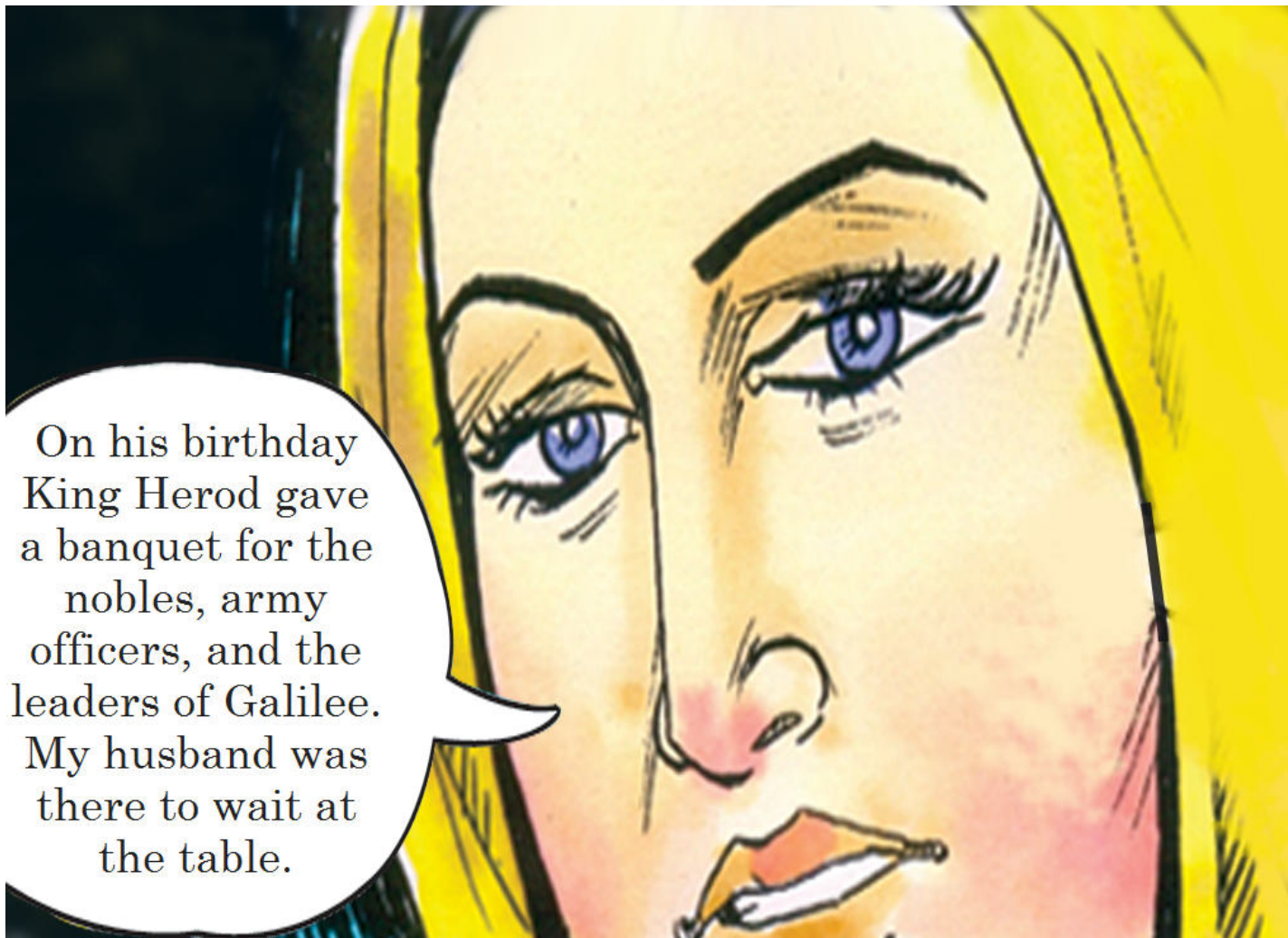
The King had
great respect
for the Baptist.



That is why he shut him
up in the dungeon!

The king often sought his advice. The queen didn't like it at all. She was waiting for a chance to get back at him.





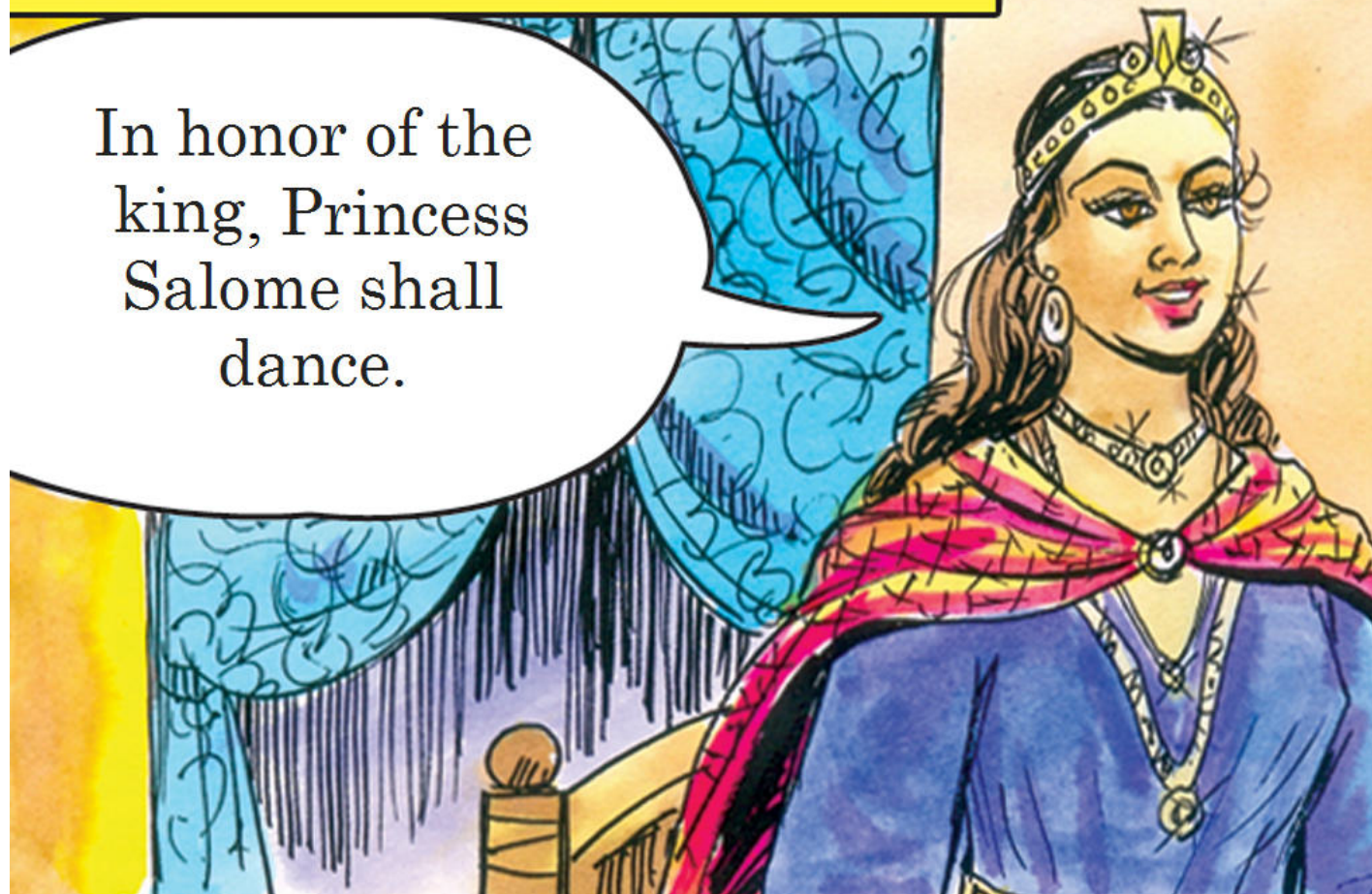
On his birthday
King Herod gave
a banquet for the
nobles, army
officers, and the
leaders of Galilee.
My husband was
there to wait at
the table.

Dinner at Herod's Palace.

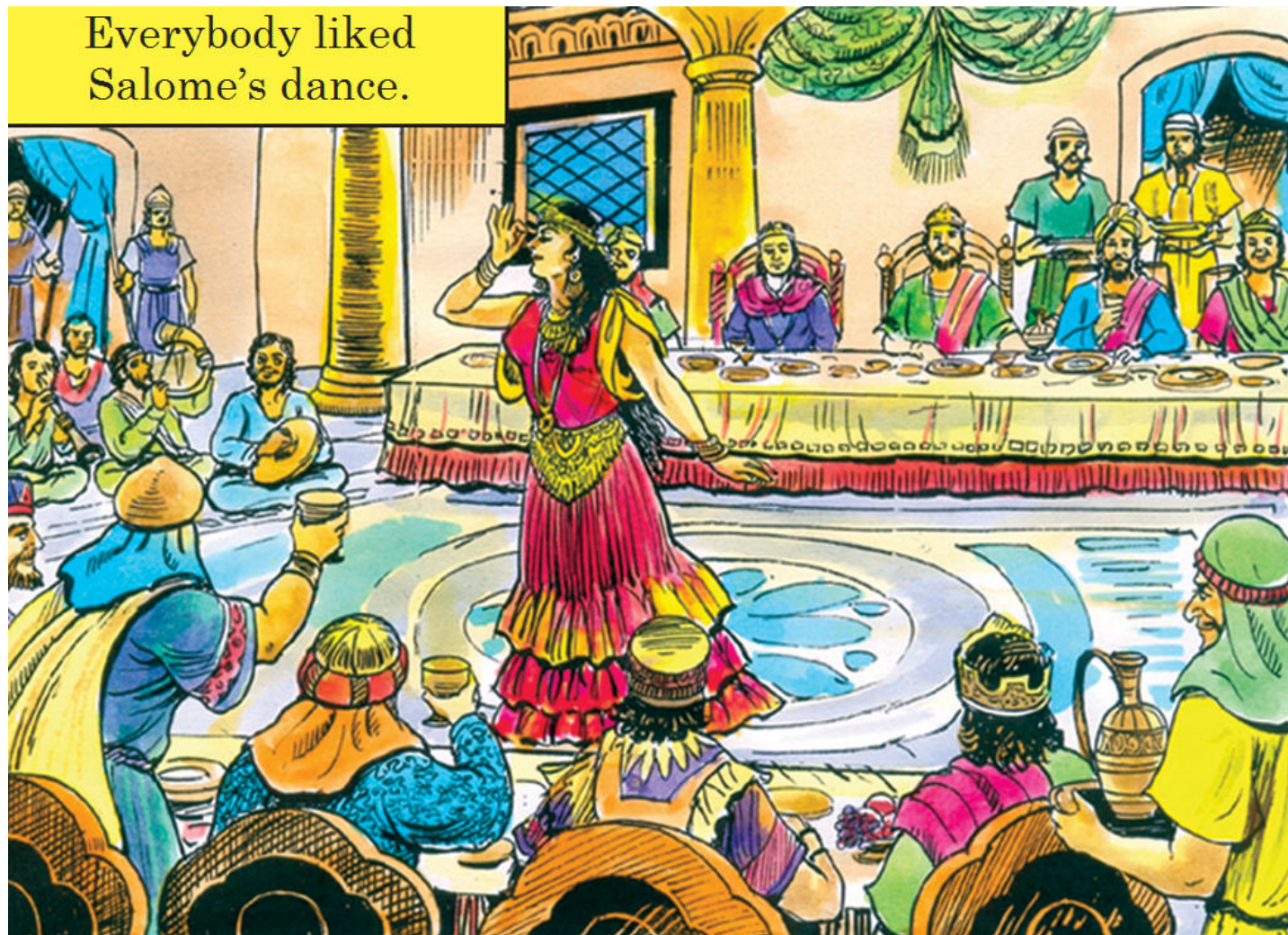


In the middle of the Dinner.

In honor of the
king, Princess
Salome shall
dance.



Everybody liked
Salome's dance.



At the end of the dance.

I am delighted with your performance. Ask me for anything you like.

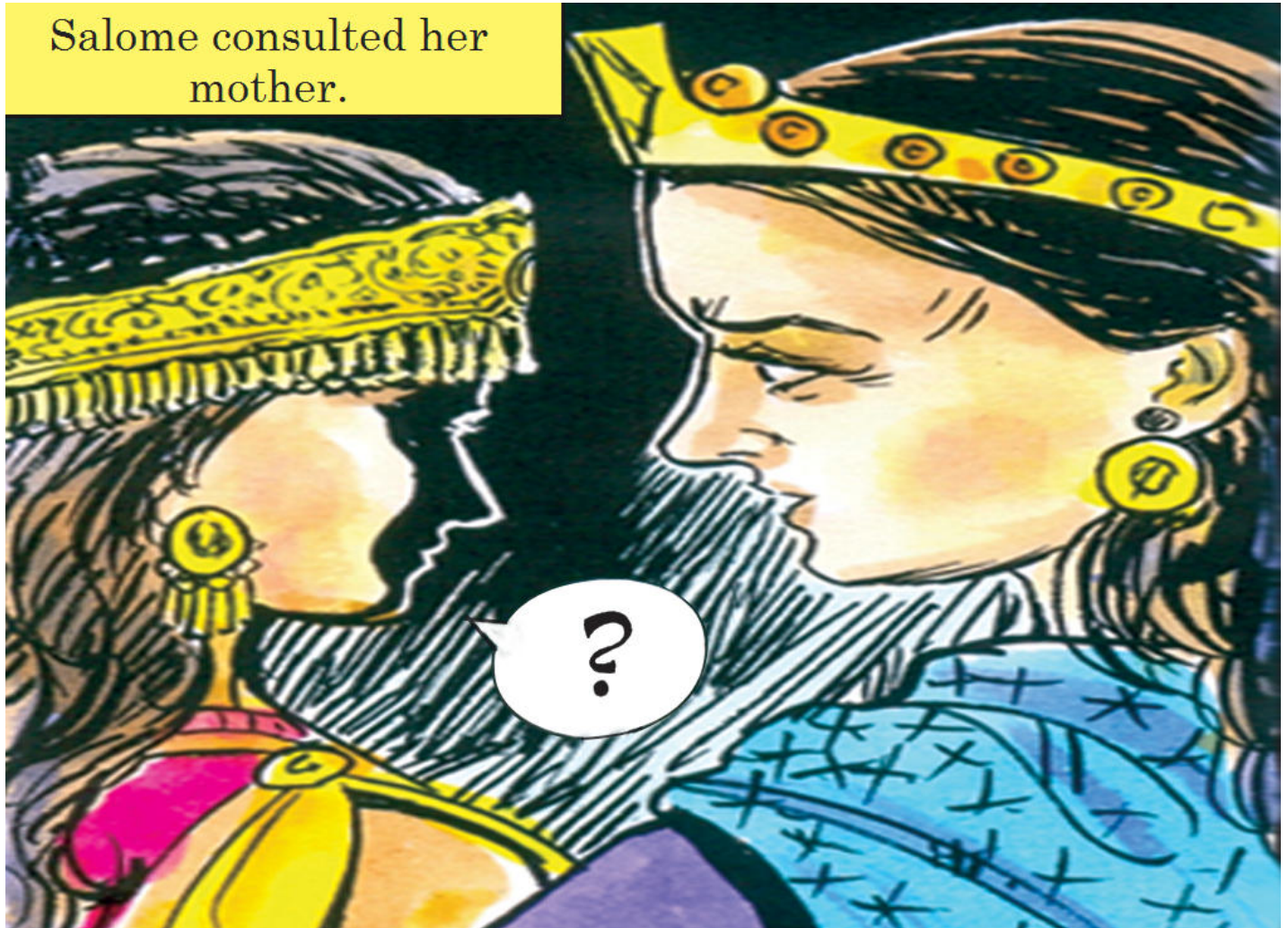
Anything?




Anything. I will give you
anything you ask for. Even
half of my Kingdom.



Salome consulted her
mother.





Tell me, what is your wish?

I want you to give me the head of John the Baptist. Here and now on a dish.

No not that. Ask
anything else like
money, ornaments.

The king must keep his
word. You swore before
all these people. If you
break your promise,
then no one will respect
you.

!!!





Guards, bring John's head on a silver dish and give it to Salome. Let his disciples have the body.

?

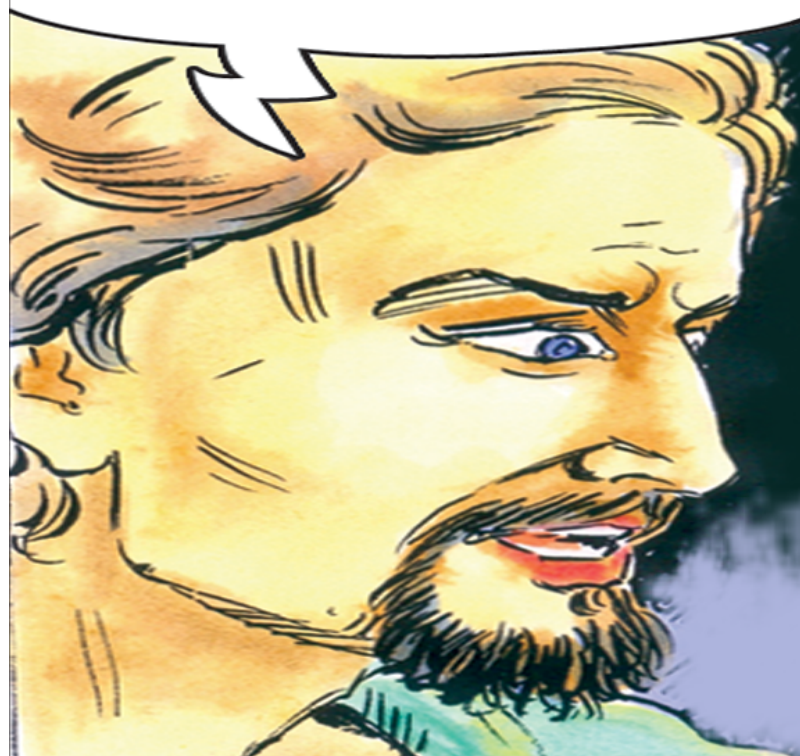
!

!!!?

The head in a dish! The staring eyes on a
bleeding head frightened everyone in the hall.
My husband lost his mind.



Oh John, your head a gift to
a dancing girl! We shall
avenge you.



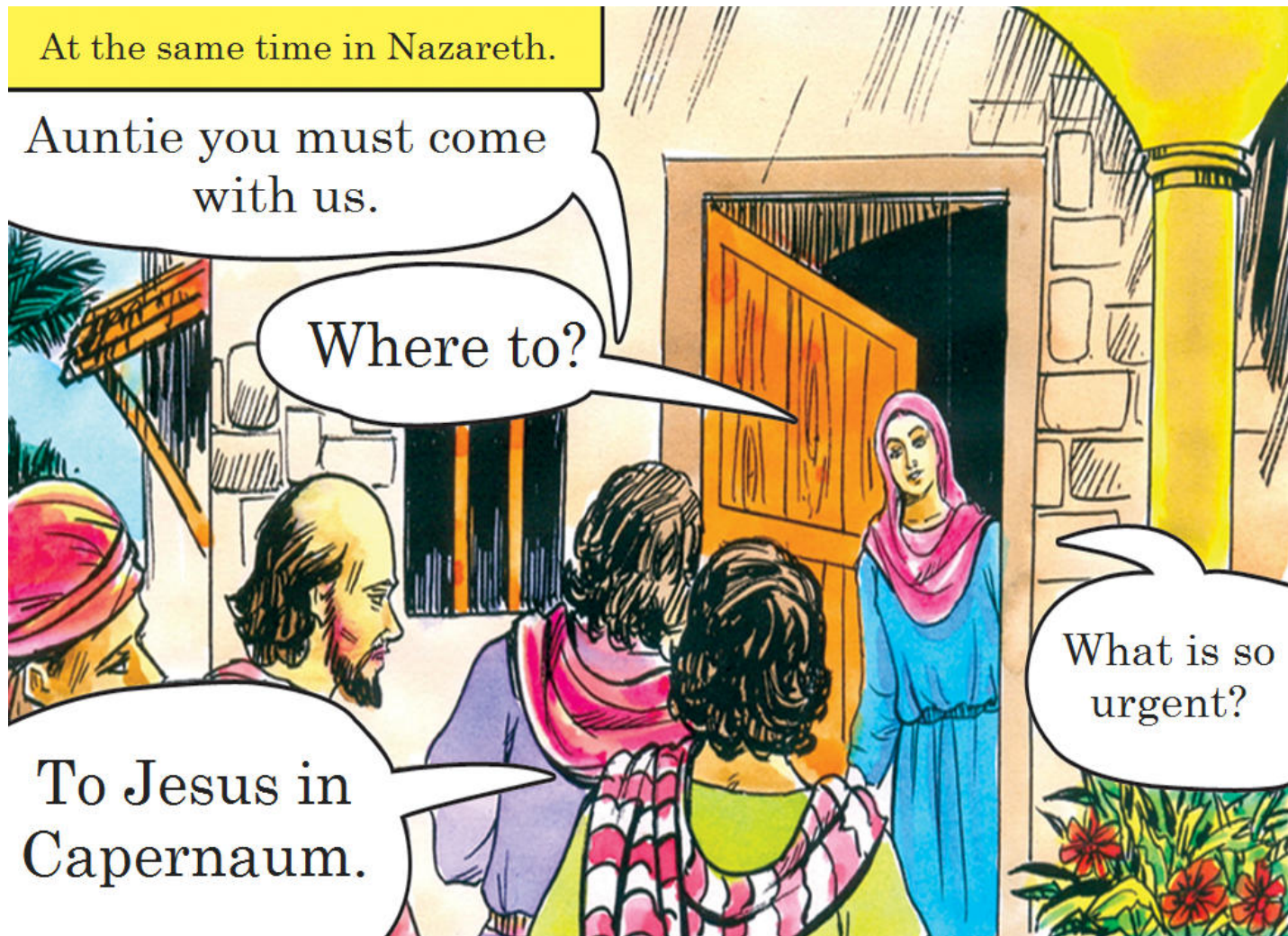
At the same time in Nazareth.


Auntie you must come with us.

Where to?

To Jesus in Capernaum.

What is so urgent?






Jesus lost his mind. May be if you tell him, He will come with us.

If not, we will have to use force.

What are you saying? It is a lie his enemies are spreading. Do you also believe that?



The problem
is not what we
believe. The
people might
kill him.

After
killing
John,
Herod has
now set his
eyes on
Jesus.

They went searching for Jesus who was speaking to the people.

A sower went out to sow. As he sowed, some of the seeds fell on the edge of the path.

People trampled on them and birds of the air ate them.

Some fell among thorns and the thorns choked them.

Some fell in good soil and produced their crops, a hundred-fold.



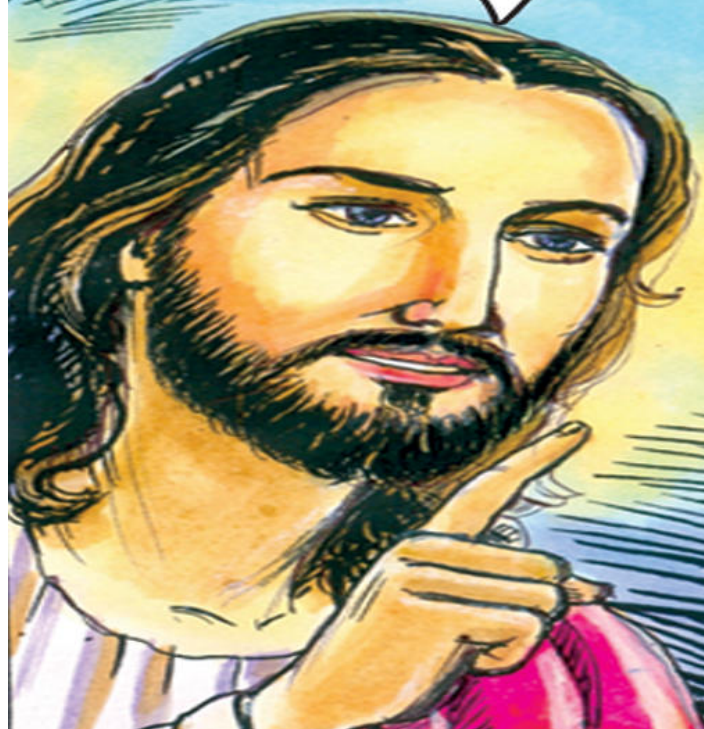




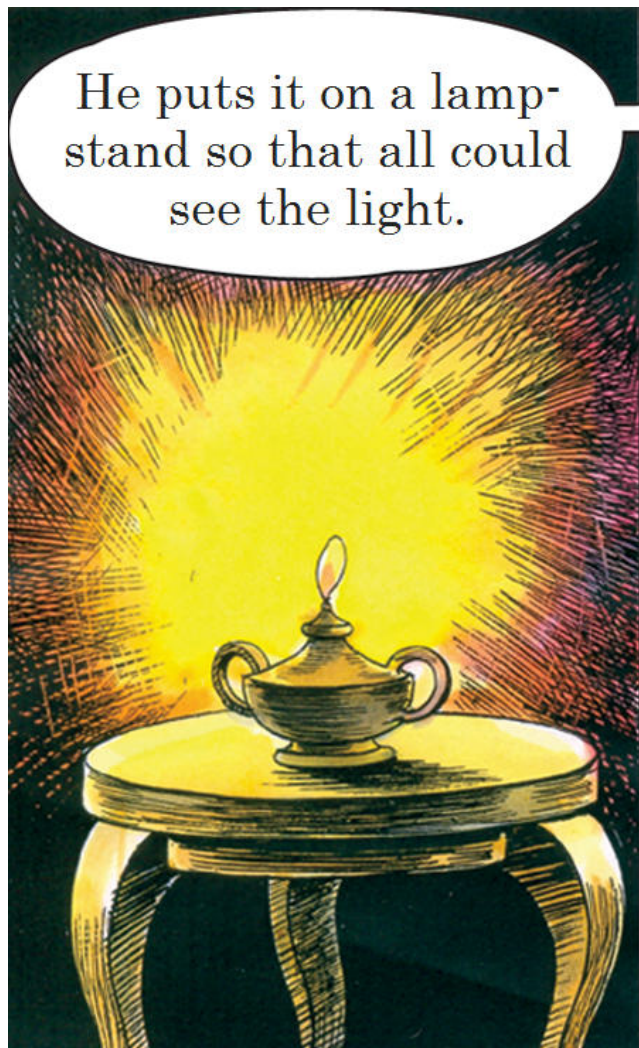
Listen, anyone who
has ears.



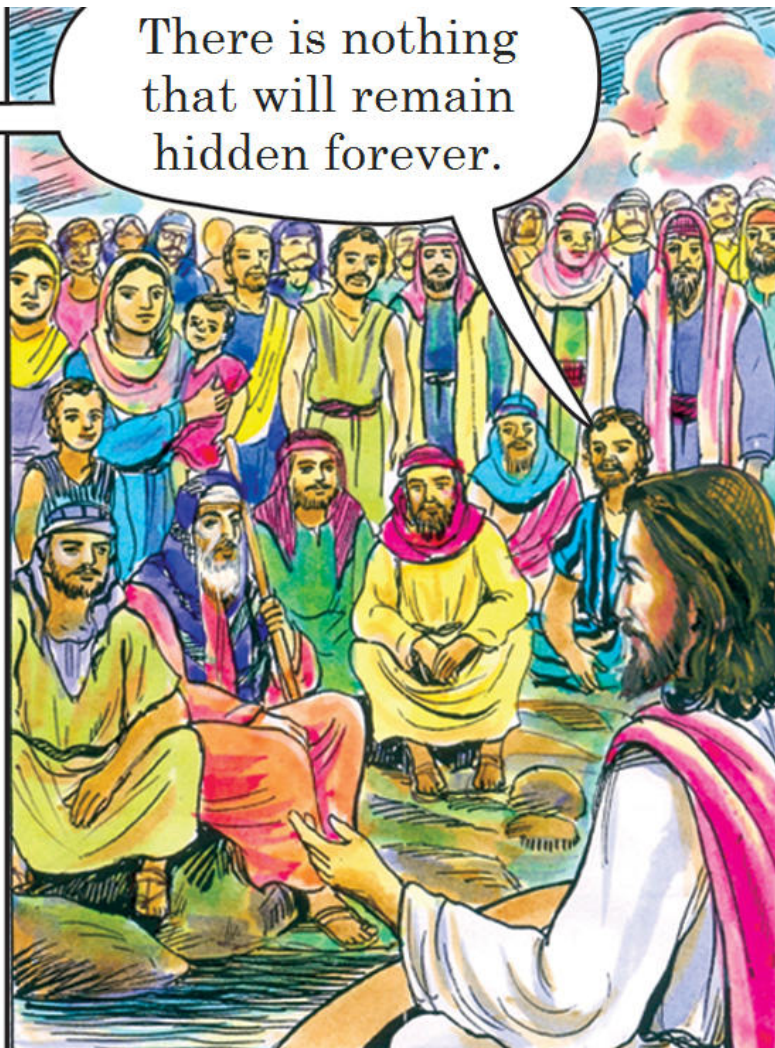
No one lights a lamp to
cover it with a bowl or
to put it under the bed.



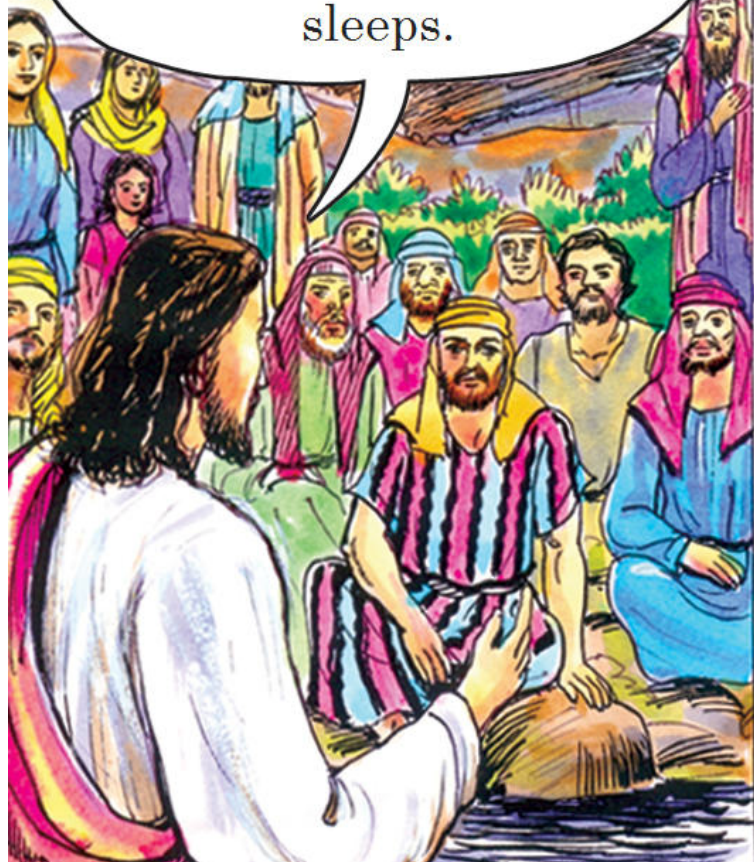
He puts it on a lamp-stand so that all could see the light.



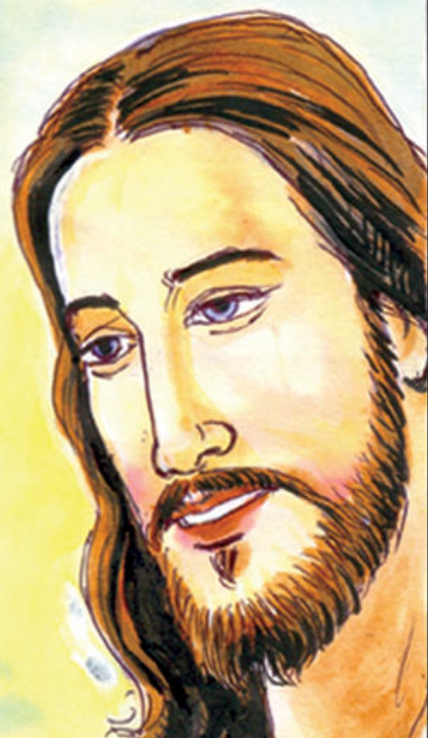
There is nothing that will remain hidden forever.



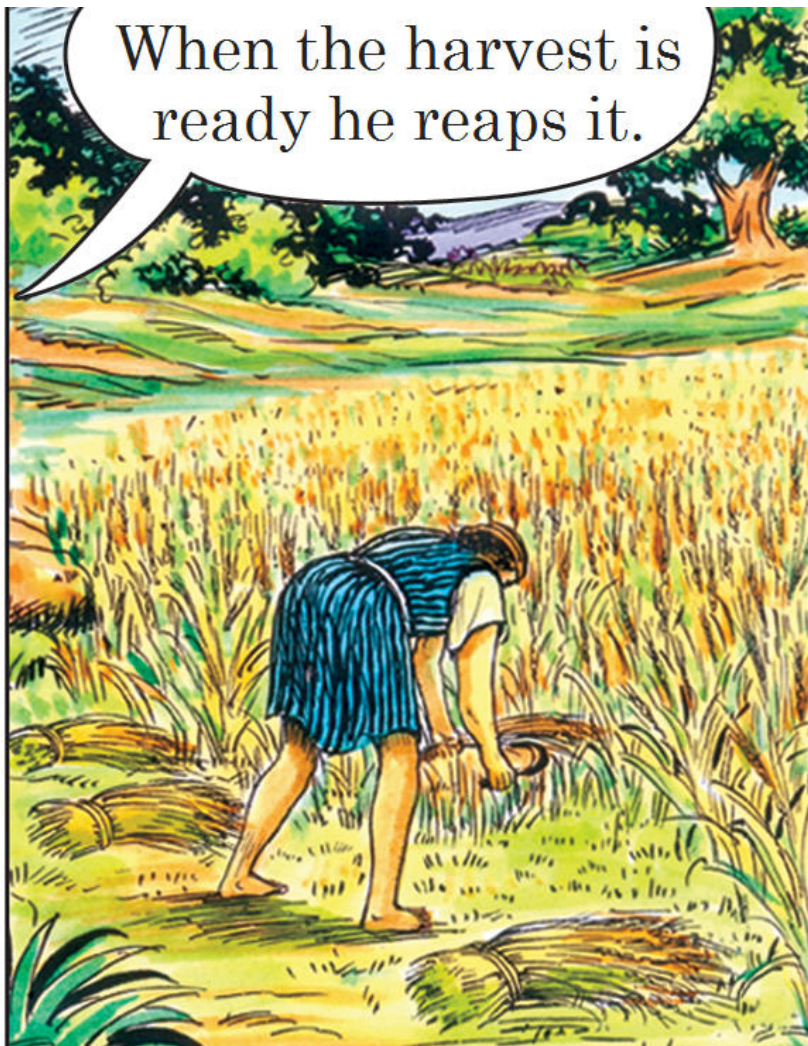
The Kingdom of God is like the seed sown in the soil. The One who sows sleeps.



Without his
knowledge the seed
sprouts and grows.

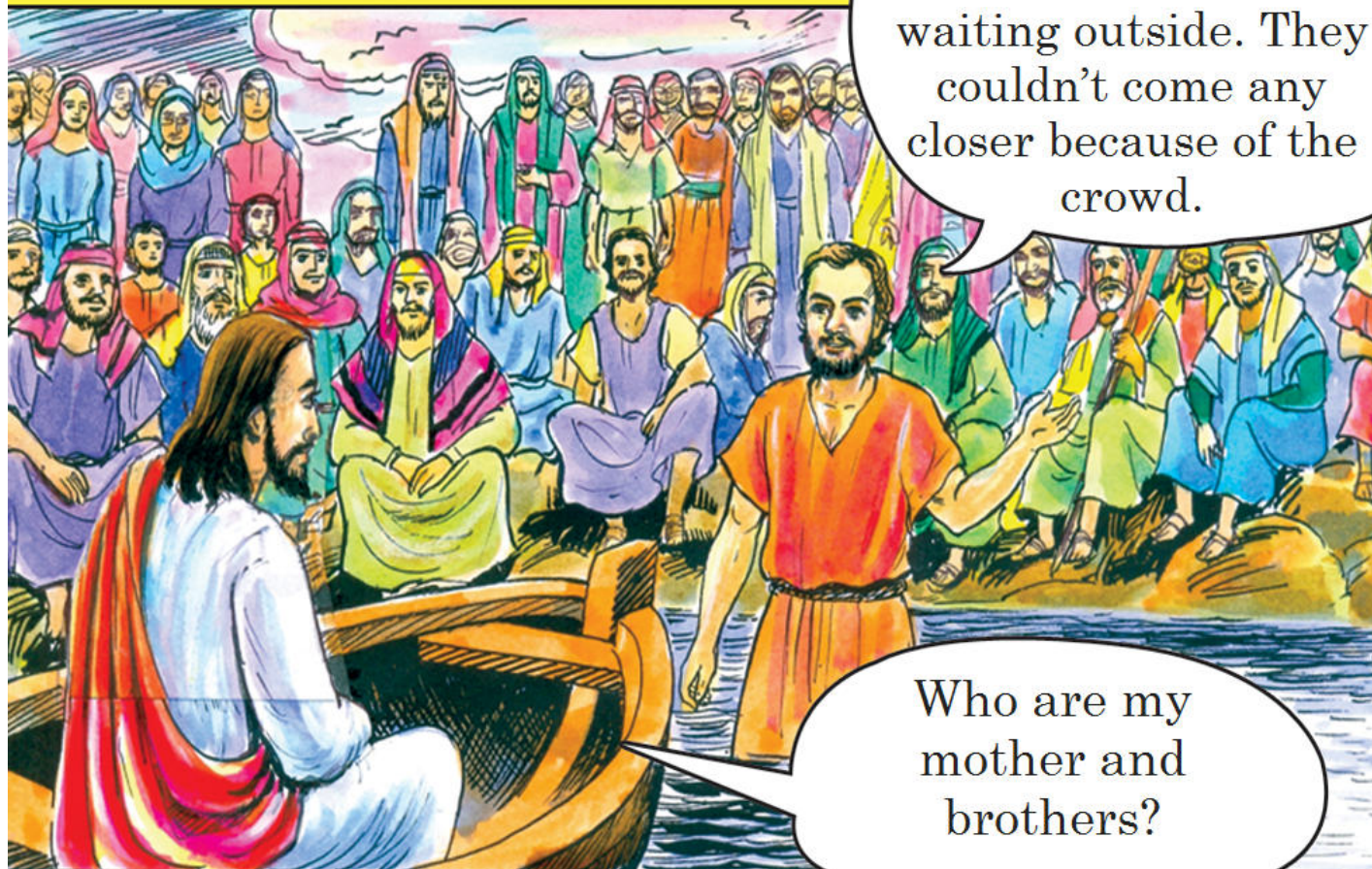


When the harvest is
ready he reaps it.



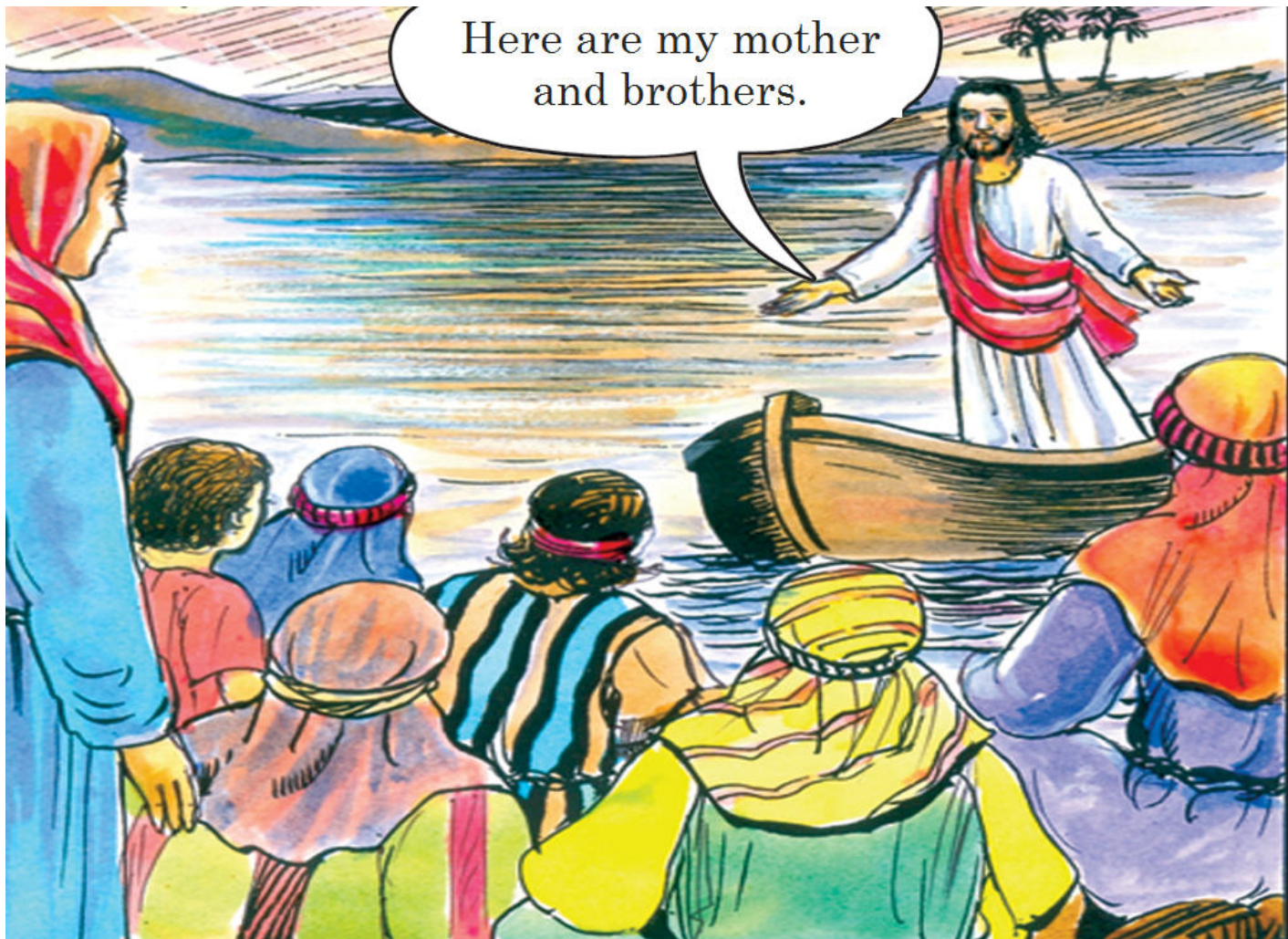
While Jesus was teaching, a man came to him.

Master, your mother and brothers are waiting outside. They couldn't come any closer because of the crowd.

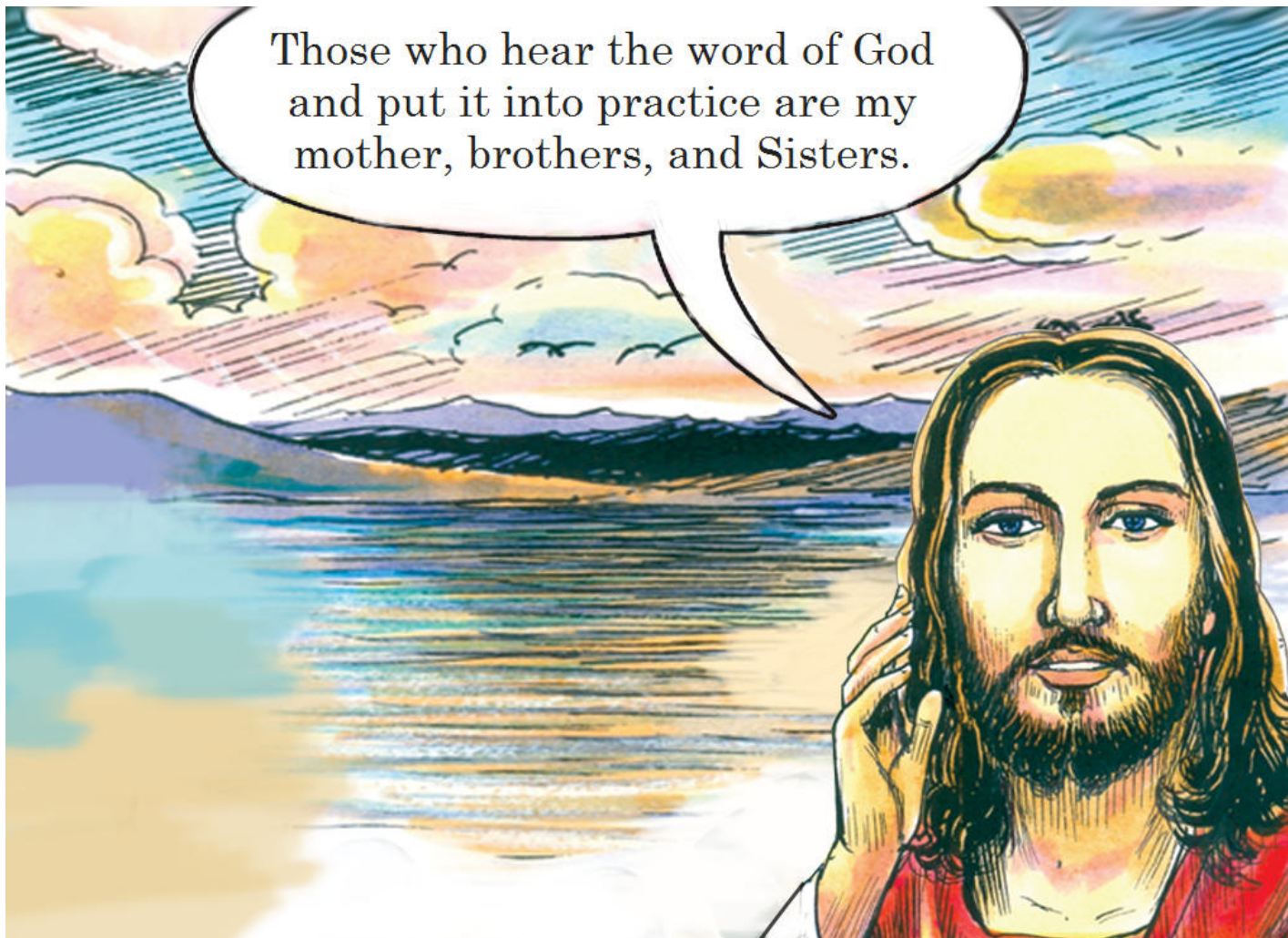


Who are my mother and brothers?

Here are my mother
and brothers.



Those who hear the word of God
and put it into practice are my
mother, brothers, and Sisters.

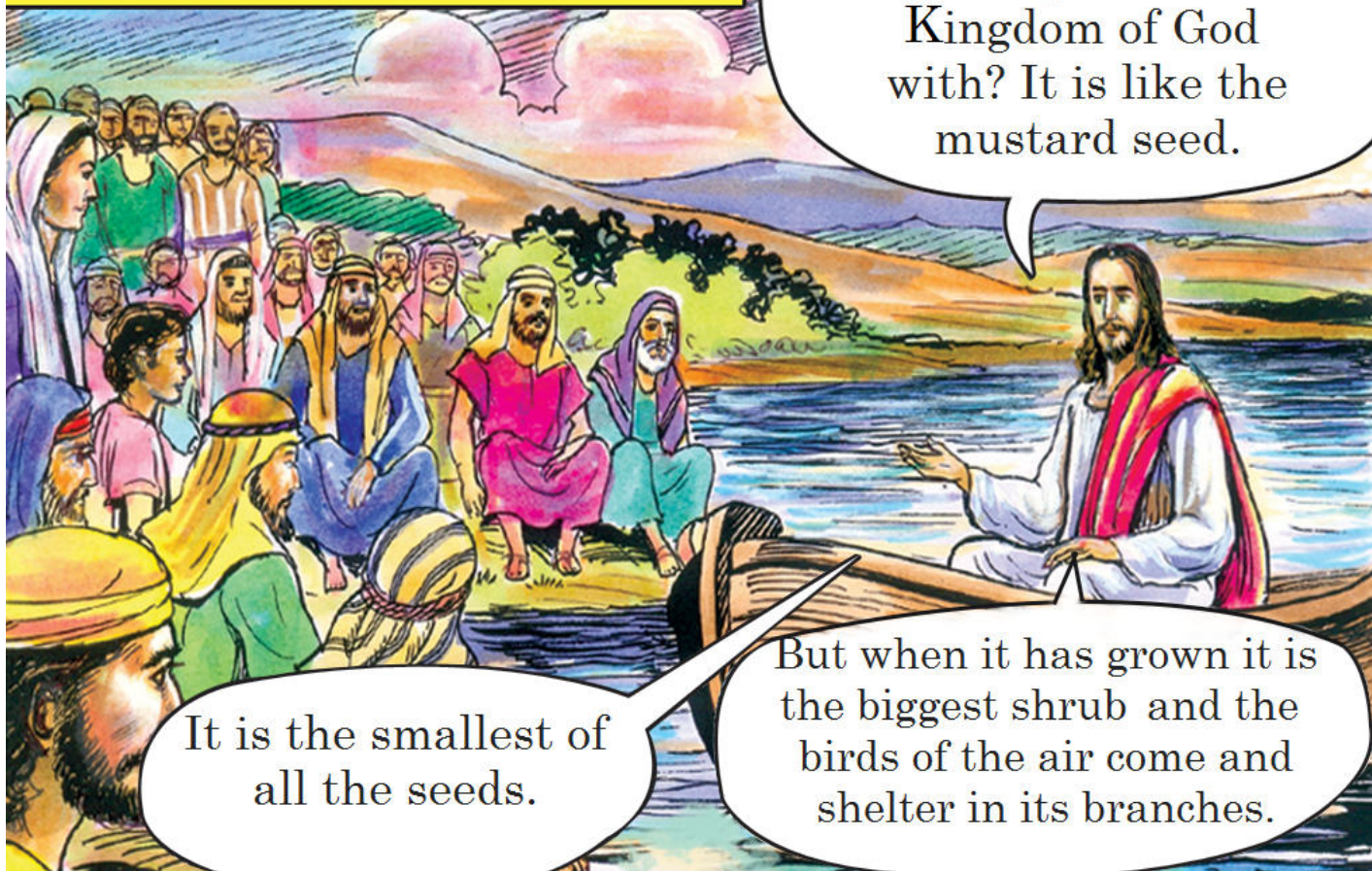


Jesus continued to teach about
the Kingdom of God.

What shall I
compare the
Kingdom of God
with? It is like the
mustard seed.

It is the smallest of
all the seeds.

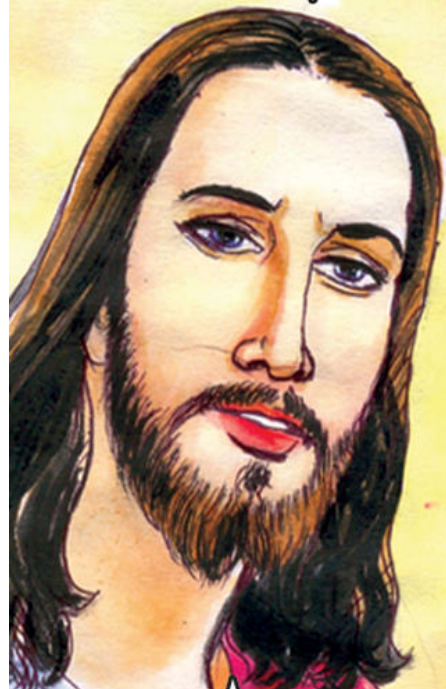
But when it has grown it is
the biggest shrub and the
birds of the air come and
shelter in its branches.







The Kingdom of God is like a man who sowed good seeds in the field.




While he was sleeping, his enemy sowed darnel among the wheat.



When the new wheat sprouted and ripened the darnel also appeared.



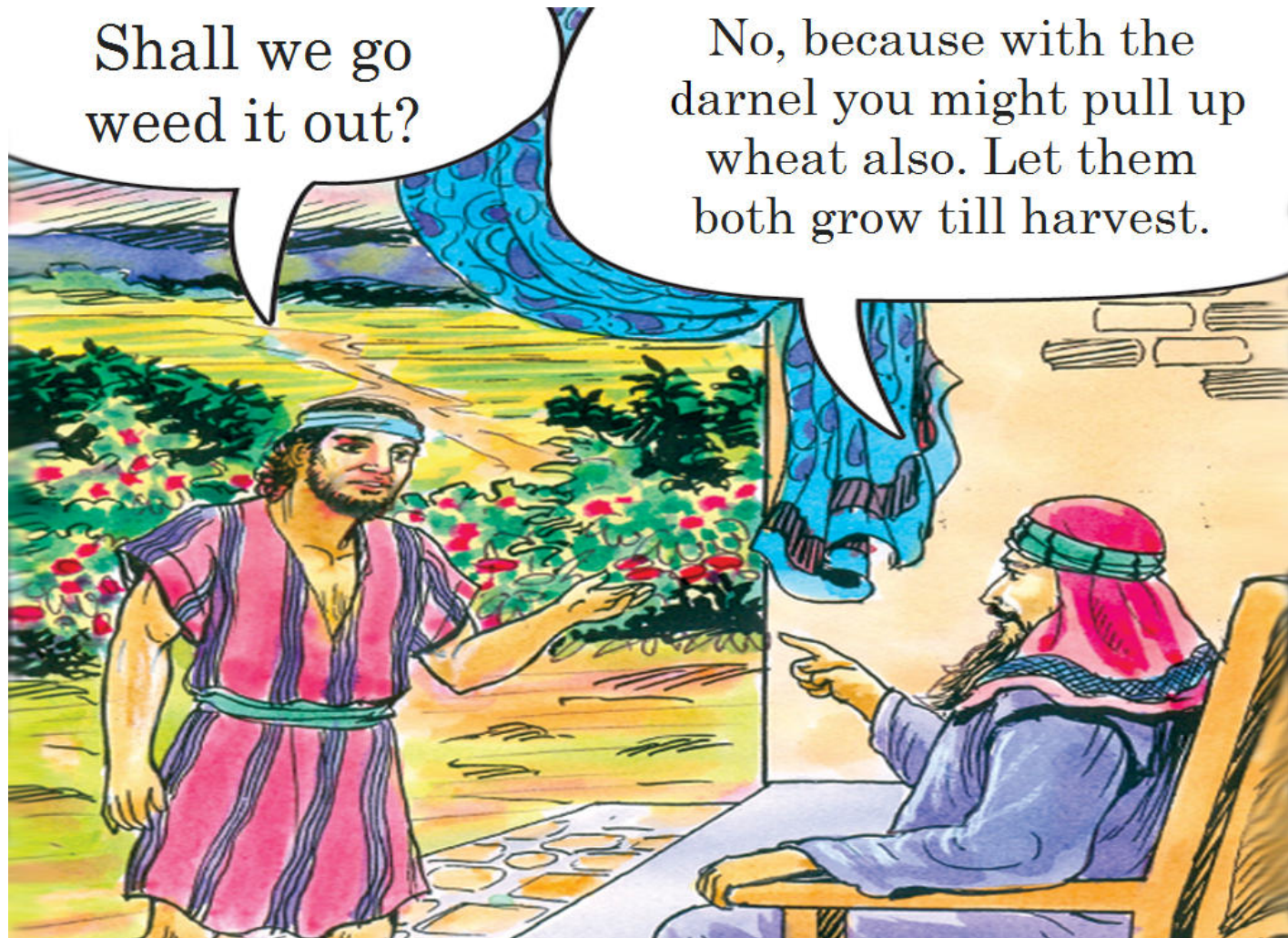


Master, we had sown good seed
in your field. Where does the
darnel come from?

Some enemy has
done this.

Shall we go
weed it out?

No, because with the
darnel you might pull up
wheat also. Let them
both grow till harvest.





At harvest time, I shall say
to the reapers to collect the
darnel to be burned and
then gather the wheat into
my Barn.

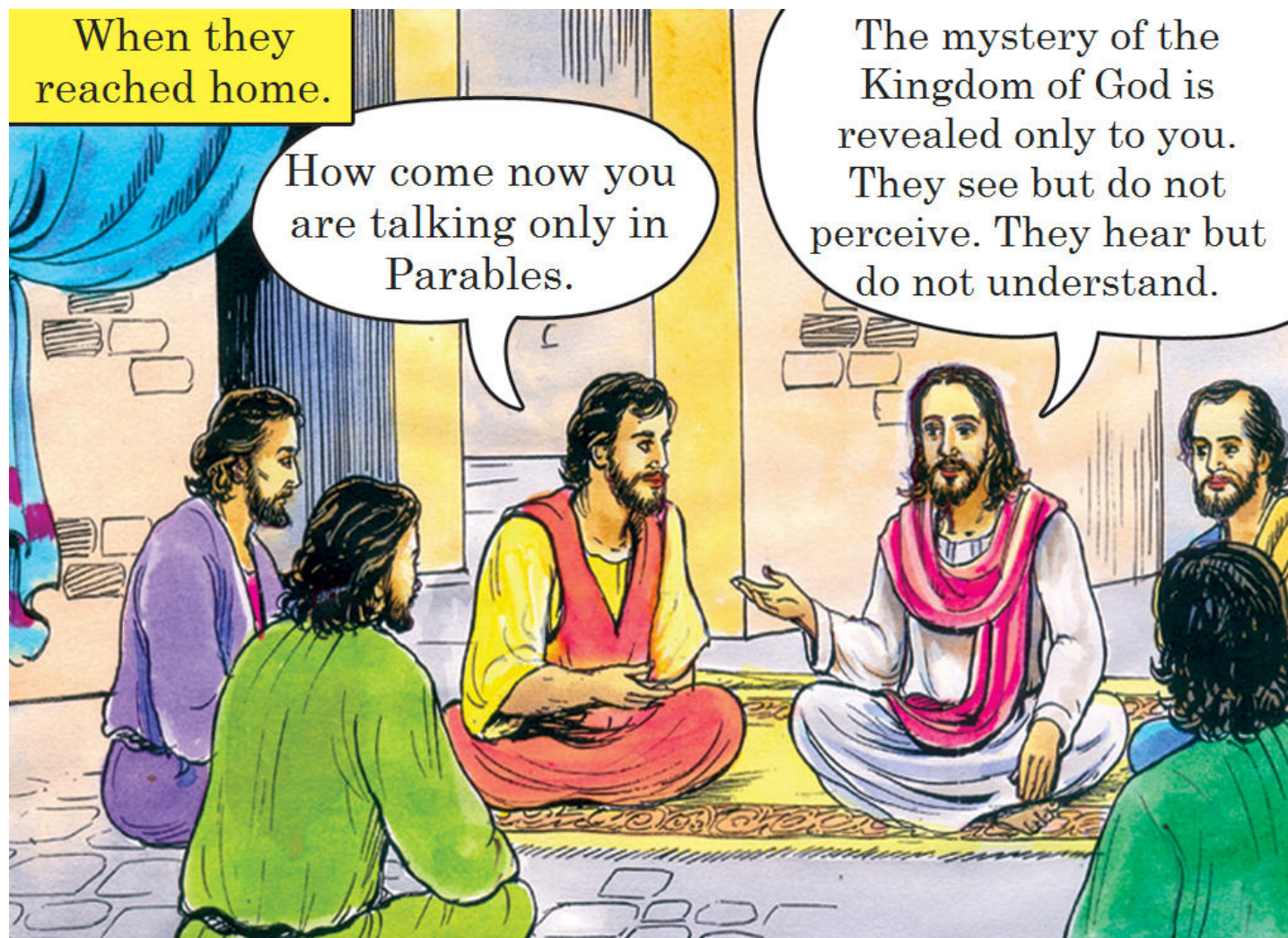
Be prepared. One day
you will have to give an
account of the gifts you
received.



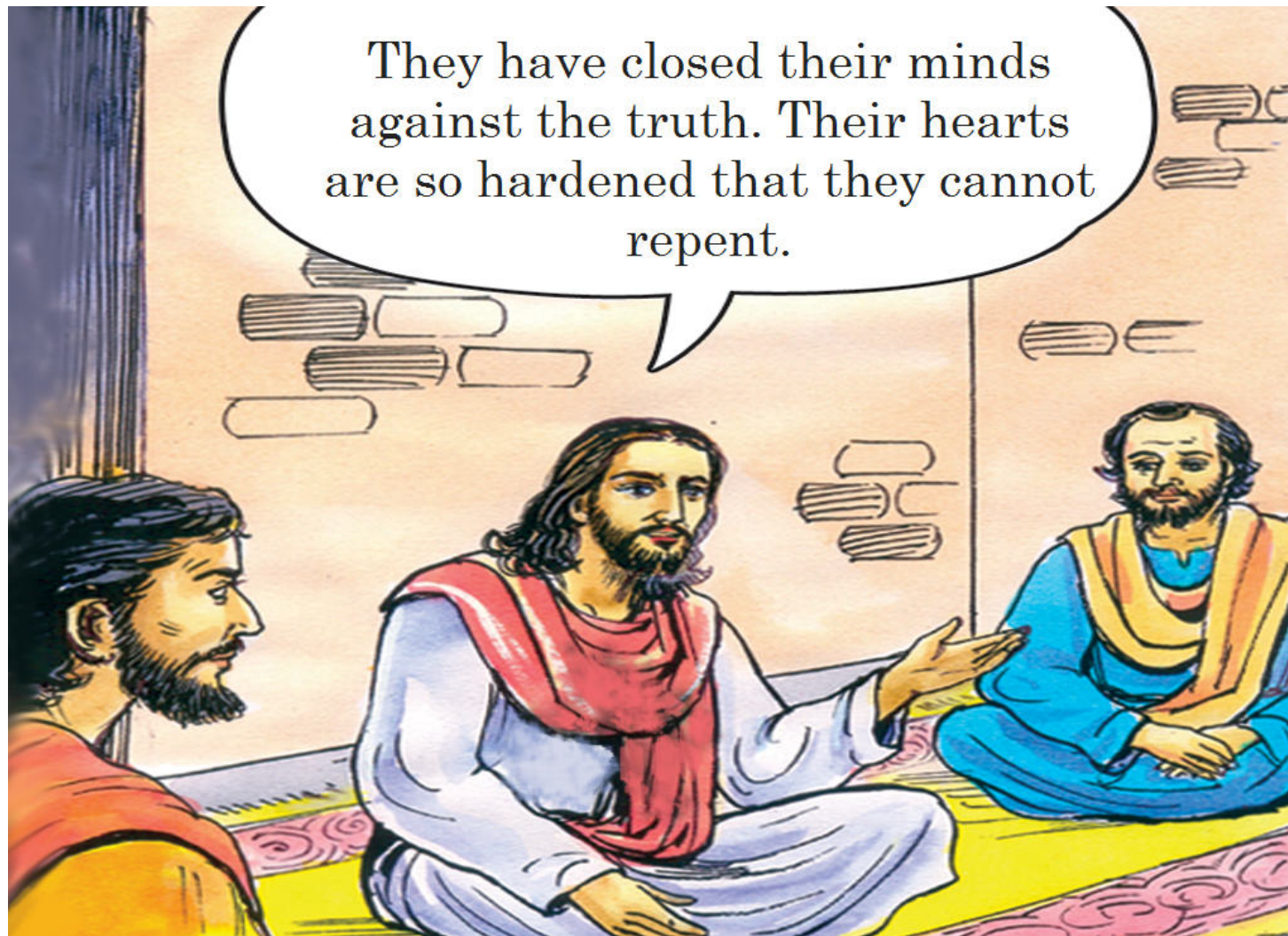
When they
reached home.

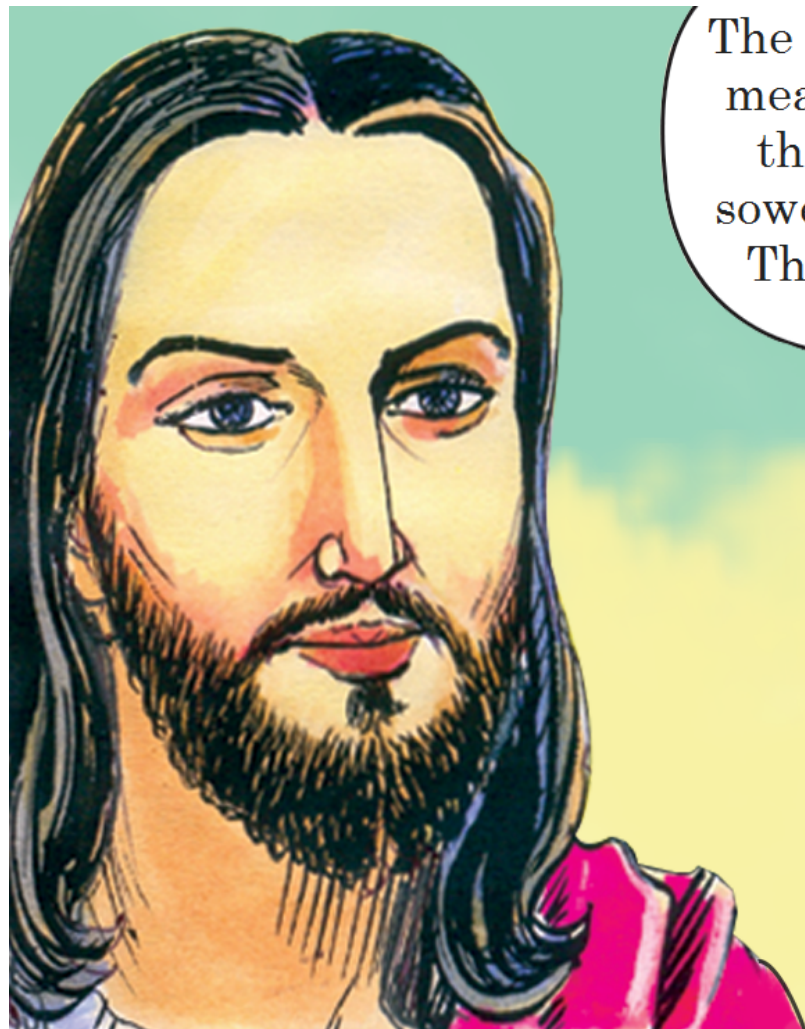
How come now you
are talking only in
Parables.

The mystery of the
Kingdom of God is
revealed only to you.
They see but do not
perceive. They hear but
do not understand.



They have closed their minds
against the truth. Their hearts
are so hardened that they cannot
repent.





The parable of the sower means this. The seed is the word of God, the sower is the Son of Man. The ground is human heart.

Those on the edge of the path are
people who have heard it; and
the devil comes and carries away
the word from their hearts that
they may not believe and be
saved.



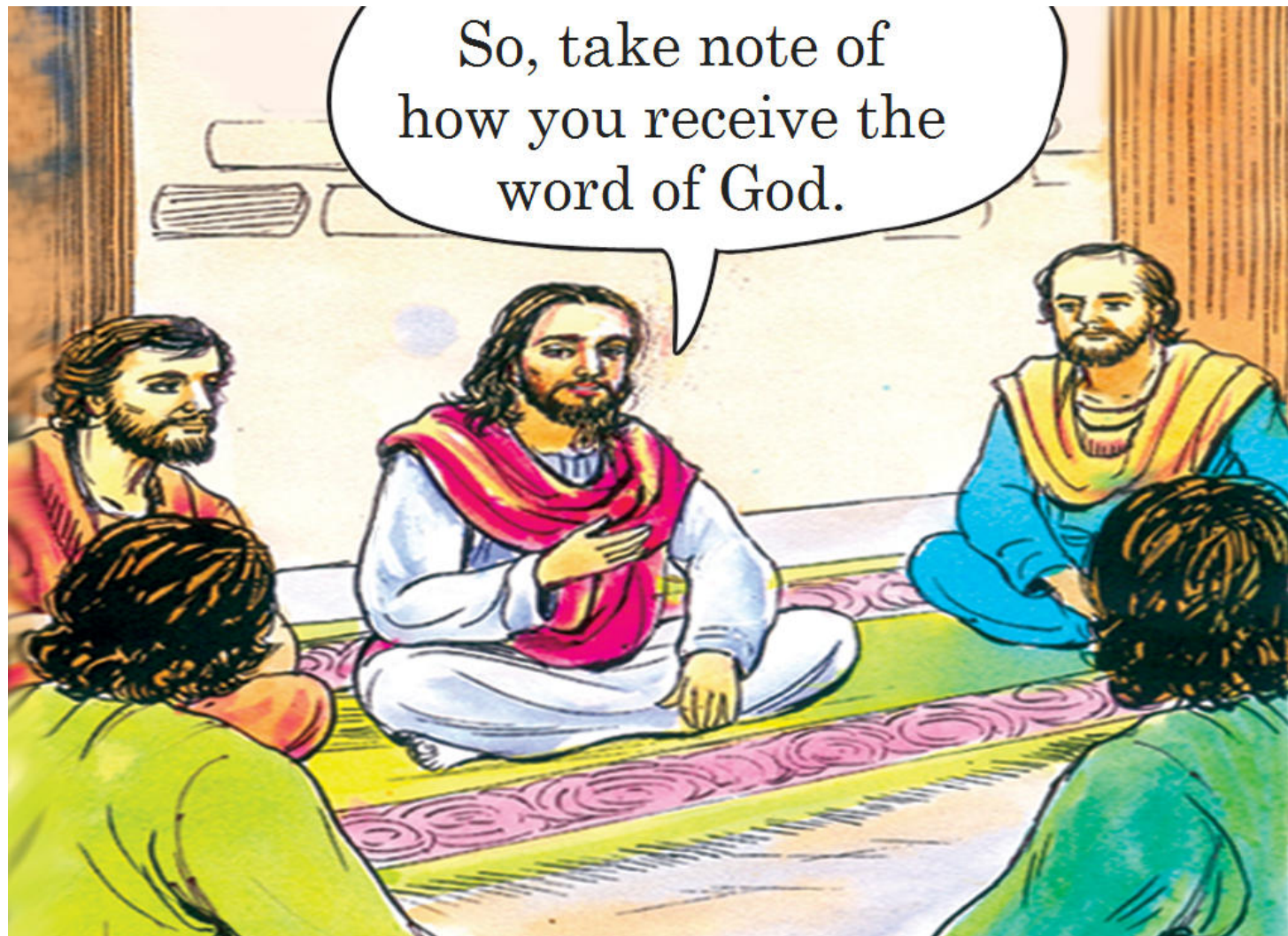
The seed that fell into thorns
are people who have heard
but are choked by worries,
riches and pleasures of life.



The seed in the rich soil are people with noble and generous hearts who have heard the word and yield a rich harvest through their perseverance.



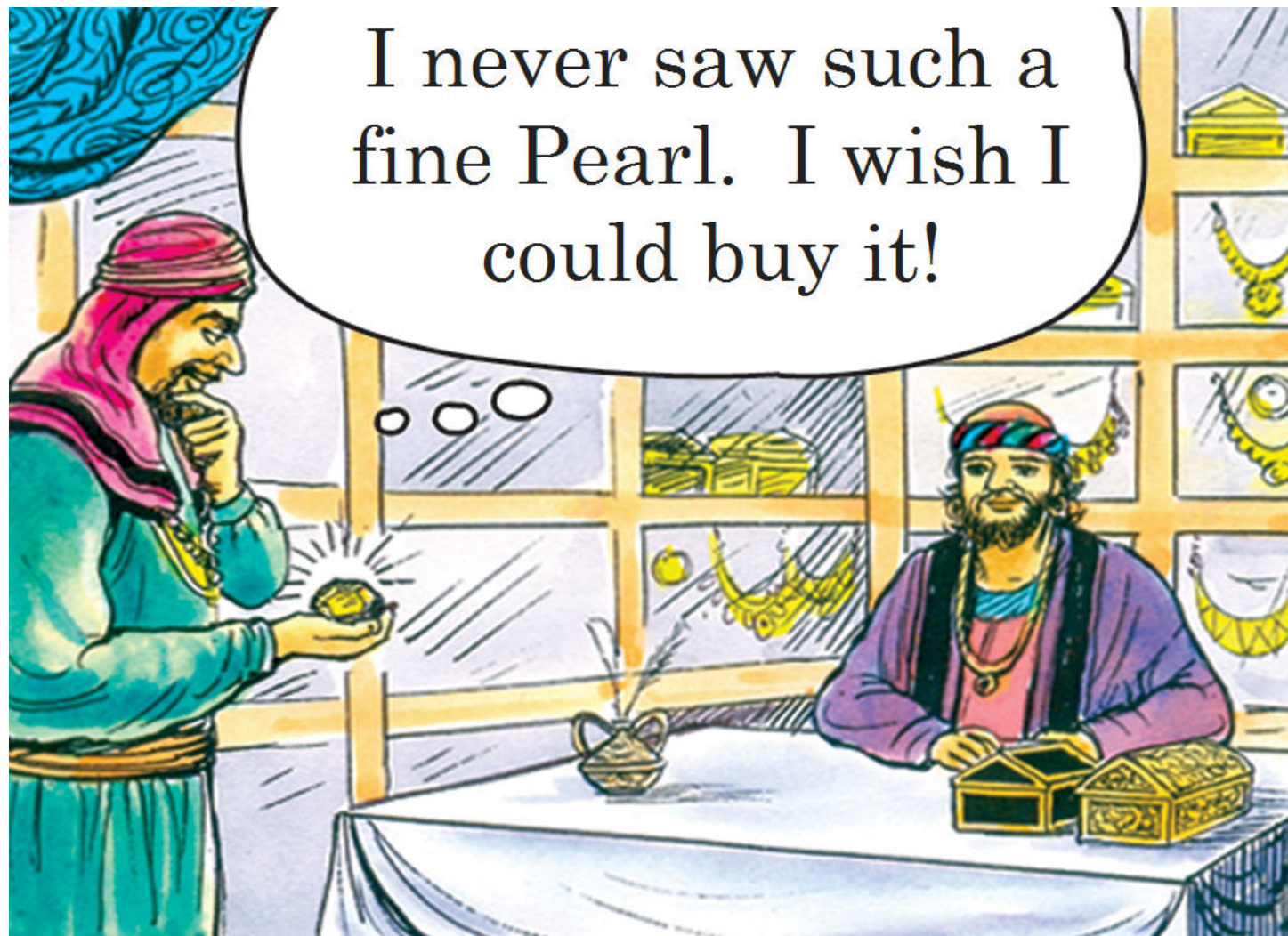
So, take note of
how you receive the
word of God.



There was a
merchant looking for
fine Pearls.



I never saw such a
fine Pearl. I wish I
could buy it!



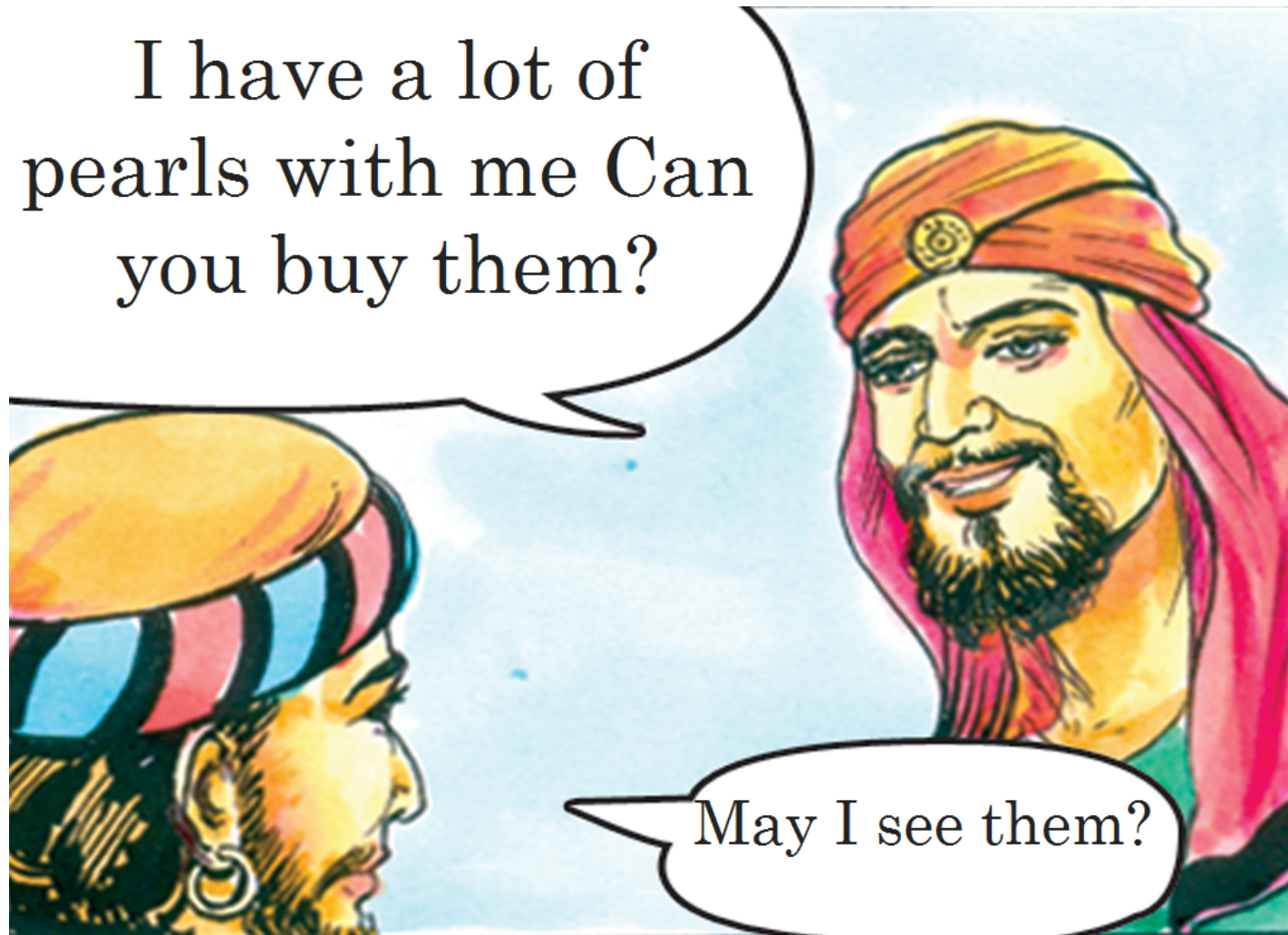
How much
does it cost?

This is a rare
pearl.



I have a lot of
pearls with me Can
you buy them?

May I see them?

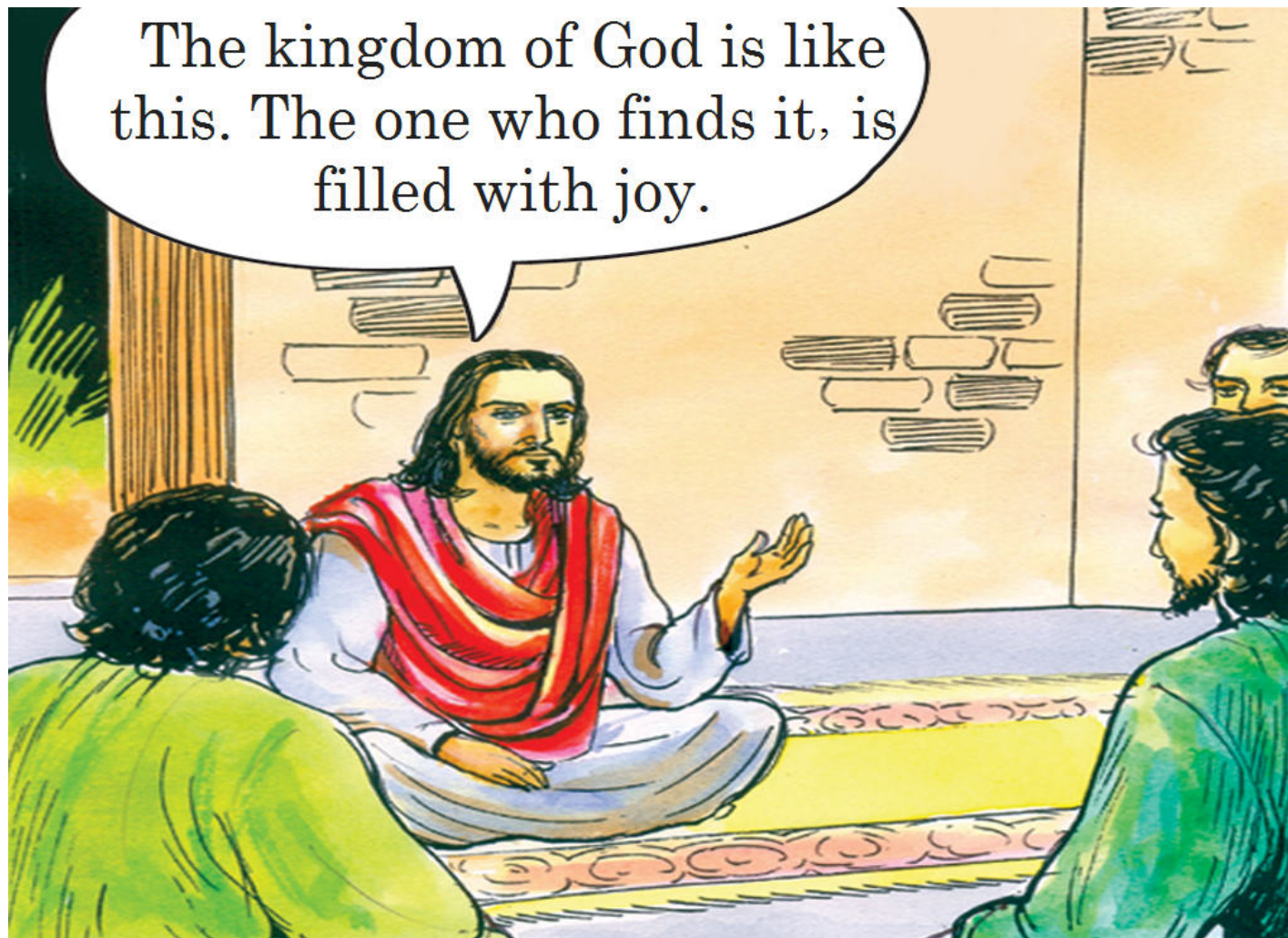


This is my
entire wealth.

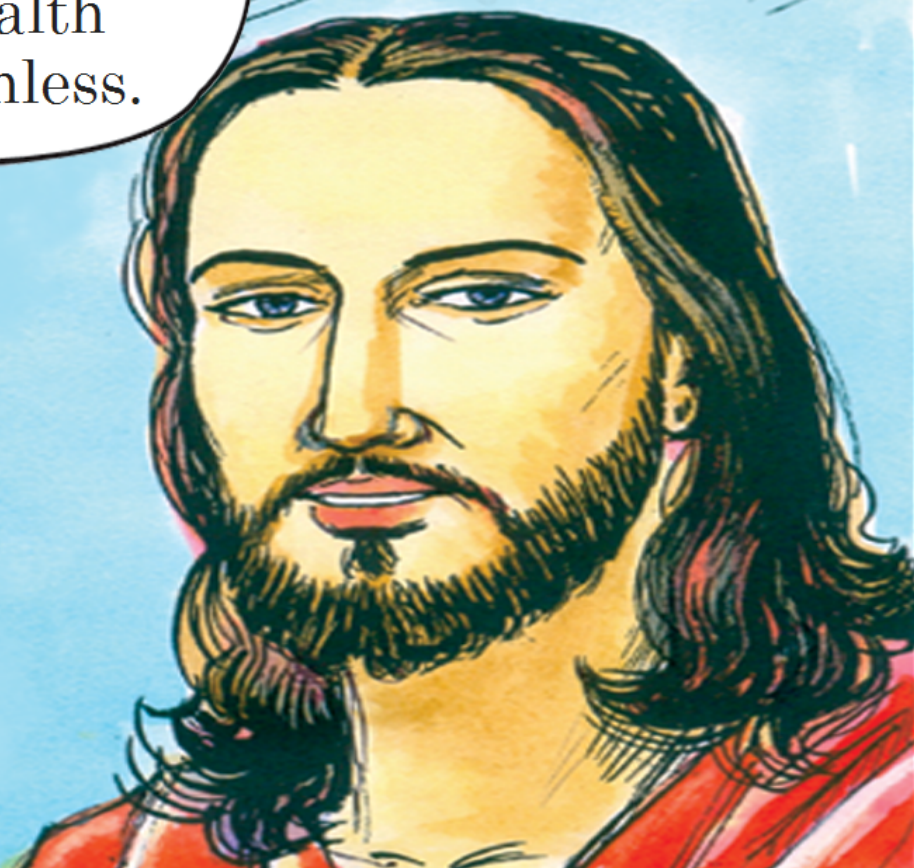
Alright, we
can exchange.

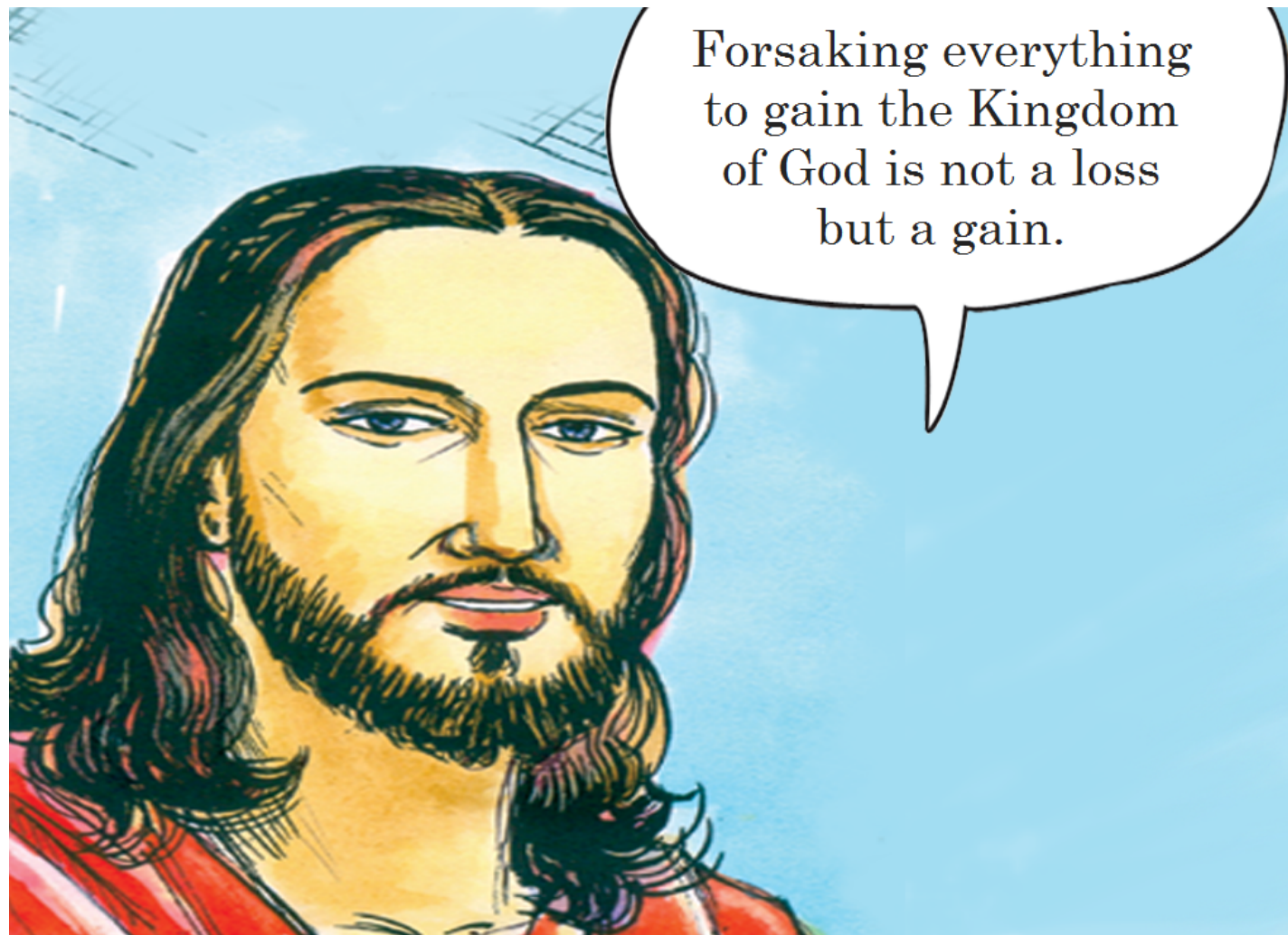


The kingdom of God is like
this. The one who finds it, is
filled with joy.



When compared with
this new experience all
the other wealth
becomes worthless.



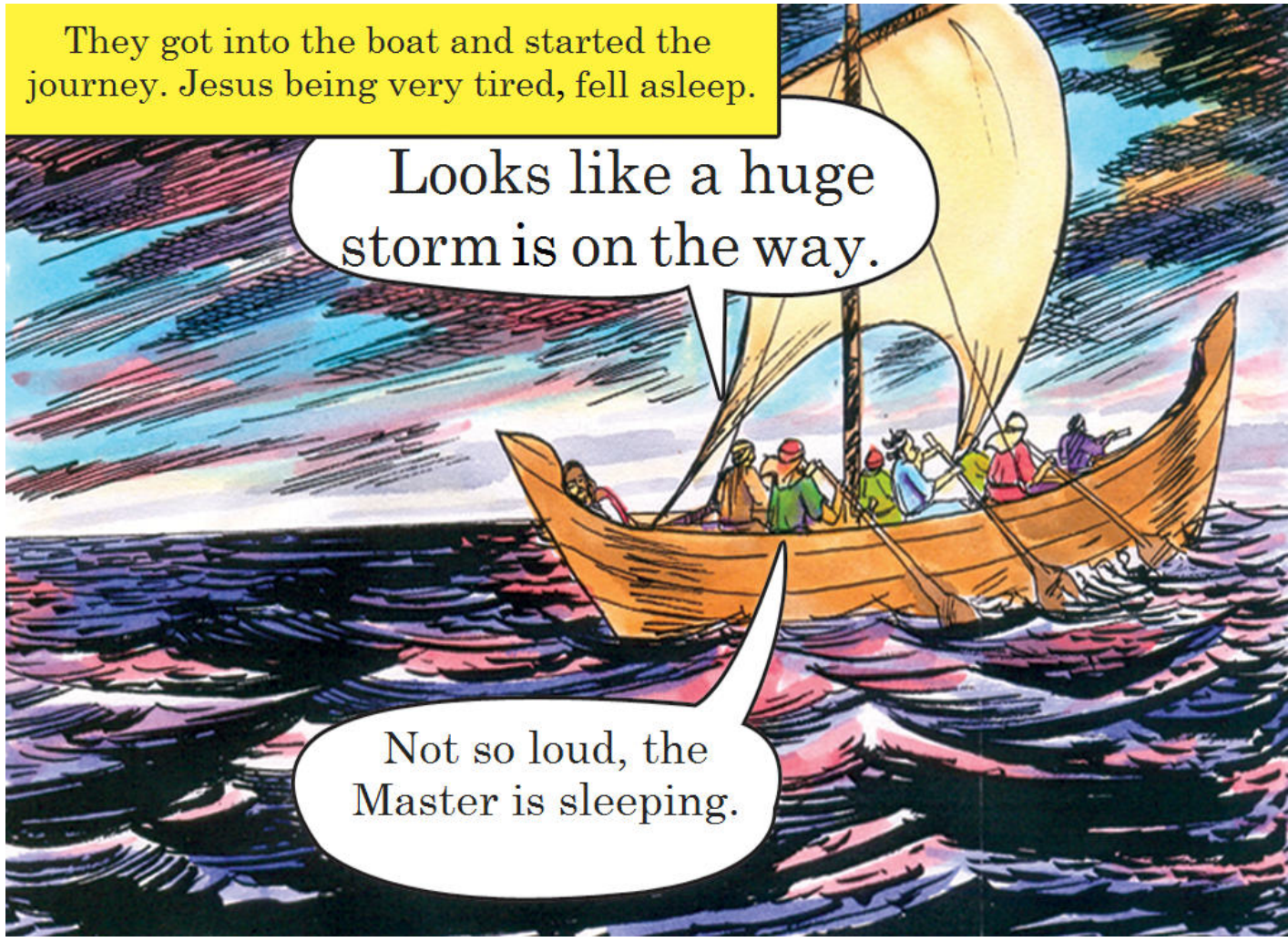


Forsaking everything
to gain the Kingdom
of God is not a loss
but a gain.

Come! Let us go to the
other side of the lake.



They got into the boat and started the journey. Jesus being very tired, fell asleep.



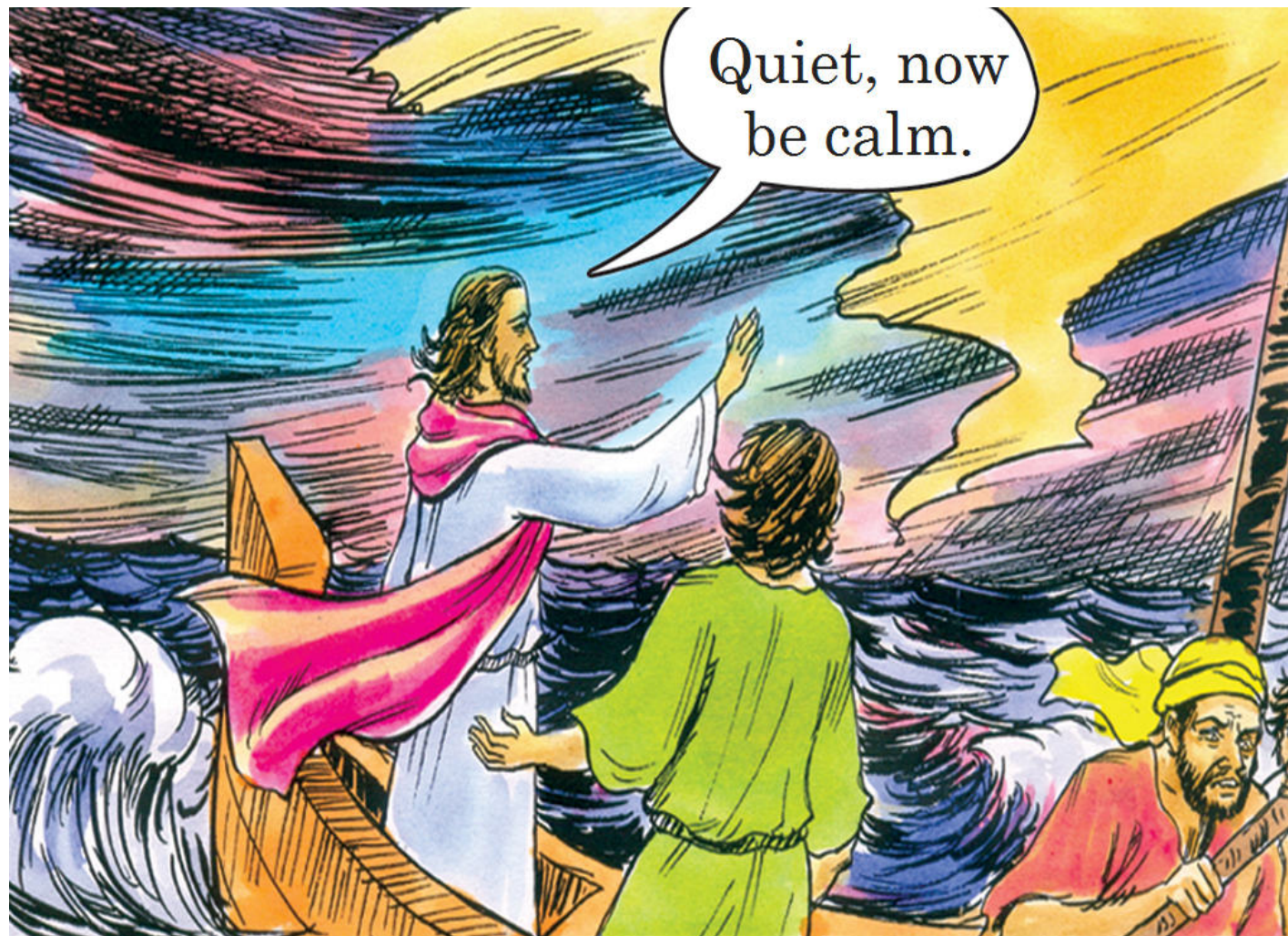
Looks like a huge storm is on the way.

Not so loud, the Master is sleeping.





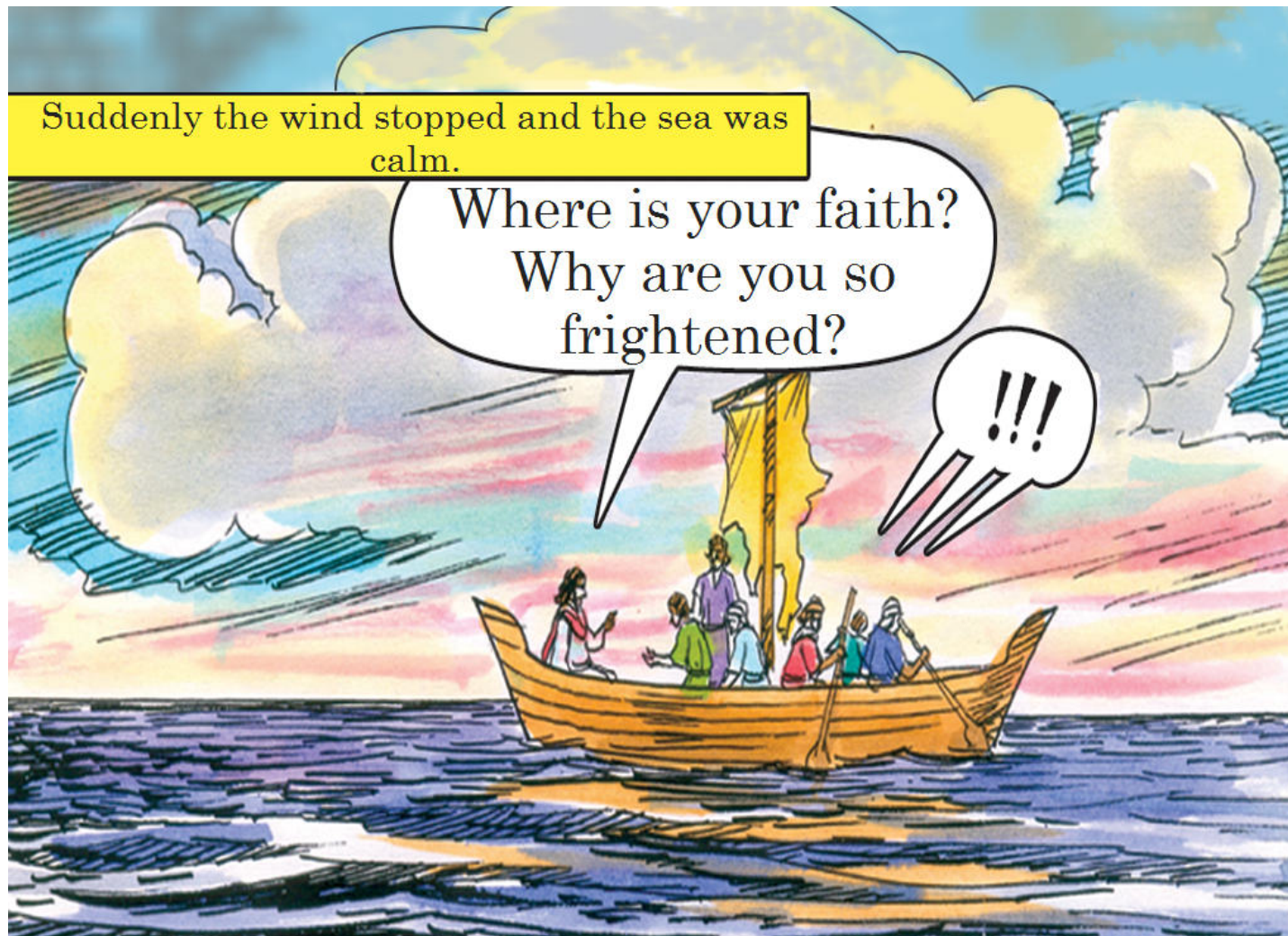
Quiet, now
be calm.

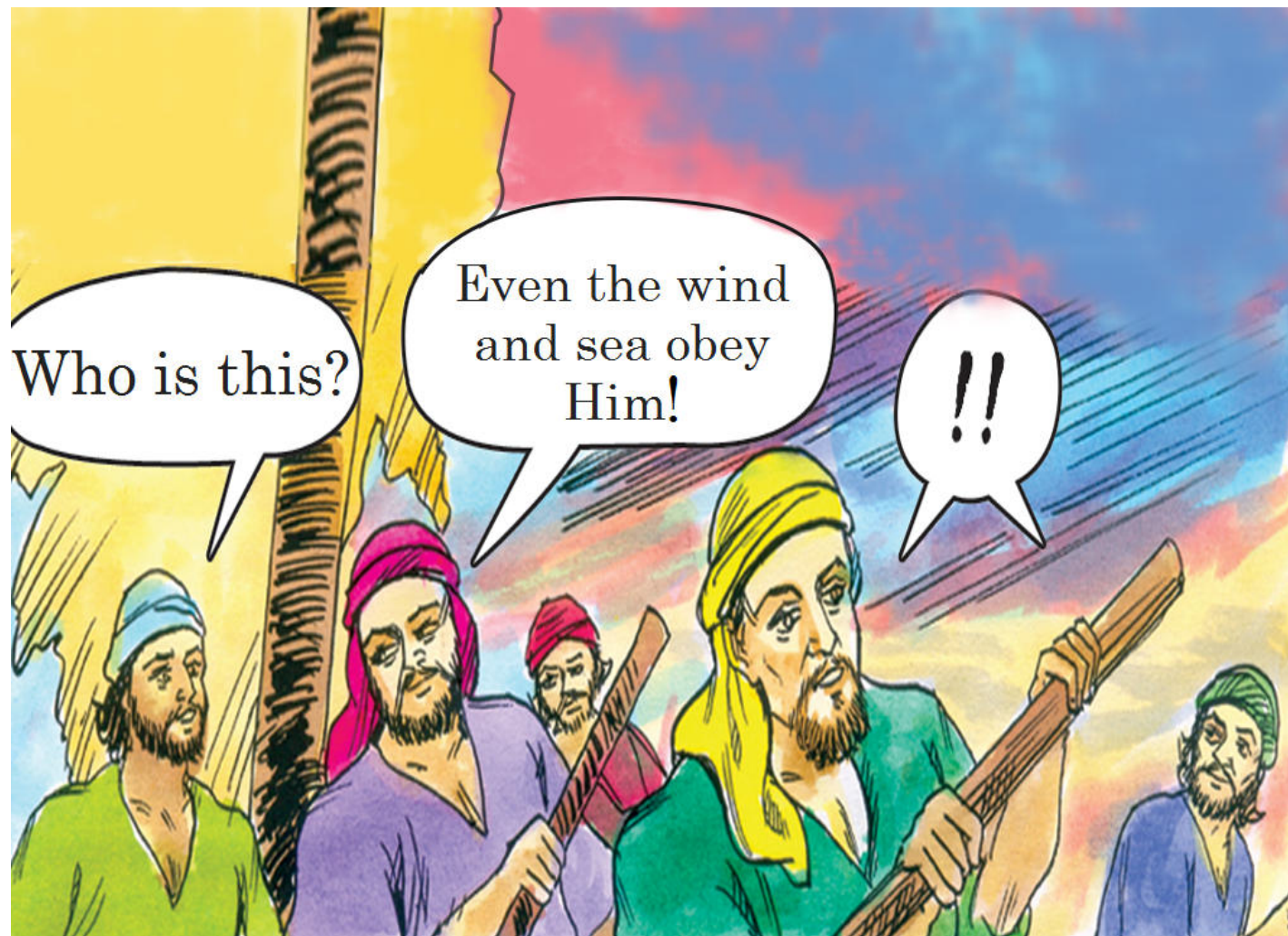


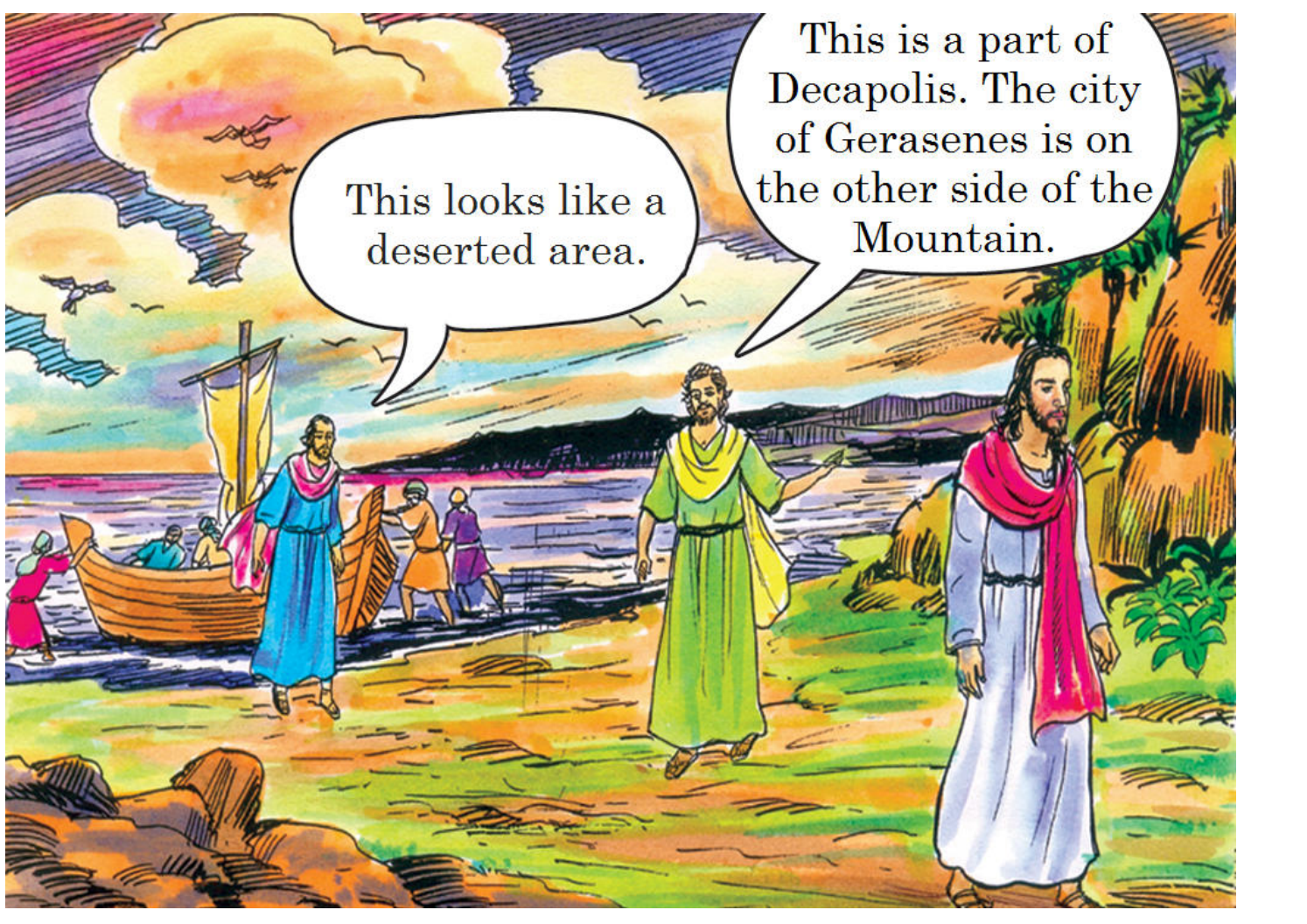
Suddenly the wind stopped and the sea was calm.

Where is your faith?
Why are you so
frightened?

!!!







This looks like a deserted area.

This is a part of Decapolis. The city of Gerasenes is on the other side of the Mountain.

They walked toward the city.

This area is under the direct rule of Rome. It is a part of the province of Syria. The inhabitants are all gentiles.



It is your imagination. Who
is here to scream?



Look there!

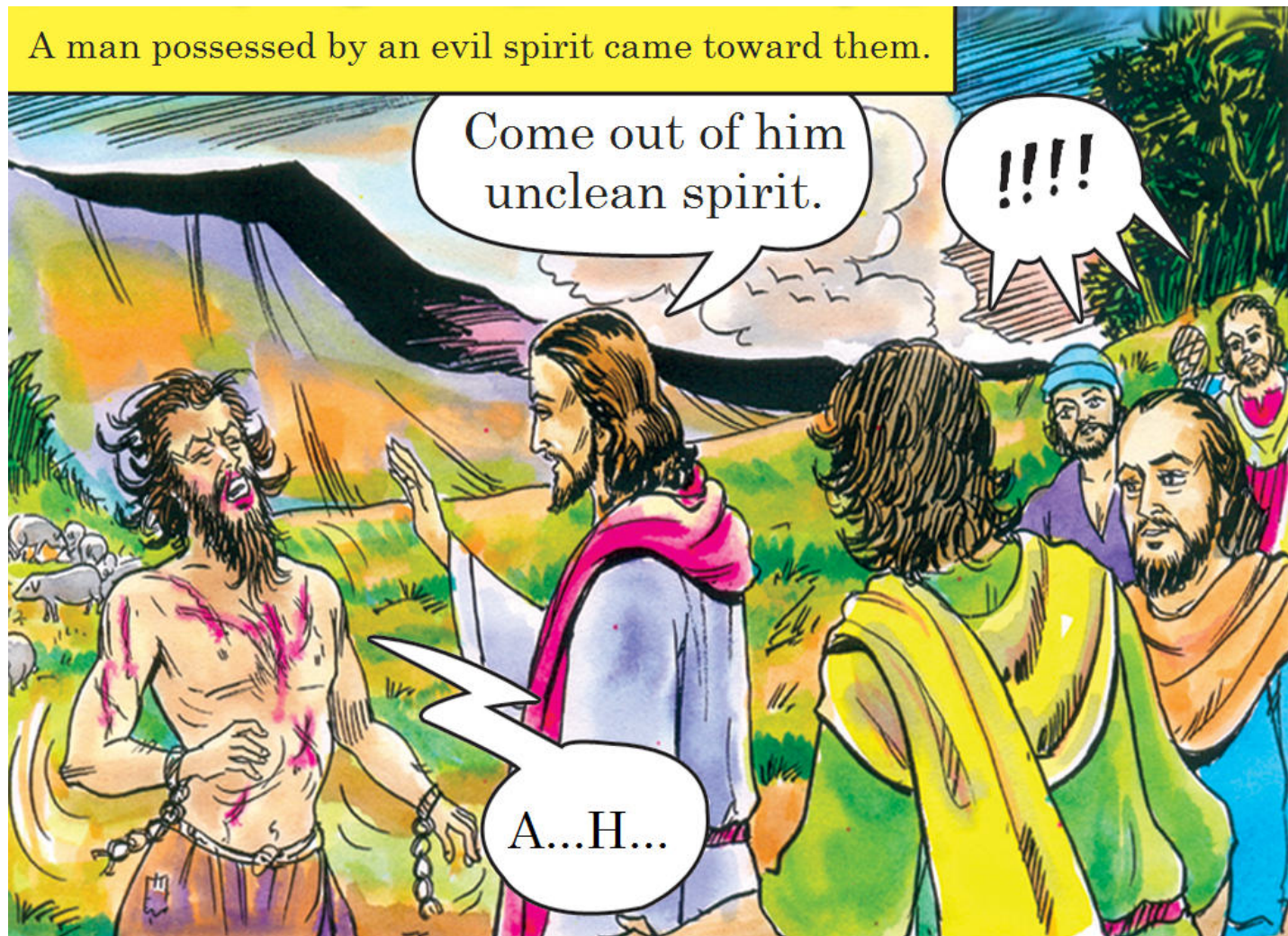



A man possessed by an evil spirit came toward them.

Come out of him
unclean spirit.

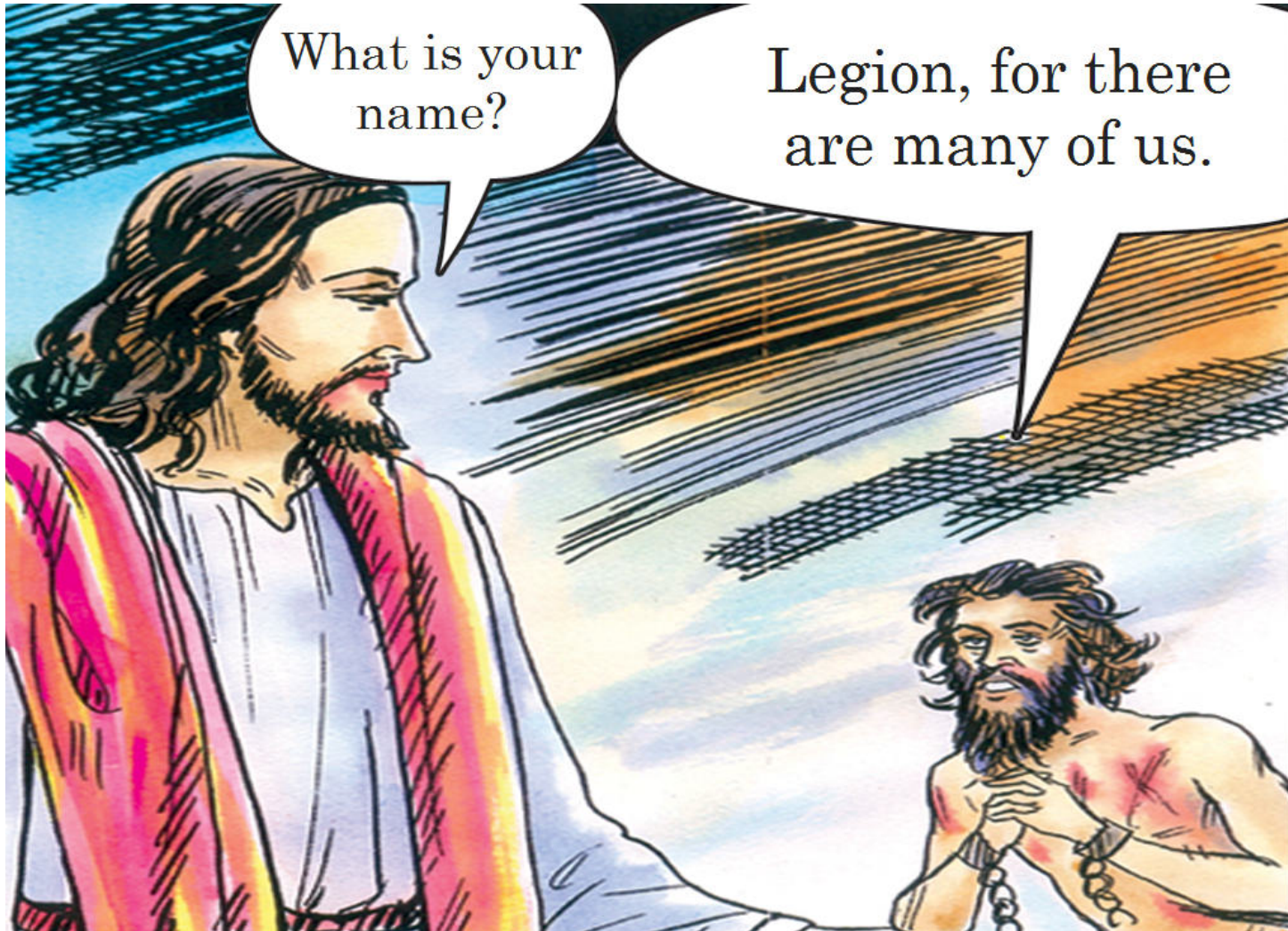
!!!!

A...H...





Jesus, son of the Most
High, why do you interfere
in our affairs.



What is your
name?

Legion, for there
are many of us.

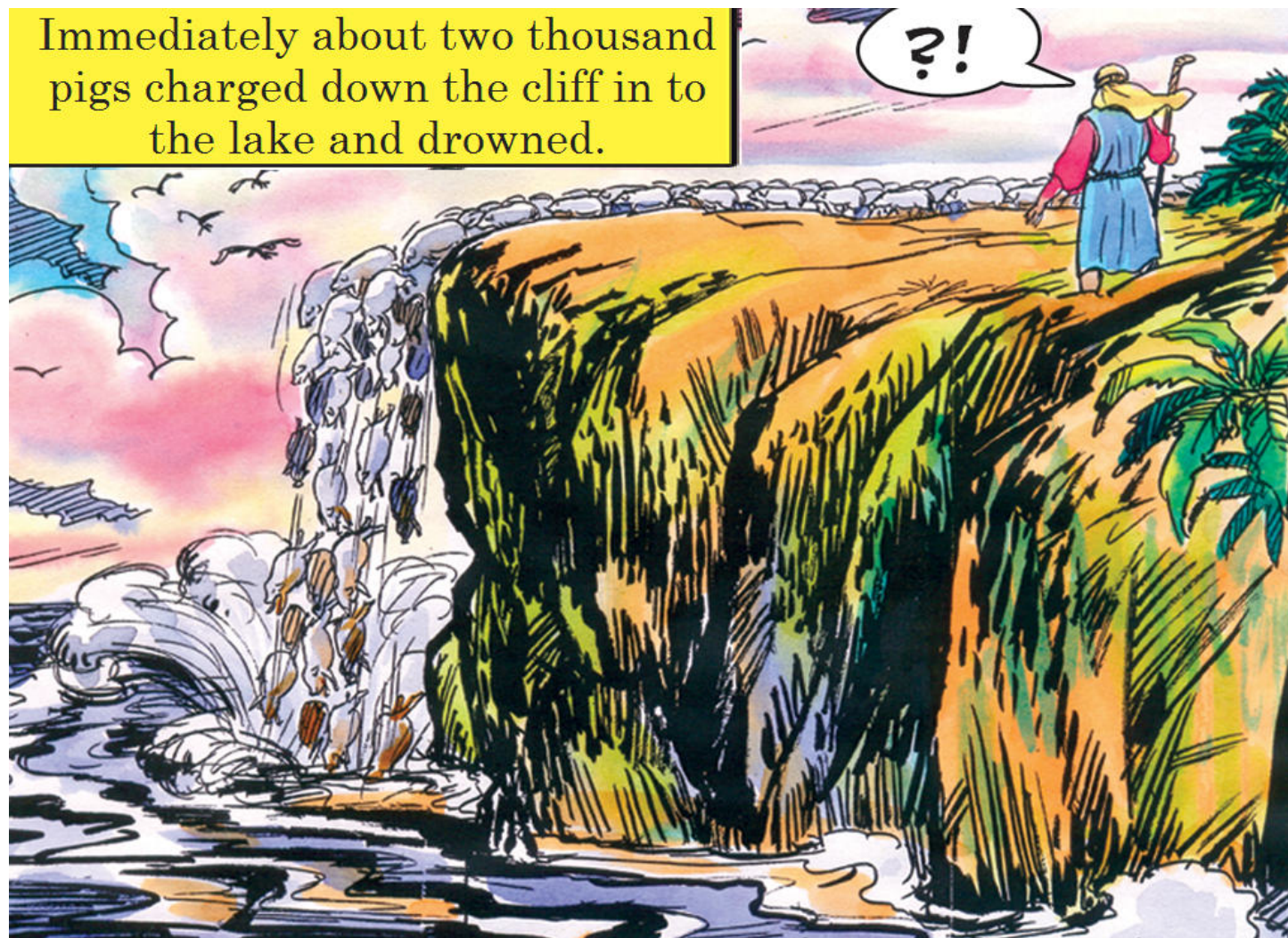
Send us to the
pigs, allow us to
enter them.

Go then.

!!?



Immediately about two thousand pigs charged down the cliff in to the lake and drowned.



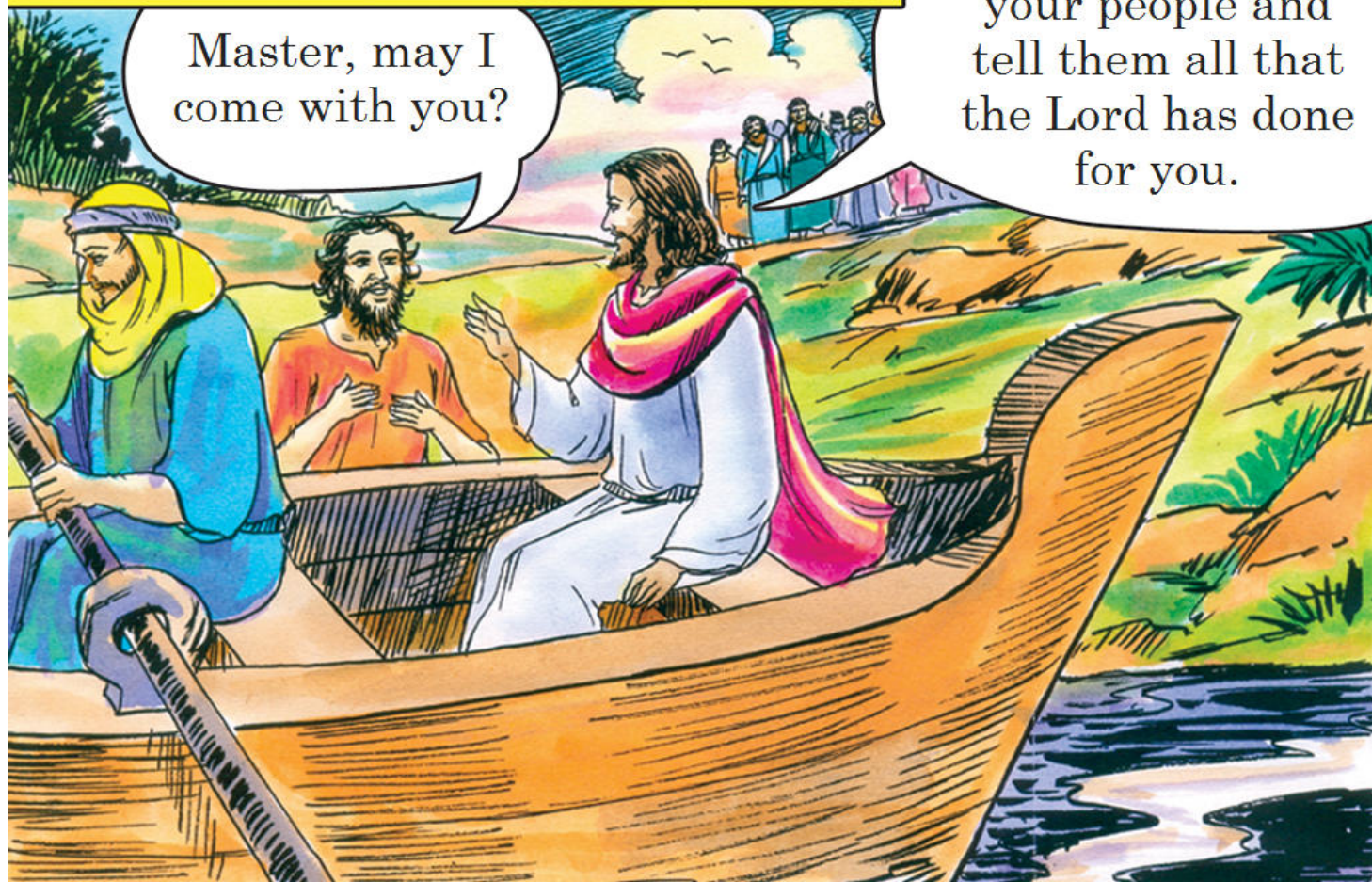
Hearing the news people gathered.



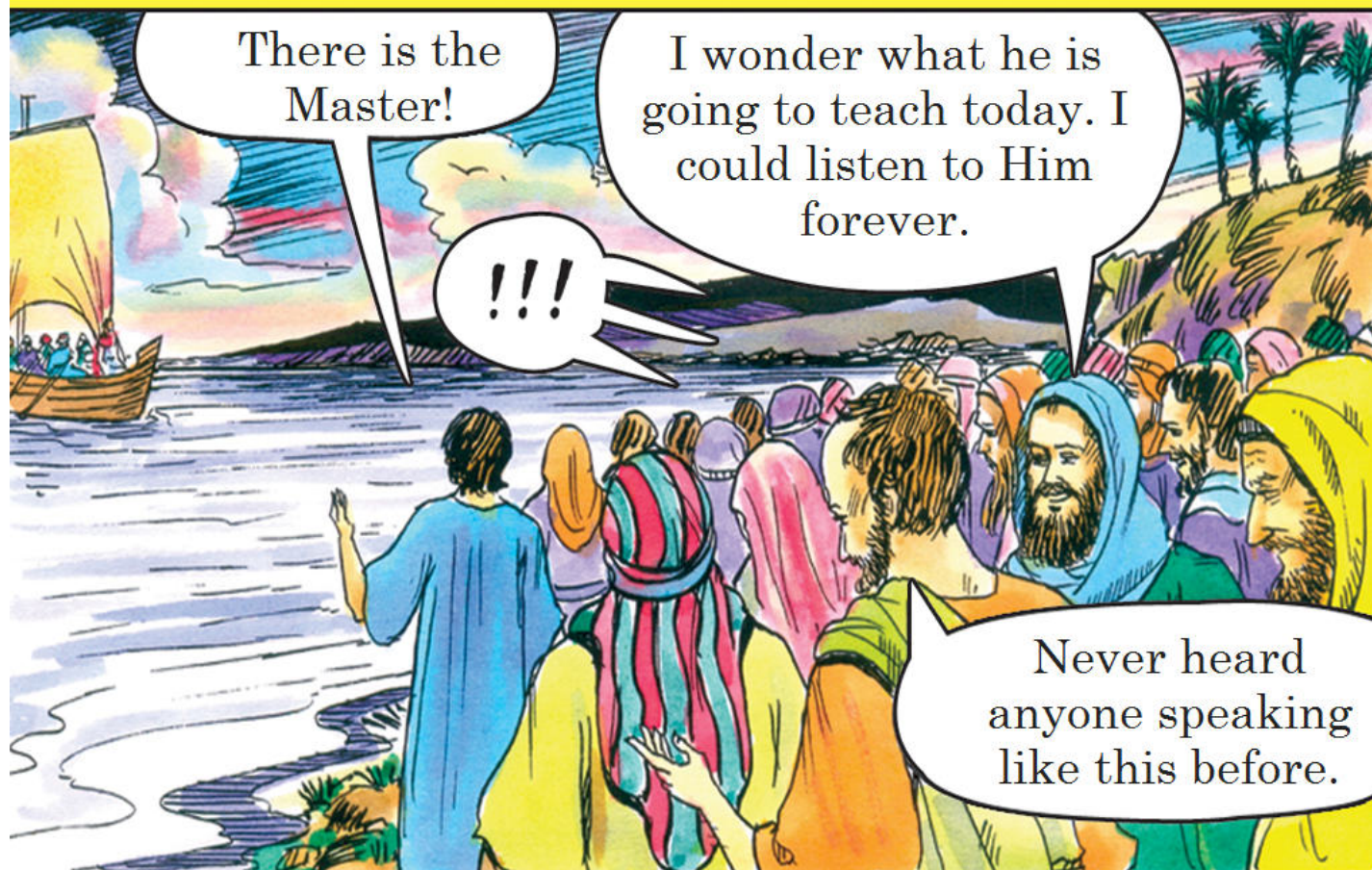
As Jesus and the disciples got into the boat.

Master, may I come with you?

No, go home to your people and tell them all that the Lord has done for you.



Jesus and the disciples returned to the other side of the Lake.

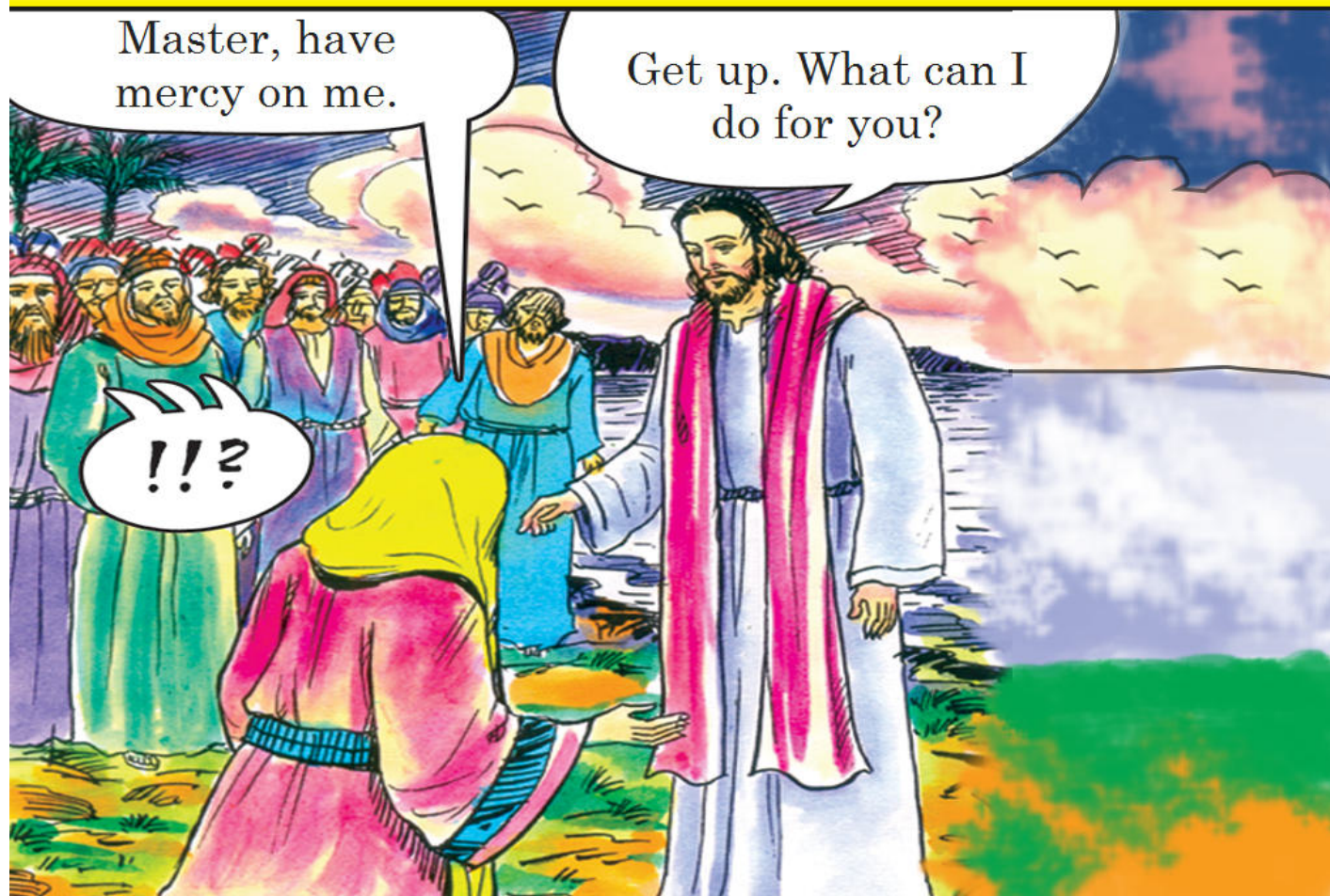


Jairus, one of the officials of Synagogue came to Jesus.

Master, have
mercy on me.

Get up. What can I
do for you?

!!?



My little daughter is very sick.
Do come and save her life.

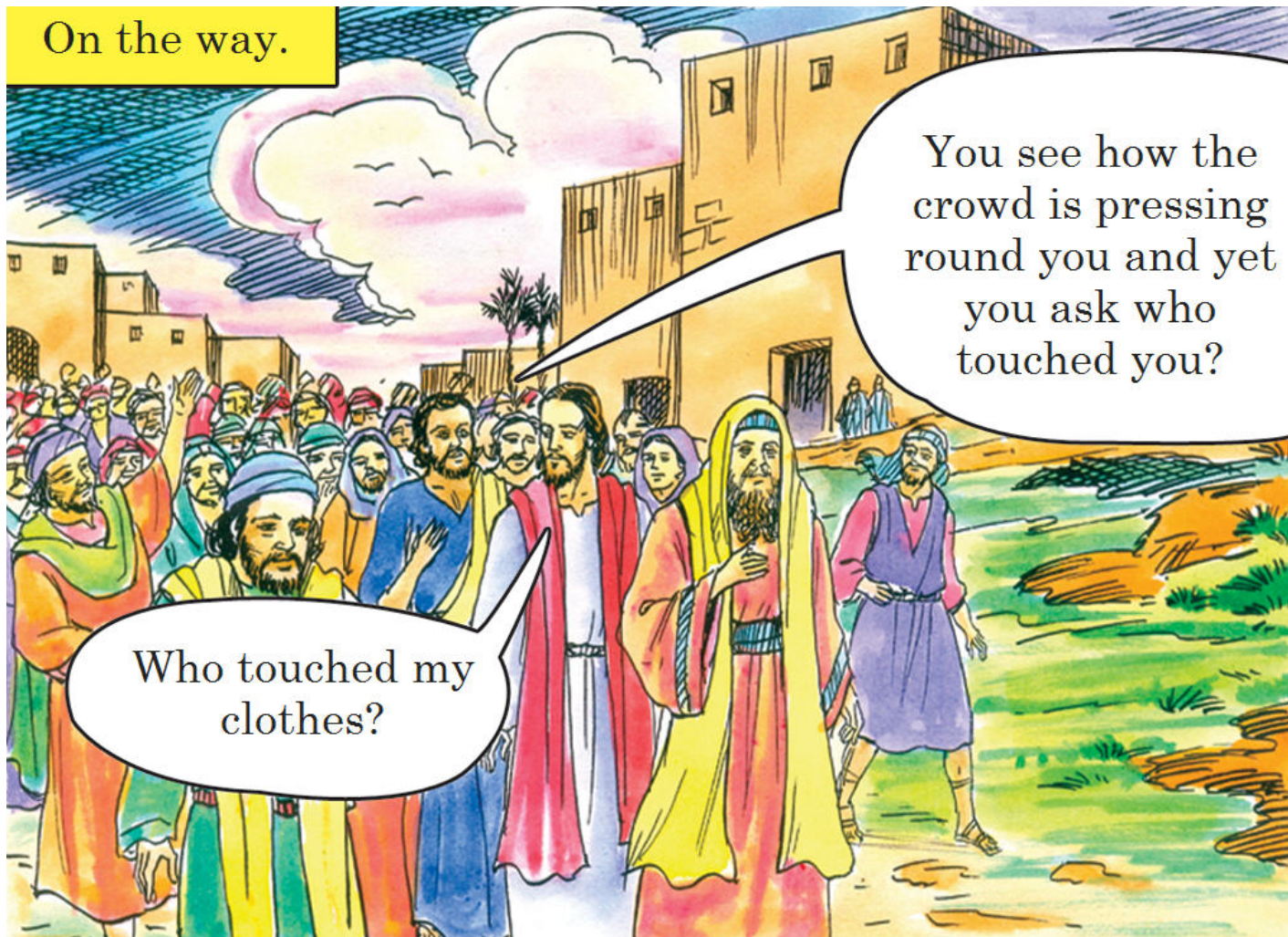


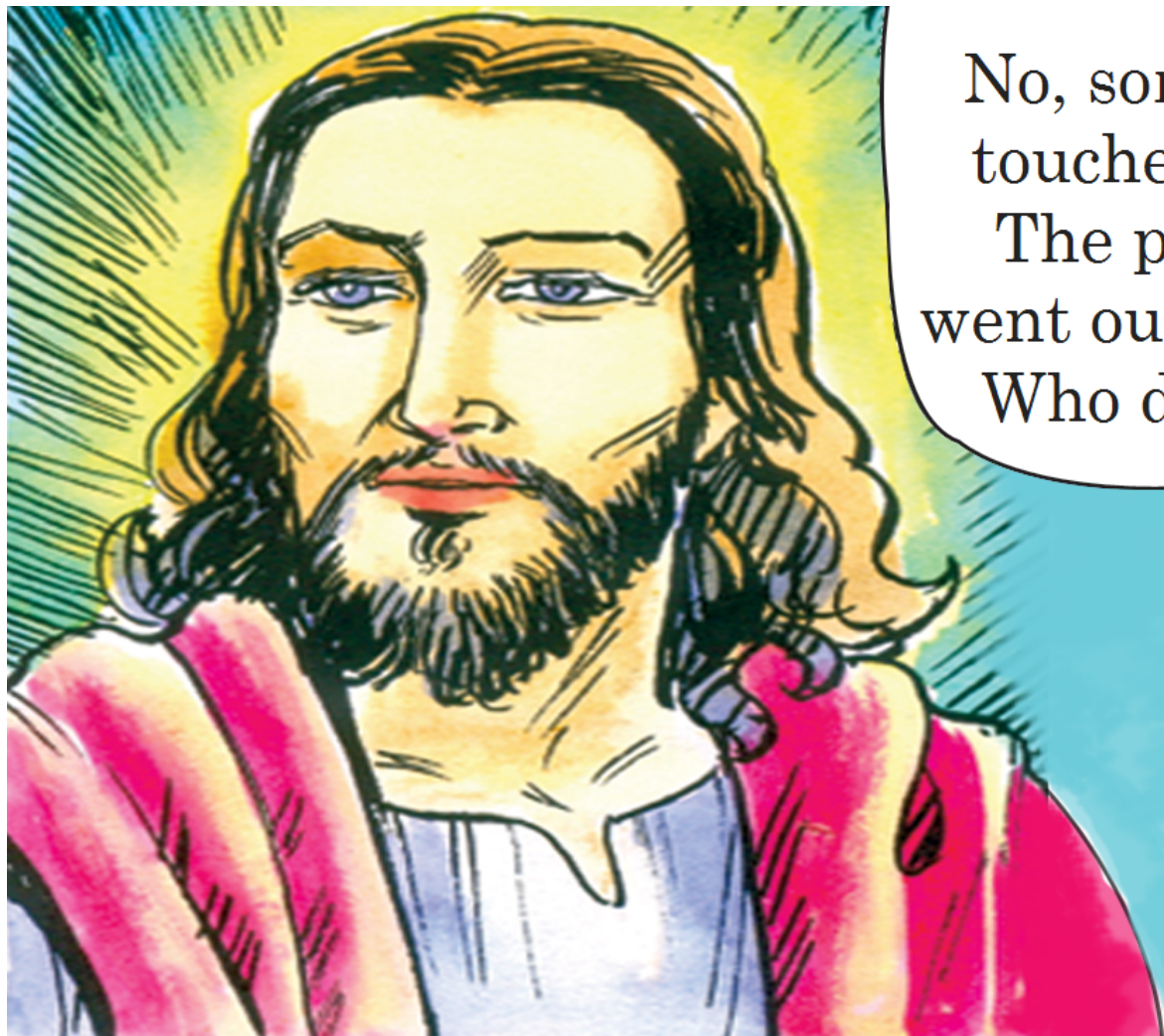
I shall come
with you.

On the way.

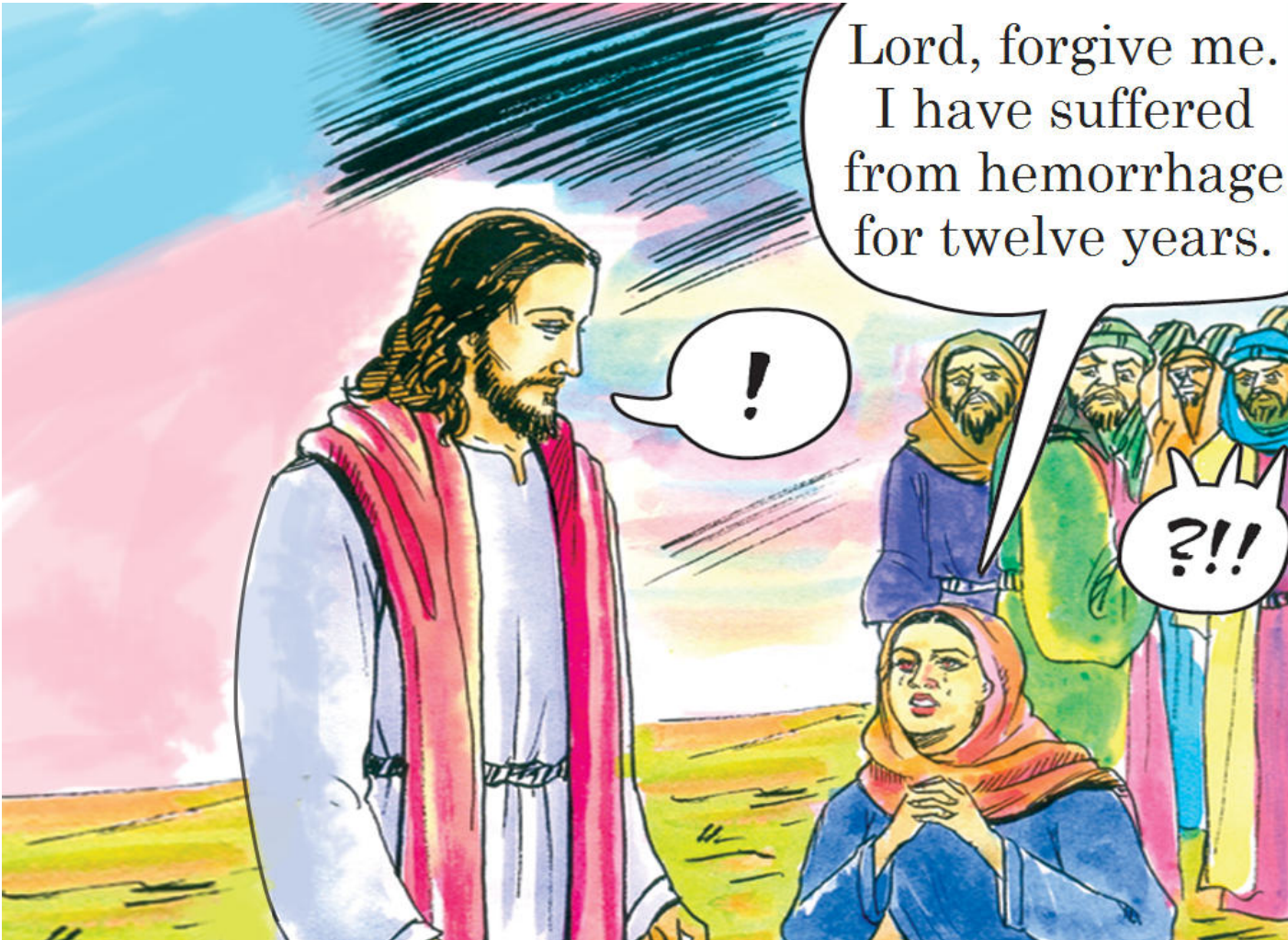
You see how the crowd is pressing round you and yet you ask who touched you?

Who touched my clothes?





No, someone
touched me.
The power
went out of me.
Who did it?

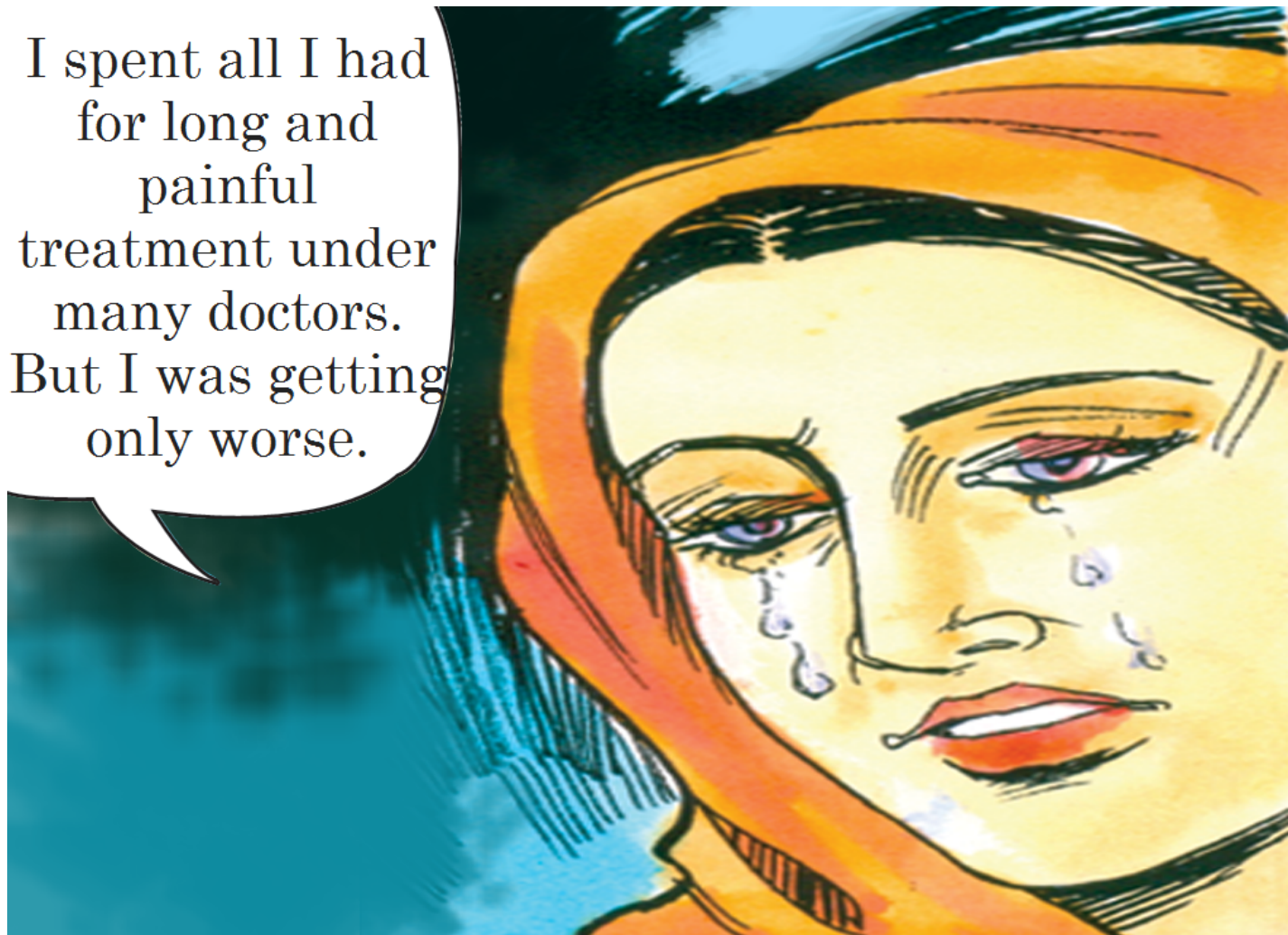


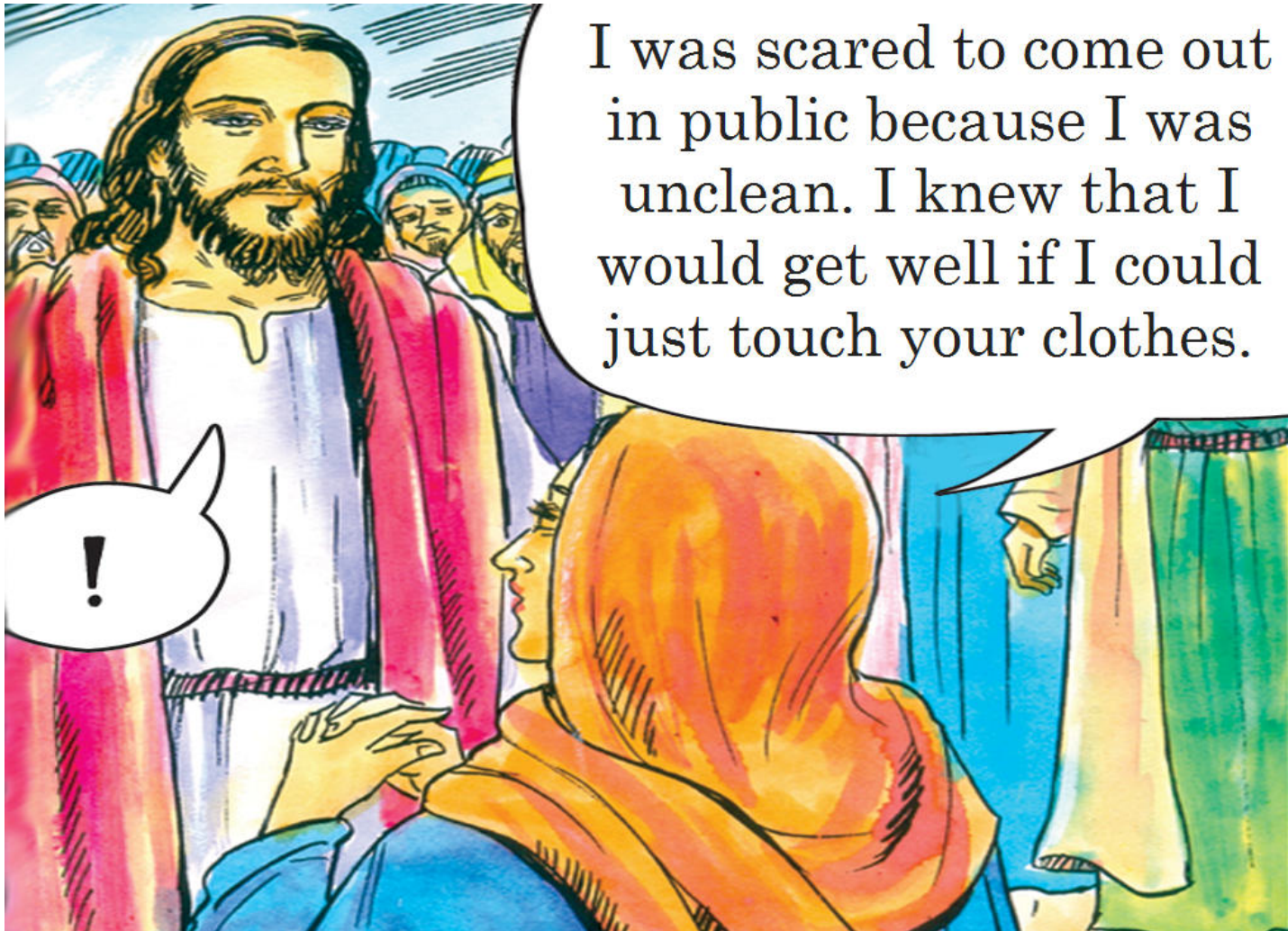
Lord, forgive me.
I have suffered
from hemorrhage
for twelve years.

!

?!!

I spent all I had
for long and
painful
treatment under
many doctors.
But I was getting
only worse.





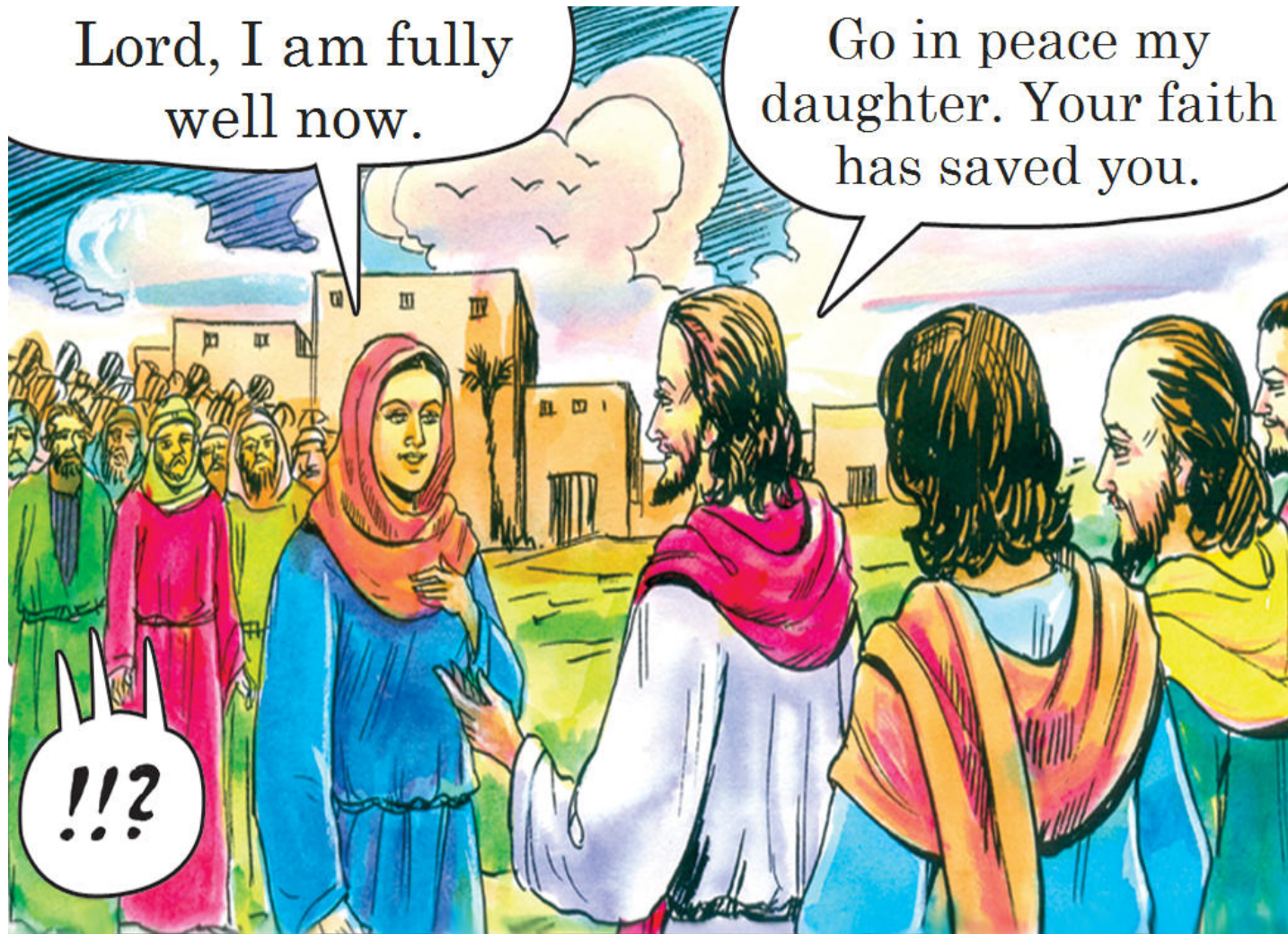
I was scared to come out in public because I was unclean. I knew that I would get well if I could just touch your clothes.

!

Lord, I am fully
well now.

Go in peace my
daughter. Your faith
has saved you.

!!?

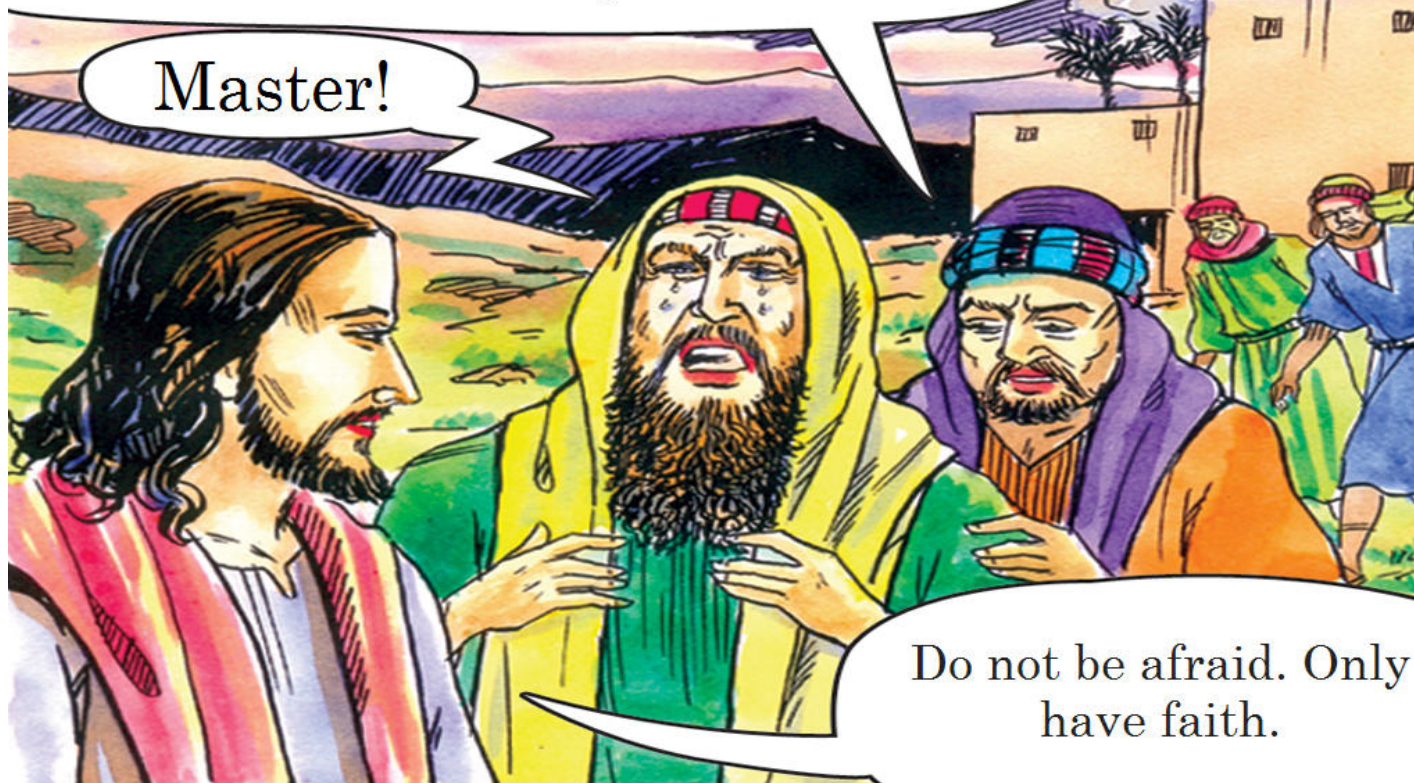


While they were talking, people came from Jairus's house.

Sir, your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Master any more?

Master!

Do not be afraid. Only have faith.



Peter, Jacob,
and John, come
with me. The
others may
return.



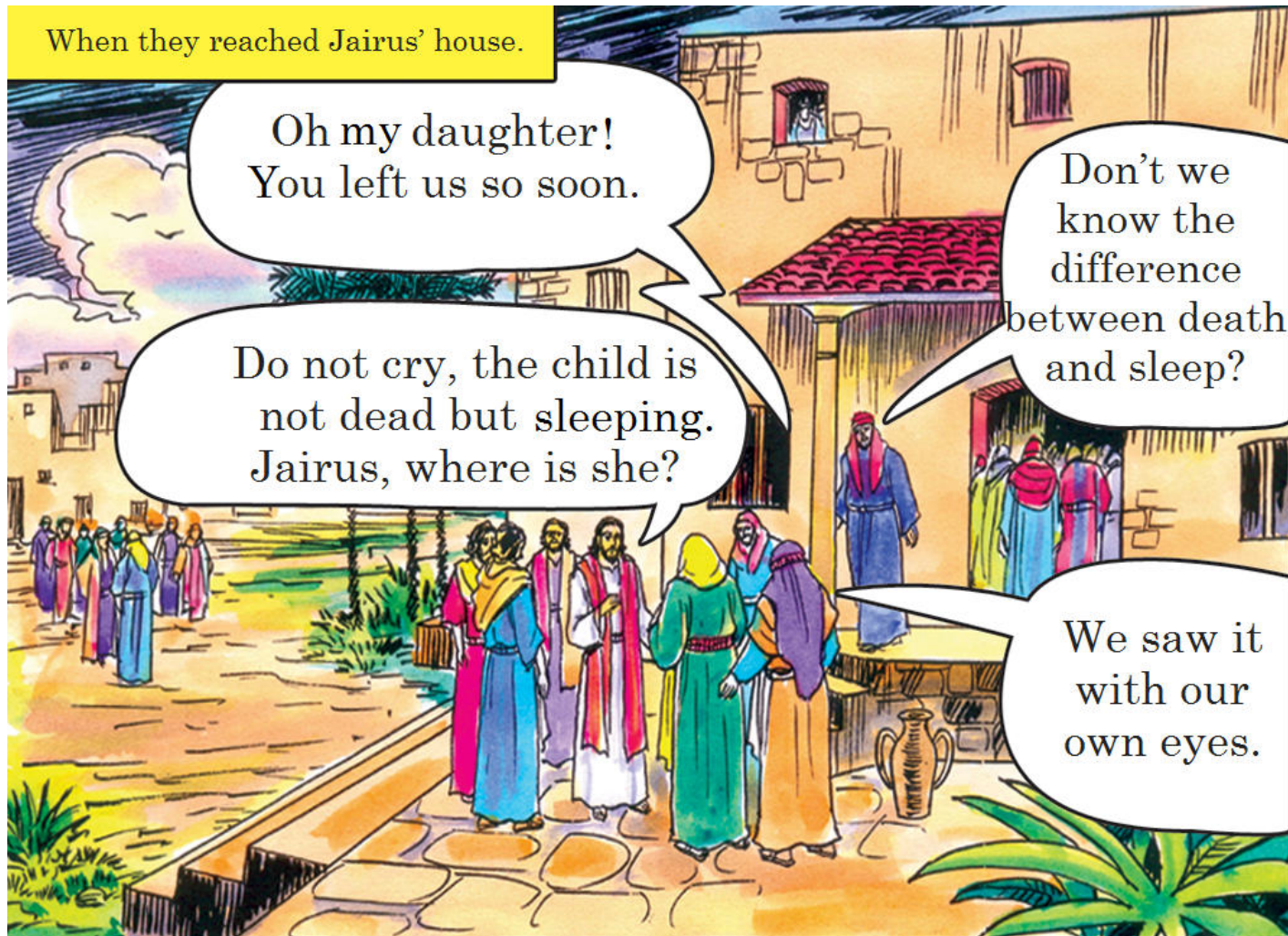
When they reached Jairus' house.

Oh my daughter!
You left us so soon.

Do not cry, the child is
not dead but sleeping.
Jairus, where is she?

Don't we
know the
difference
between death
and sleep?

We saw it
with our
own eyes.



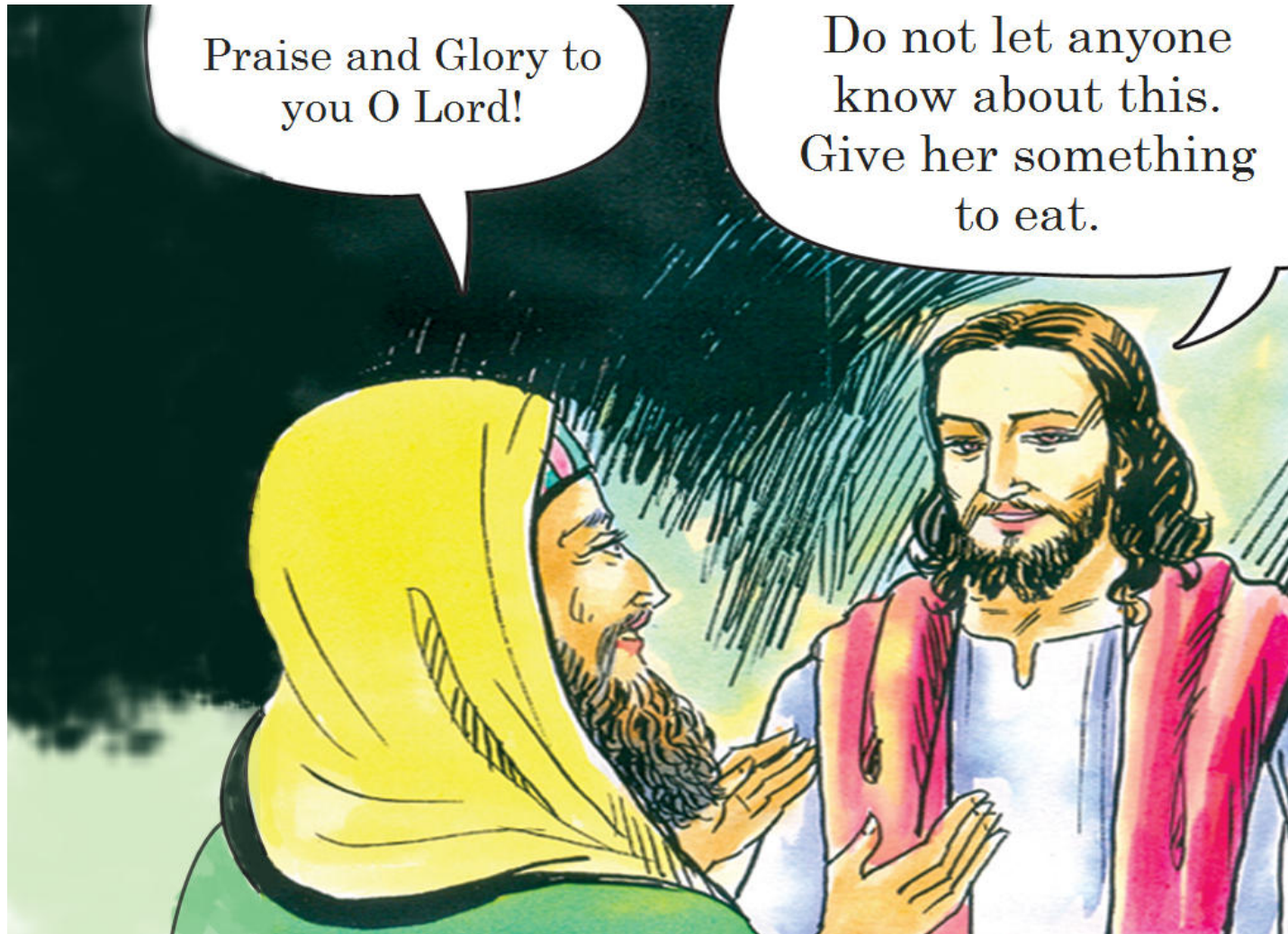
Jesus went into the child's room with her parents and his own companions.





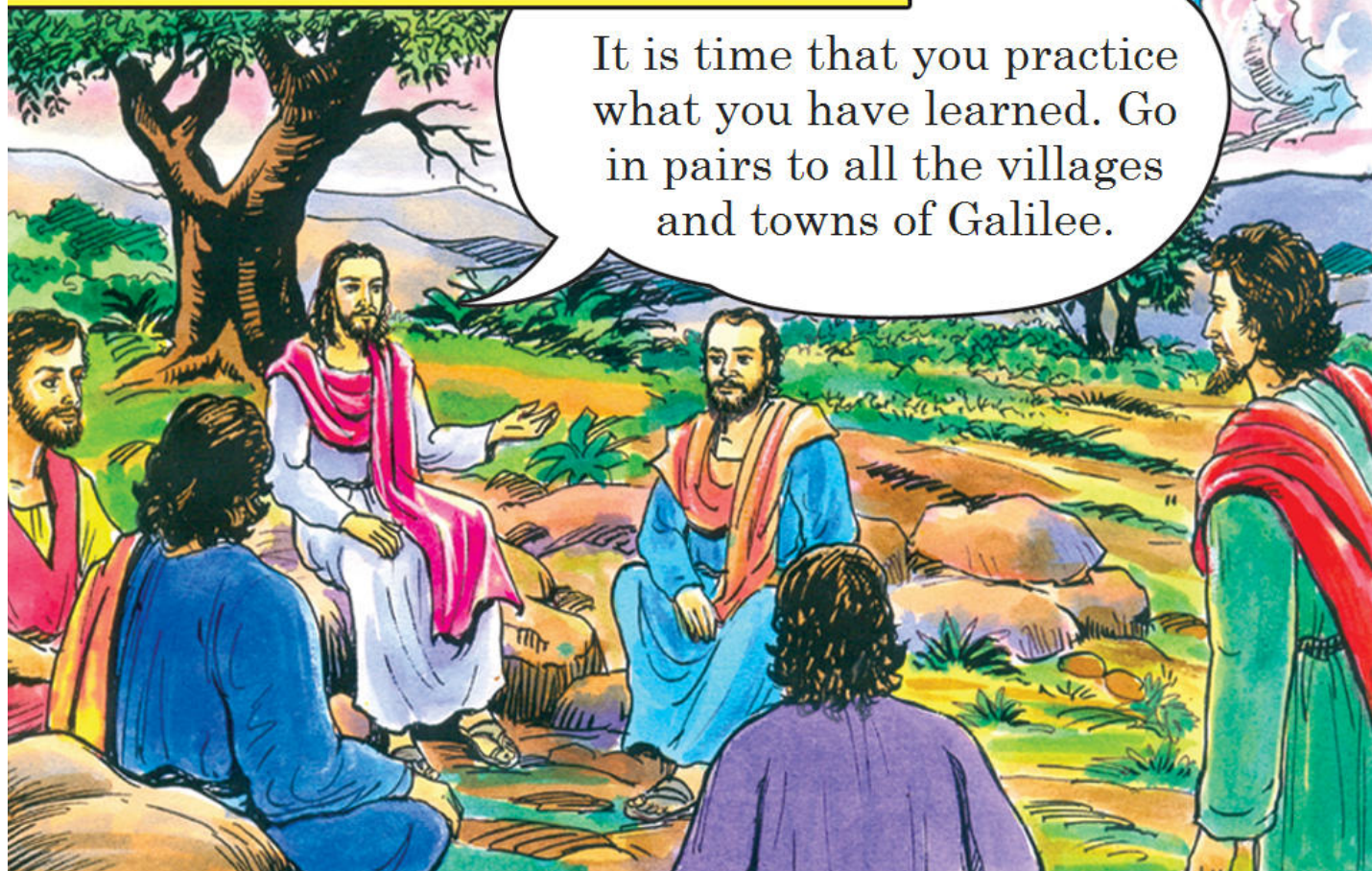
Praise and Glory to
you O Lord!

Do not let anyone
know about this.
Give her something
to eat.

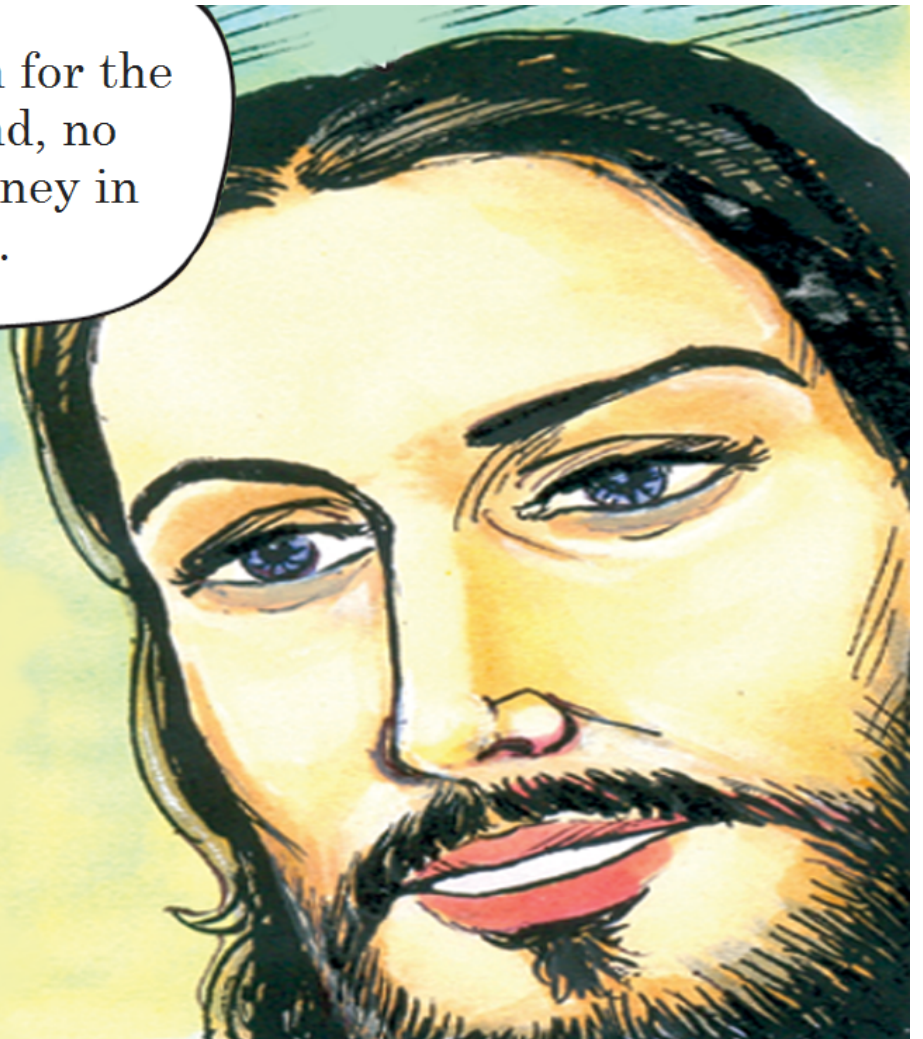


Jesus preaching to the twelve Apostles.

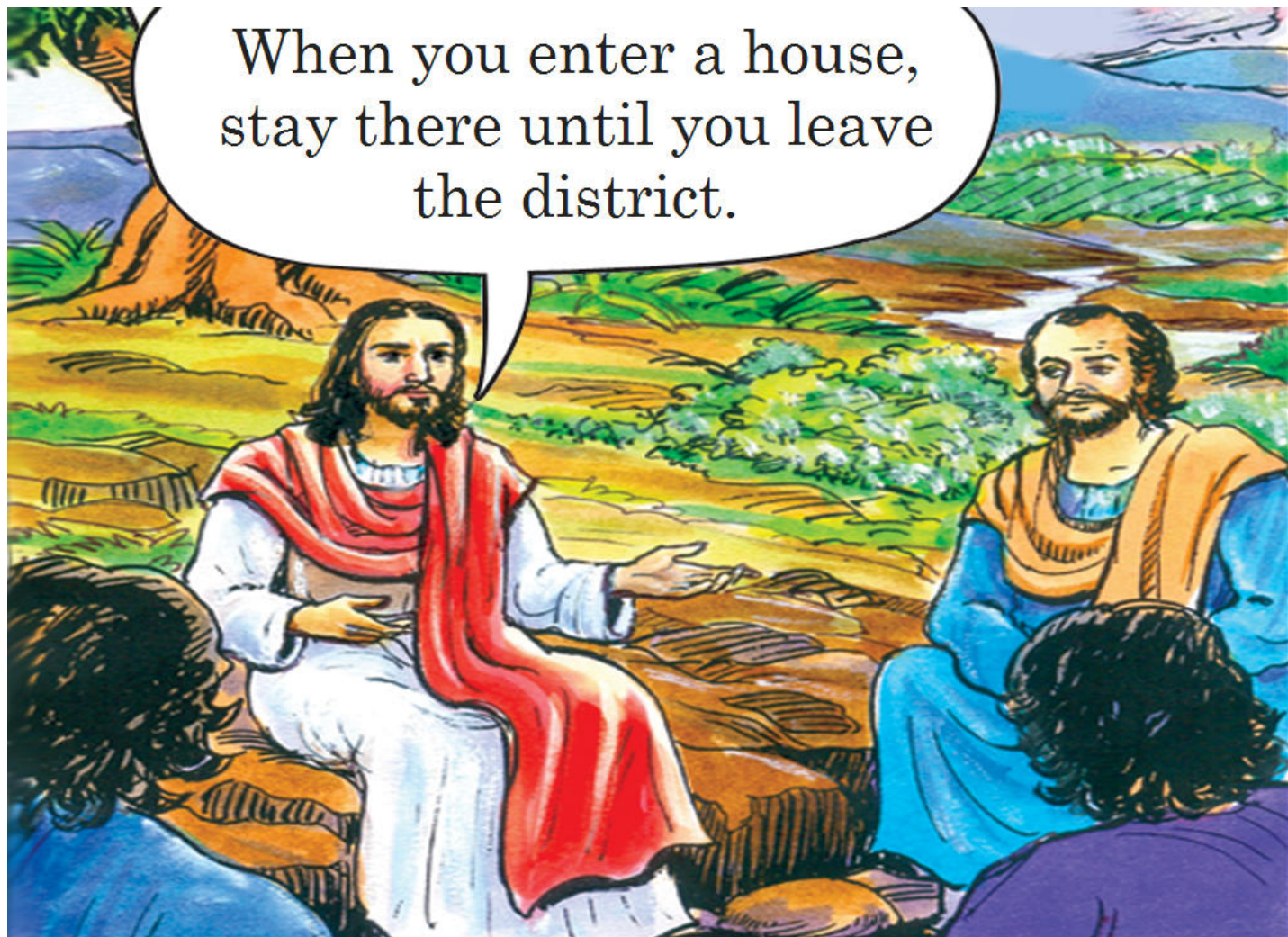
It is time that you practice what you have learned. Go in pairs to all the villages and towns of Galilee.



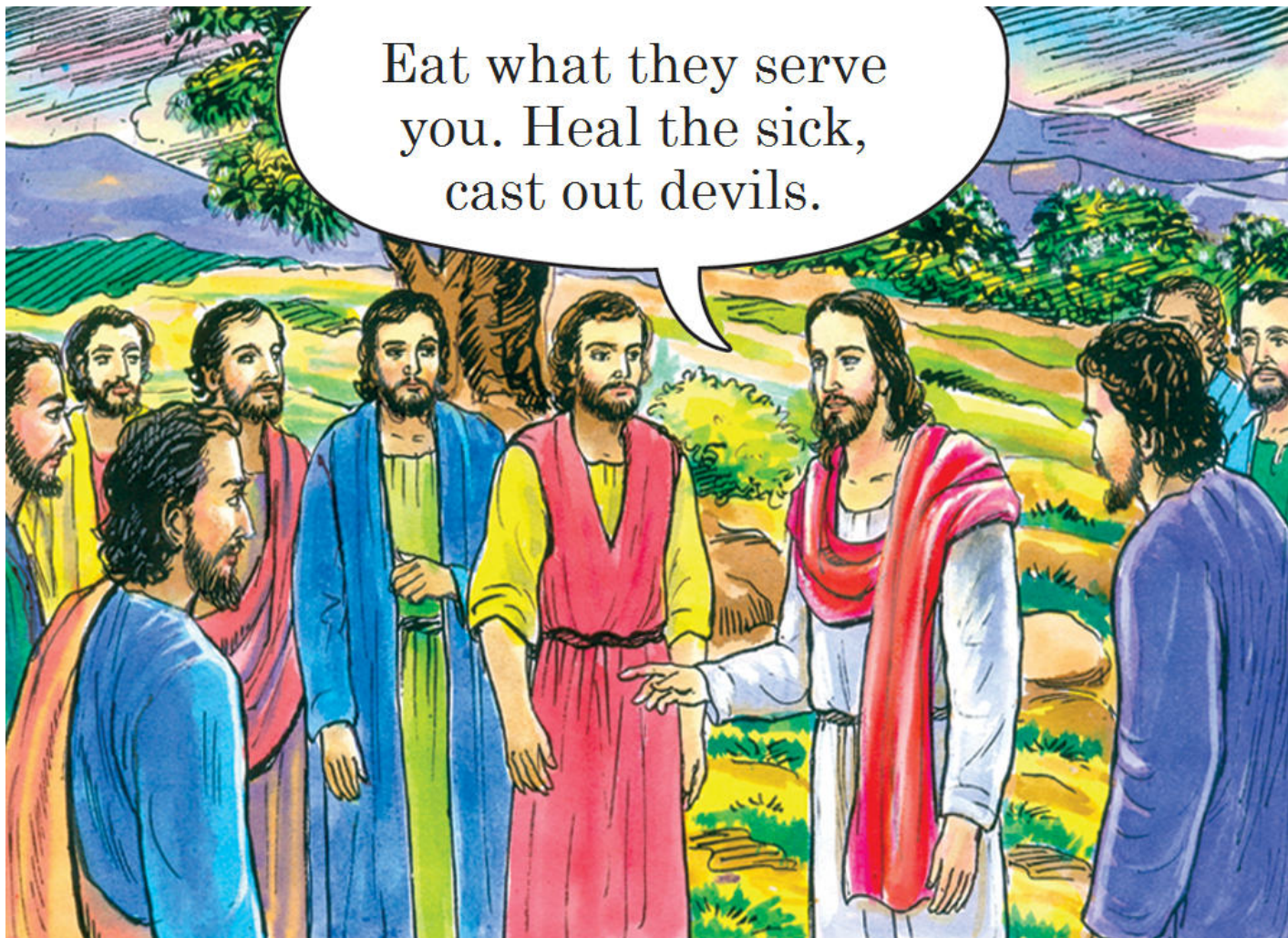
Take nothing extra for the journey. No bread, no haversack, no money in your purses.




When you enter a house,
stay there until you leave
the district.



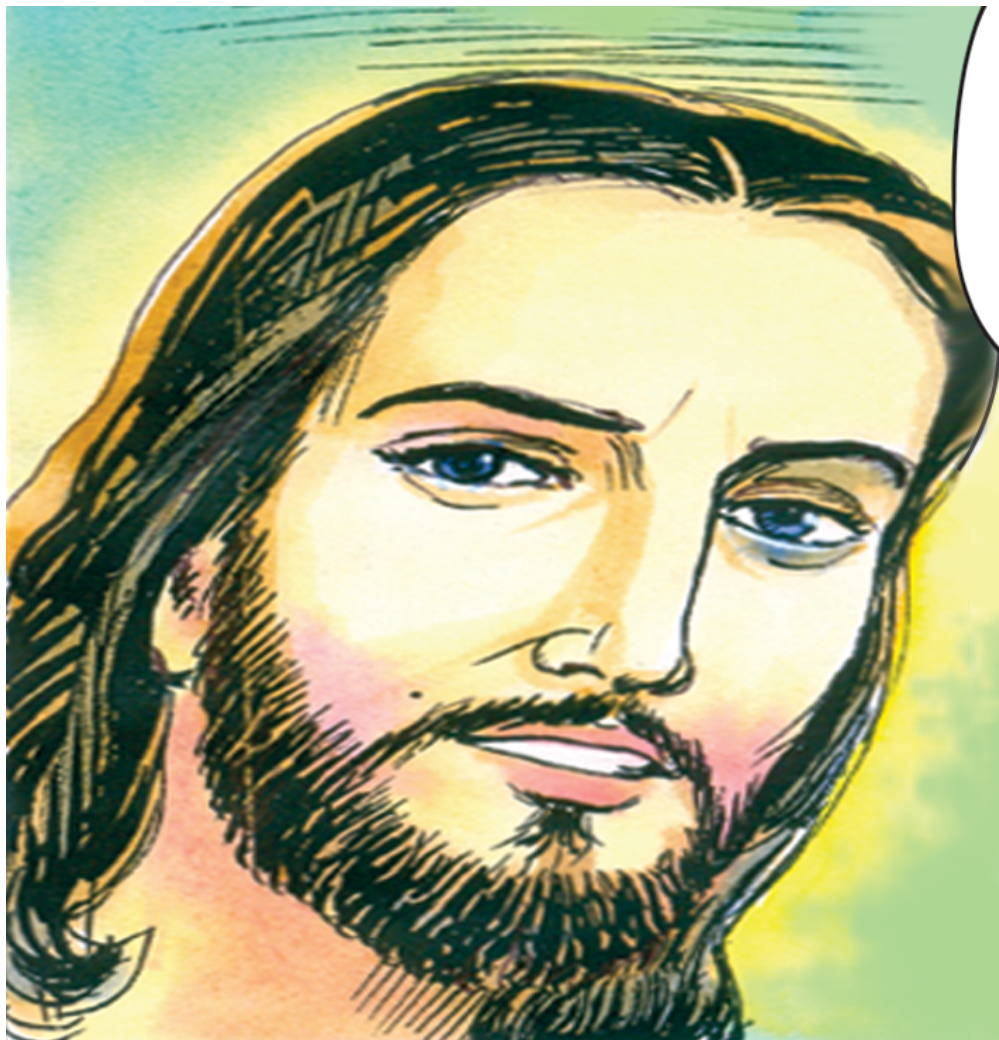
Eat what they serve
you. Heal the sick,
cast out devils.





Tell them "Repent and return to the Lord, for the Kingdom of God is at hand".

Master, what if they do not welcome us?



Walk out of the
house and tell
them in front of
all.

We shake off the dust from
under our feet as a sign
against you.



However, know that “The Kingdom of God is near”. Then go to the next town.



The Apostles went around healing the sick and preaching the Good News.



Jesus' mission in Galilee comes
to an end.

Time for Final decision.

Who do you say that I am?

Next Story

Son of God

Questions

1. Why did Herodias hate John the Baptist?
2. Name three women who followed Jesus.
3. What lesson do you learn from the parable of the sower?
4. What should we do to become Jesus' brothers and sisters?
5. What do you learn from the parable of the merchant of pearls?
6. What did the apostles do when the boat was about to sink?
7. Why was the woman with the hemorrhage afraid to appear in public?
8. Why did the people of Gerasa ask Jesus to leave their country?
9. Explain two events that show that Jesus is the Lord of the Universe.
10. What did Jesus ask the apostles to preach?

Memorize: ***"Your faith has restored you to health, go in peace"***
(Mark. 5:34)

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