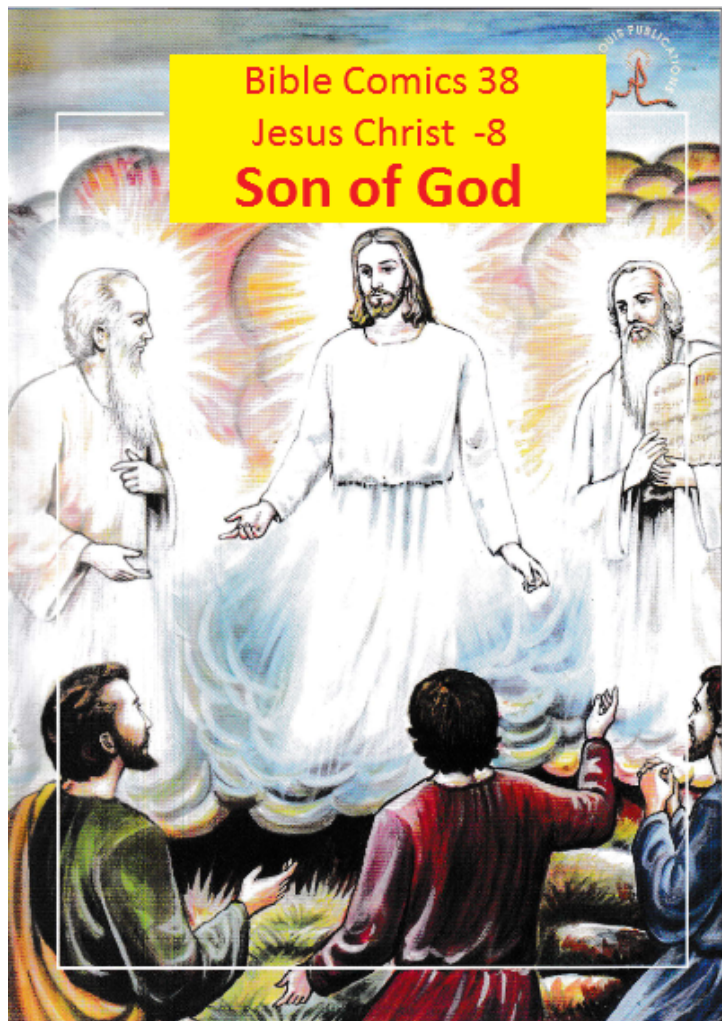


Bible Comics 38
Jesus Christ -8
Son of God



THE SON OF GOD

The first half of Jesus' public life was spent mostly in Galilee. Thousands of people gathered around him even from neighbouring countries, in order to listen to his words and to be healed of various ailments. Jesus cured them all and spoke to them about the Kingdom of God. At a later stage, the apostles also participated in the preaching and healing ministry. Jesus' reputation spread far and wide, drawing ever greater crowds to him.

Apparently this first part of the ministry was very successful and is often called the “Galilean spring”. However, the faith of the crowds was very shallow.

Most of those who gathered around Jesus were not willing to change their lives. All that they wanted was healing and bread. When Jesus invited them to conversion and to deeper faith the vast majority of them decided to leave him. The very people who tried to make him king when he fed them

miraculously with bread in the desert, considered him to be insane when he spoke about the bread of eternal life. Towns and villages, one after another, closed their doors against Jesus. Capernaum and Bethsaida, where he had performed many miracles, turned a deaf ear to his call to conversion.

Not only the general public, but even his disciples took offence at some of his teachings and were scandalized by his claims. When pressed to make a choice, many

decided to go away from him. Herod the local ruler who was haunted by the guilt of murdering the Baptist and of many other crimes, considered Jesus a threat to his security and wanted to kill him. The religious leaders became more aggressive and continually tried to alienate the people from Jesus. Thus the Galilean ministry apparently ended up in failure. This is usually called the “Galilean crisis”.

In the midst of this crisis two events stand out, namely the confession of Peter and the transfiguration. In answer to Jesus' question, Peter as the representative of the apostles, confessed his faith that Jesus is Christ, the Son of God. This is the faith of the Church. Jesus accepted the confession and declared that Peter could come to this faith only through a special revelation from God. However, this needed further deepening which would come only through the passion

and death of Christ. From now on Jesus will concentrate on teaching the apostles about the necessity of his suffering, and thus prepare them for the impending events in Jerusalem.

The transfiguration on the mountain confirms Peter's confession and gives a glimpse of the true identity of Jesus as the Son of God. On the mountain, as at the baptism in Jordan, God himself declared Jesus as the Beloved Son. The voice from heaven

commanded the chosen three to listen to Jesus' teaching and to follow him on the way of the cross. The presence of Moses and Elijah, representing the entire OT, bears witness to the fact that the history of salvation is being fulfilled in Jesus and that this fulfillment will involve his suffering and death in Jerusalem.

Jesus' identity as the Son of God is revealed more through the passion and death than through the miracles he performed. Only by

following him on his journey to the cross, and by participating in his suffering can we know him and become a true disciple.

Bible Comics – 38

Jesus Christ – 8

The Son of God

Script

Rev. Dr. Michael Karimattam

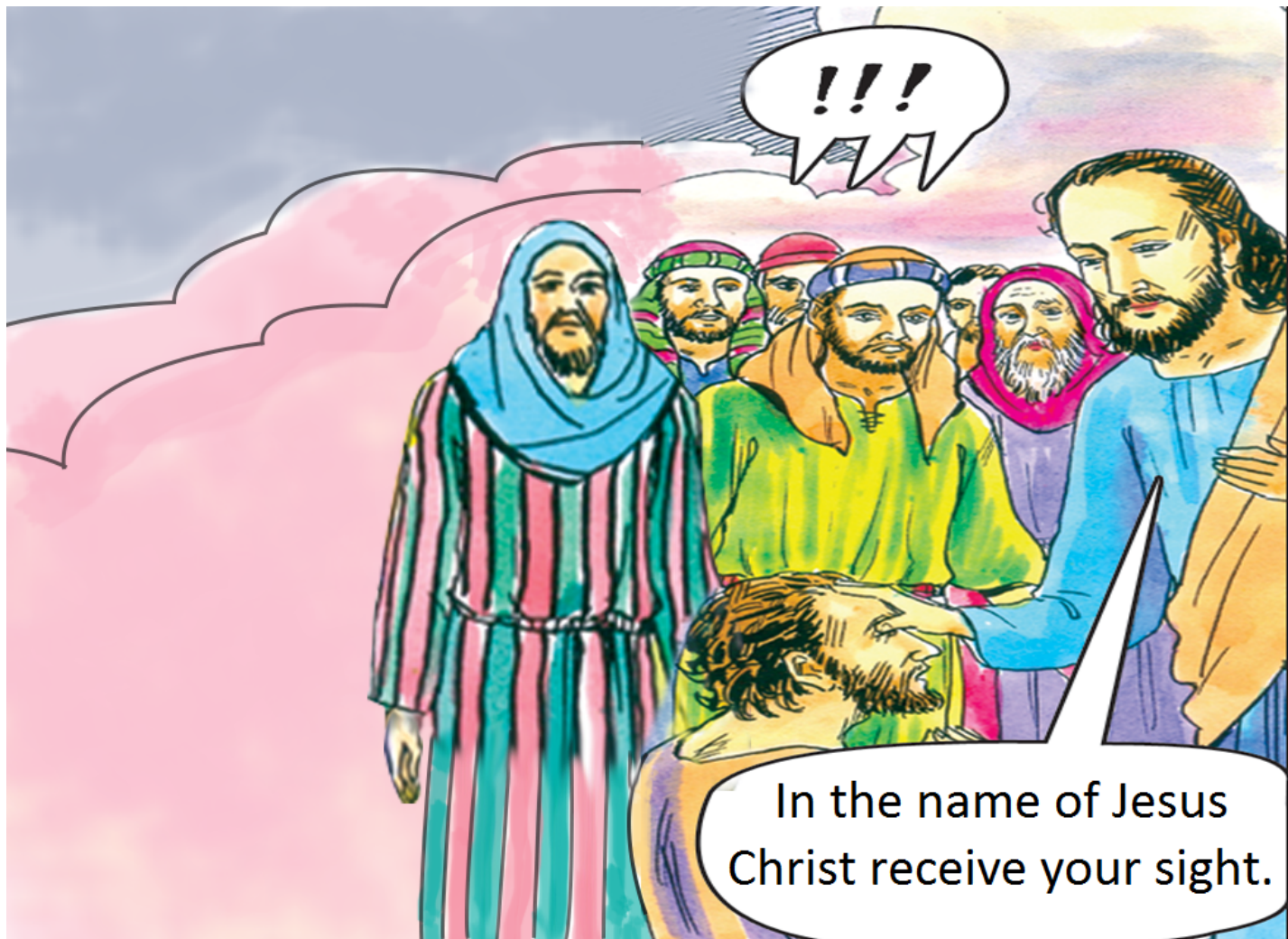
Illustration

Deavassy & Benny

The Apostles went around Galilee, healing the sick and proclaiming the Good News. Peter and Thomas.

Bretheren, repent, the Kingdom of God is at hand. Believe in the Good News.

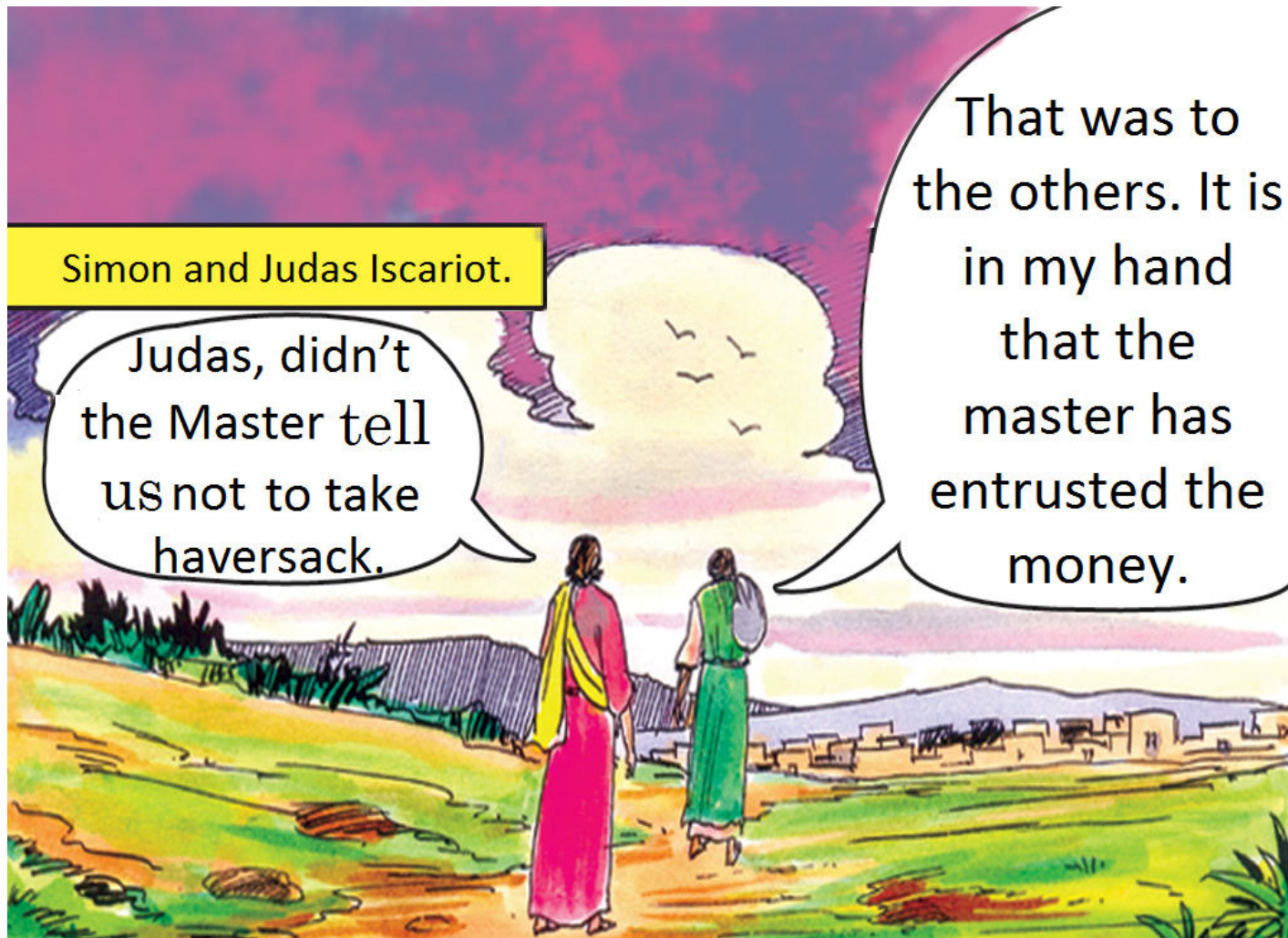




Simon and Judas Iscariot.

Judas, didn't
the Master tell
us not to take
haversack.

That was to
the others. It is
in my hand
that the
master has
entrusted the
money.



I am carrying the sack not for myself but for the Community.



If I don't take care of
the purse, you all
including the Master
will starve.

How many times the
Master told that we
trust in God, not in
money? Don't you
believe.



Simon, I never thought you to be such a fool. Why do you think the Master entrusted me with the money?

The Master has sent us to proclaim the Good News, not to collect money.



When everybody returns after the preaching, it will be to Judas that all will ask for food.



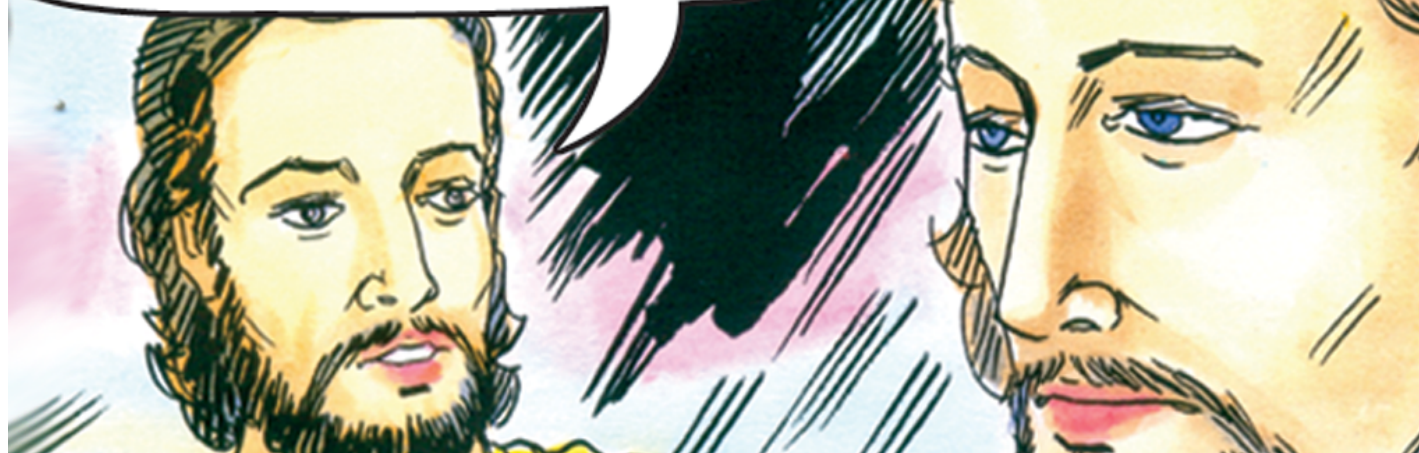
You all can go around without the purse
and sack but I must do my duty.



Don't we all have same
duty?

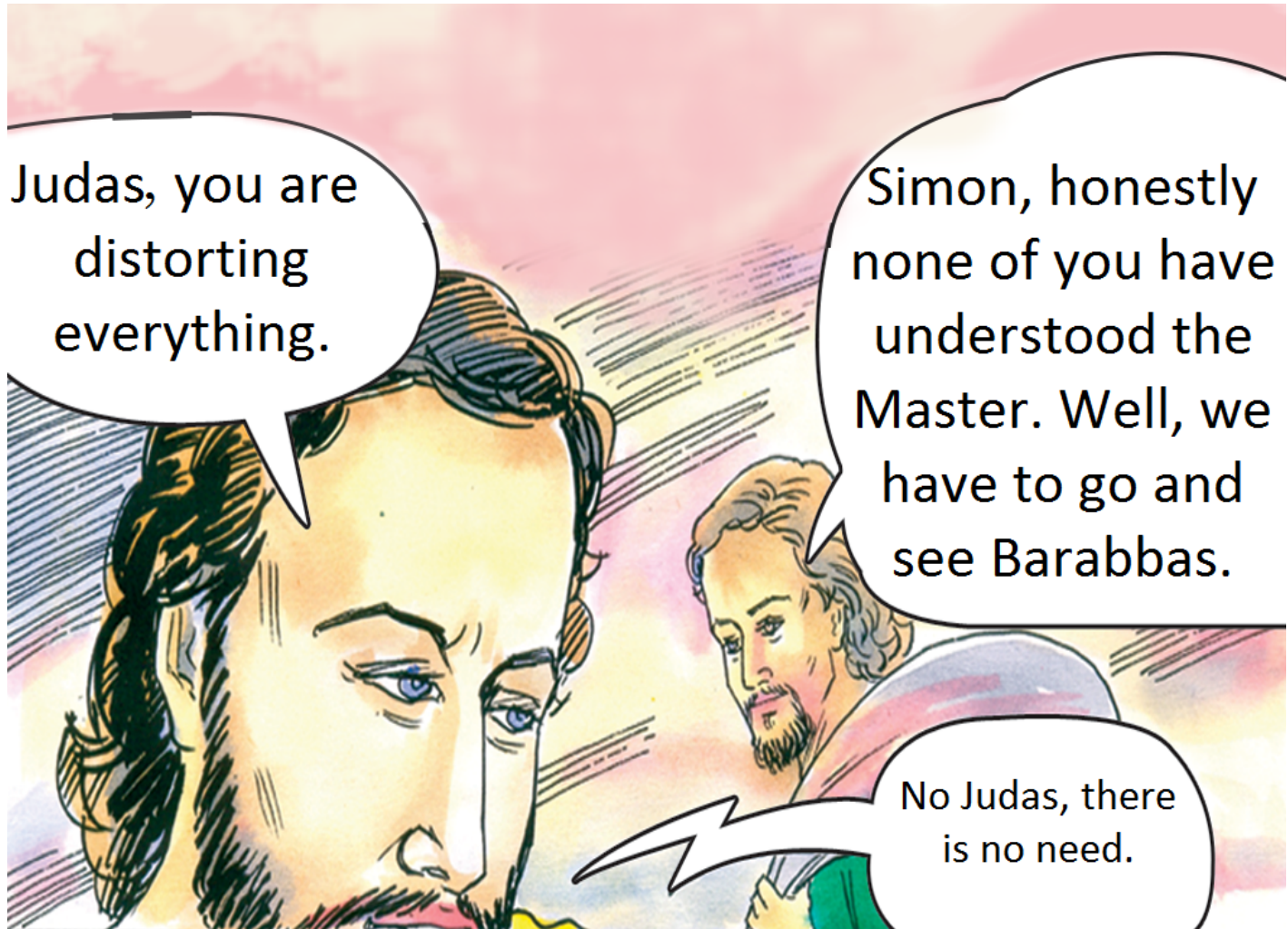
You can't understand the special mission the Master has given me.

The Master has never asked us to collect money. Remember what He said about the birds of the sky and the flowers.



Birds steal from the farmer.
You all live on the money
Judas makes.

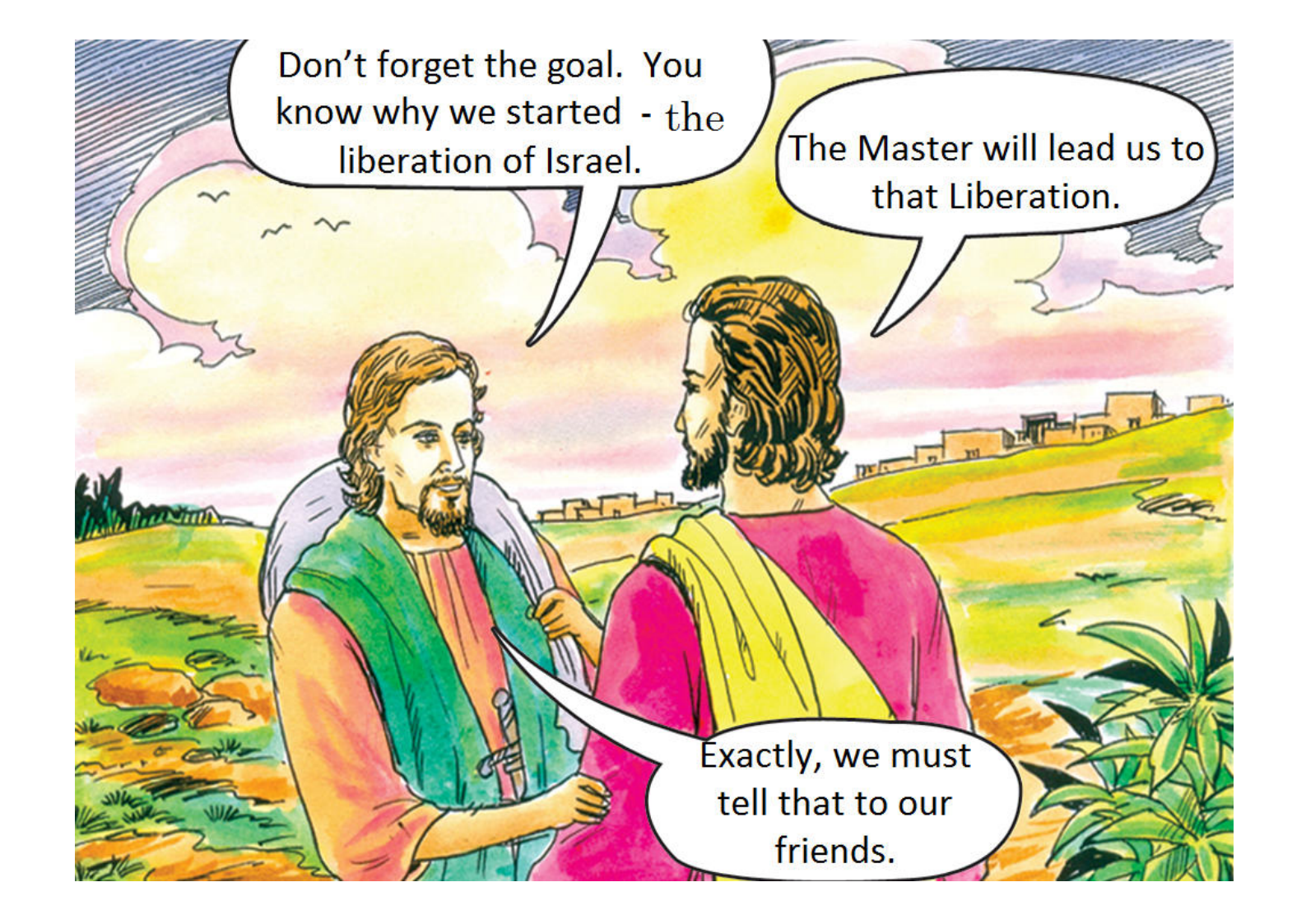




Judas, you are
distorting
everything.

Simon, honestly
none of you have
understood the
Master. Well, we
have to go and
see Barabbas.

No Judas, there
is no need.



Don't forget the goal. You
know why we started - the
liberation of Israel.

The Master will lead us to
that Liberation.

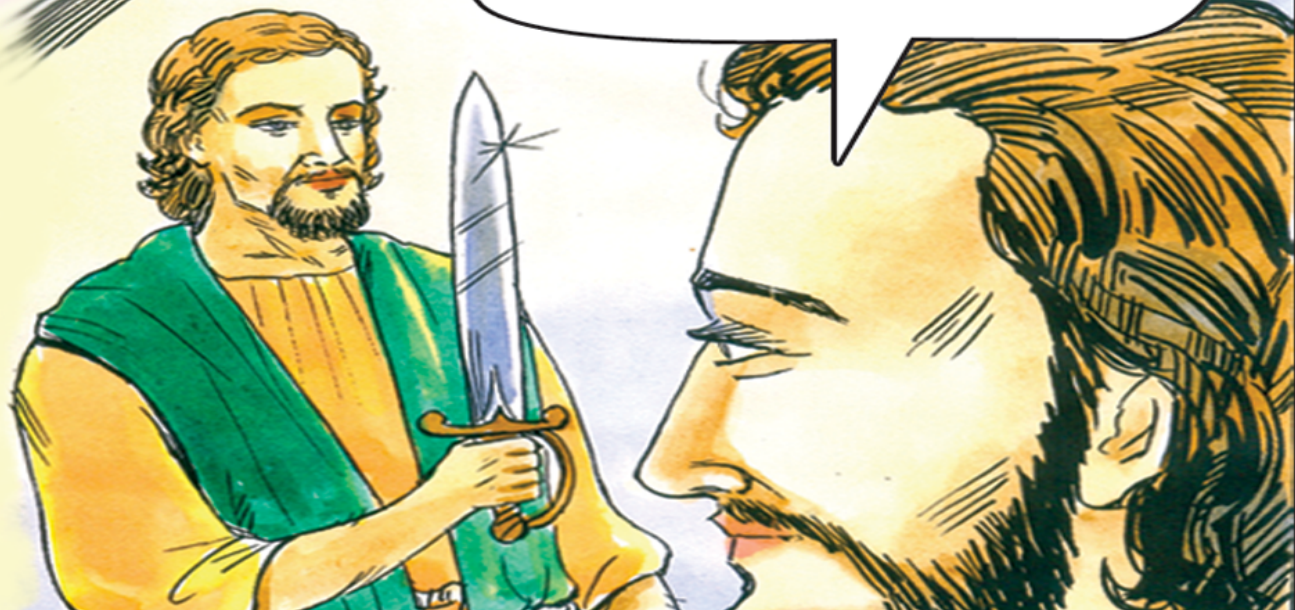
Exactly, we must
tell that to our
friends.

Barabbas has chosen the
path of sword and
bloodshed. The Master's
way is that of love.



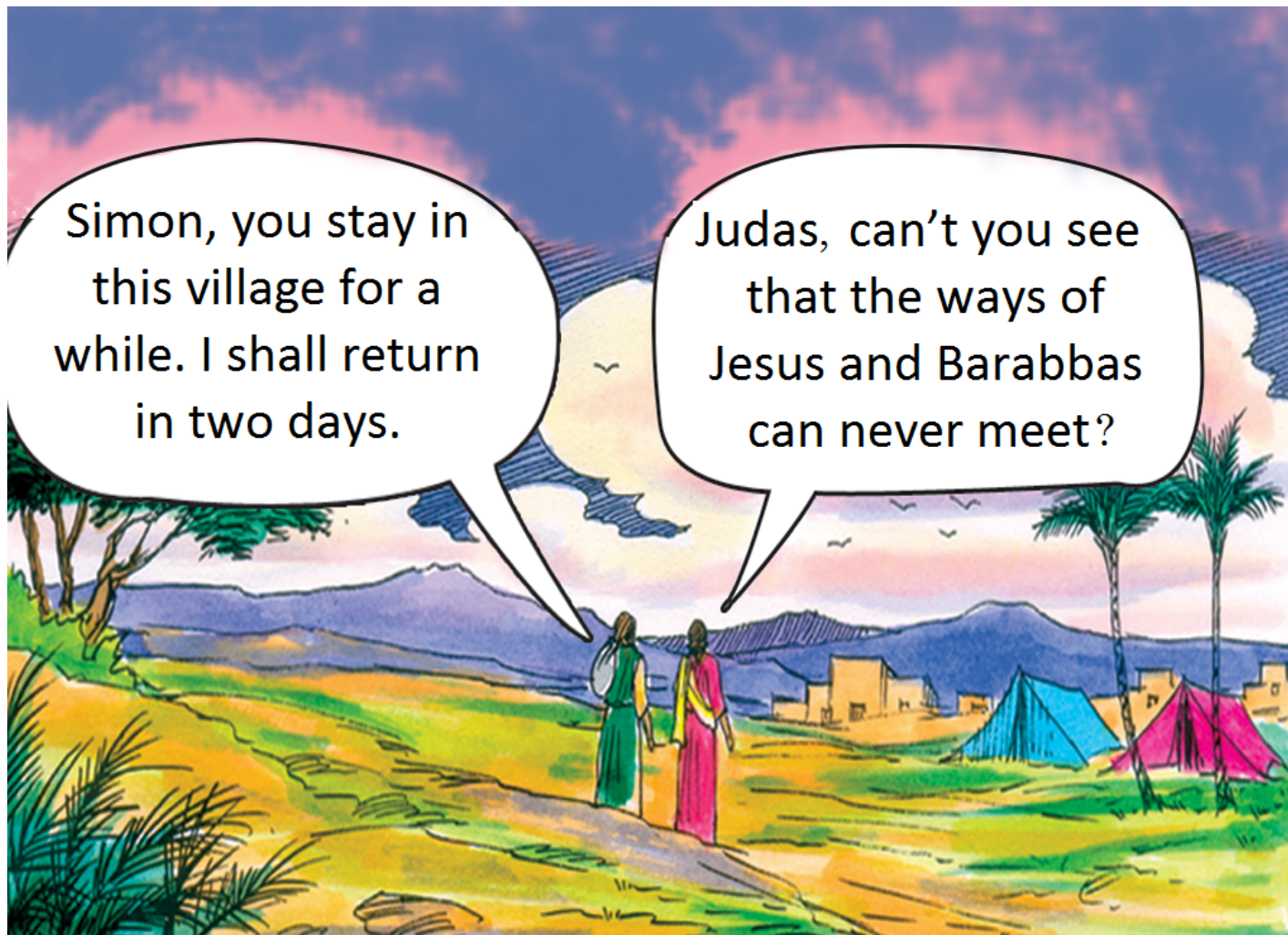
We took up this sword because we love our people. Jesus will lead us.

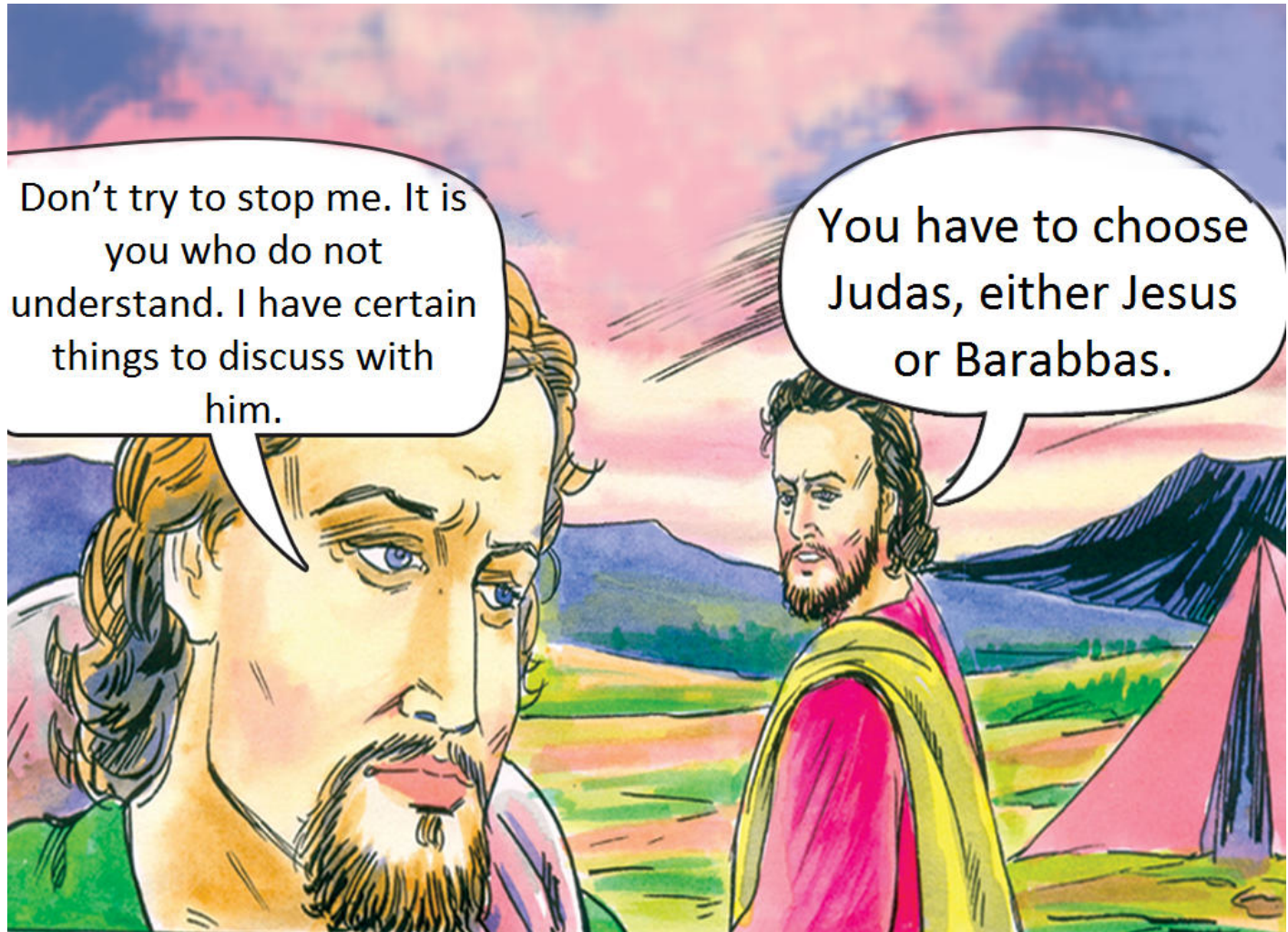
No Judas, Jesus' love has no boundaries. He loves the Jews and Gentiles alike.



Simon, you stay in this village for a while. I shall return in two days.

Judas, can't you see that the ways of Jesus and Barabbas can never meet?





Don't try to stop me. It is
you who do not
understand. I have certain
things to discuss with
him.

You have to choose
Judas, either Jesus
or Barabbas.

I have made my choice
long ago. For that Jesus
and Barabbas must come
together.

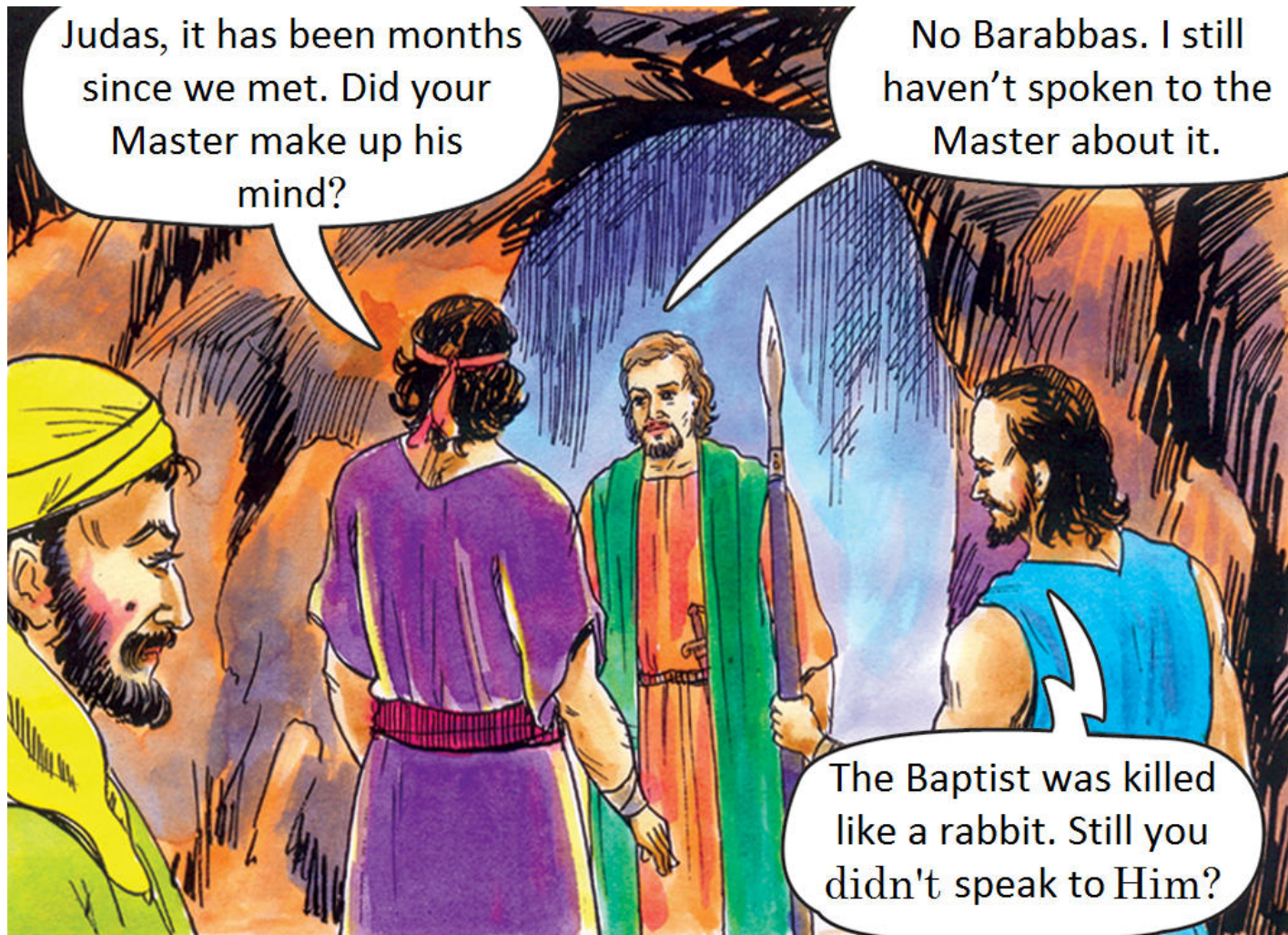




Judas, it has been months since we met. Did your Master make up his mind?

No Barabbas. I still haven't spoken to the Master about it.

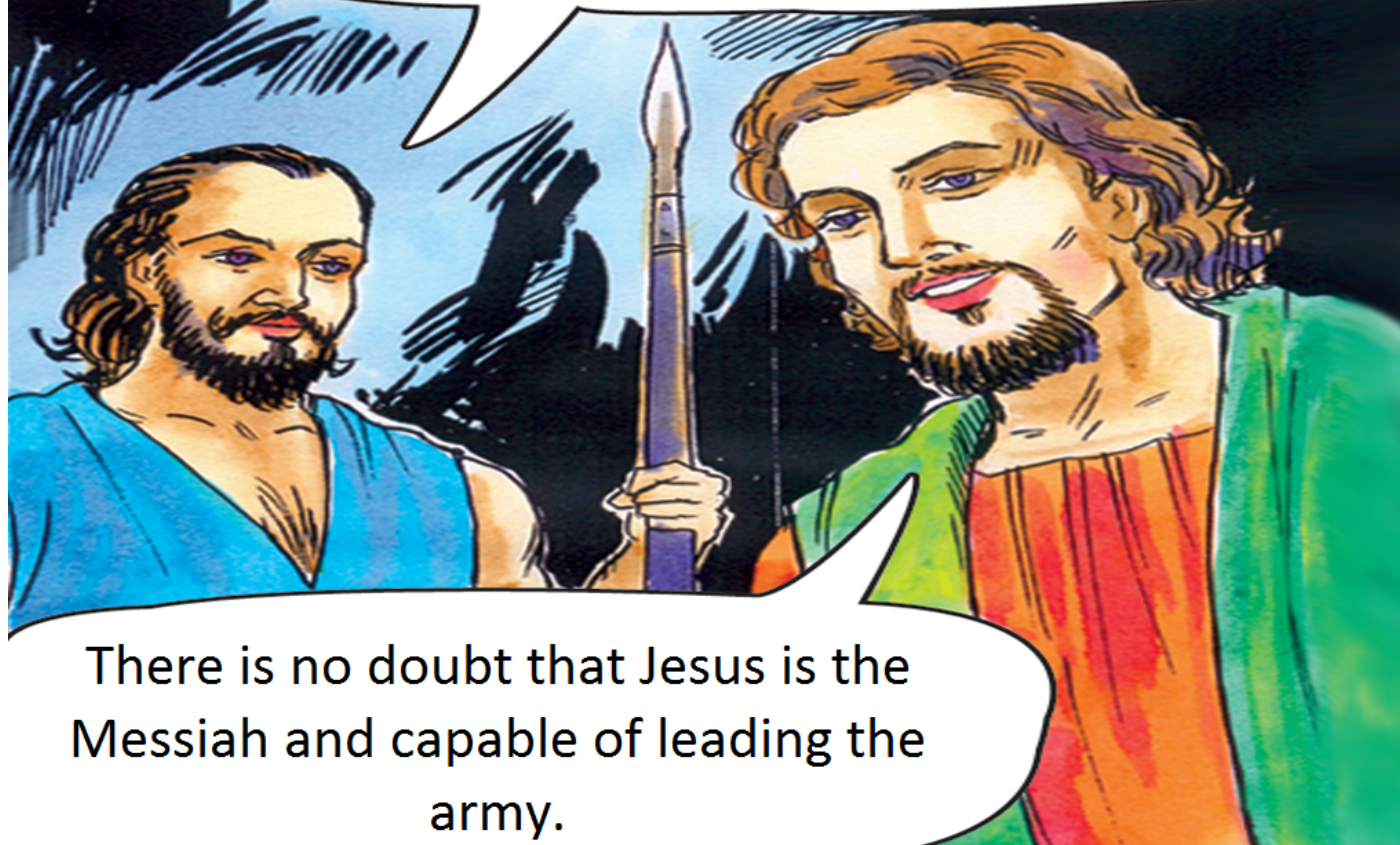
The Baptist was killed like a rabbit. Still you didn't speak to Him?



Can Jesus lead our army
against Herod and the
Romans? Will He do it?
We have to know
immediately.



Is he the Messiah, the son of David,
whom we have been expecting?



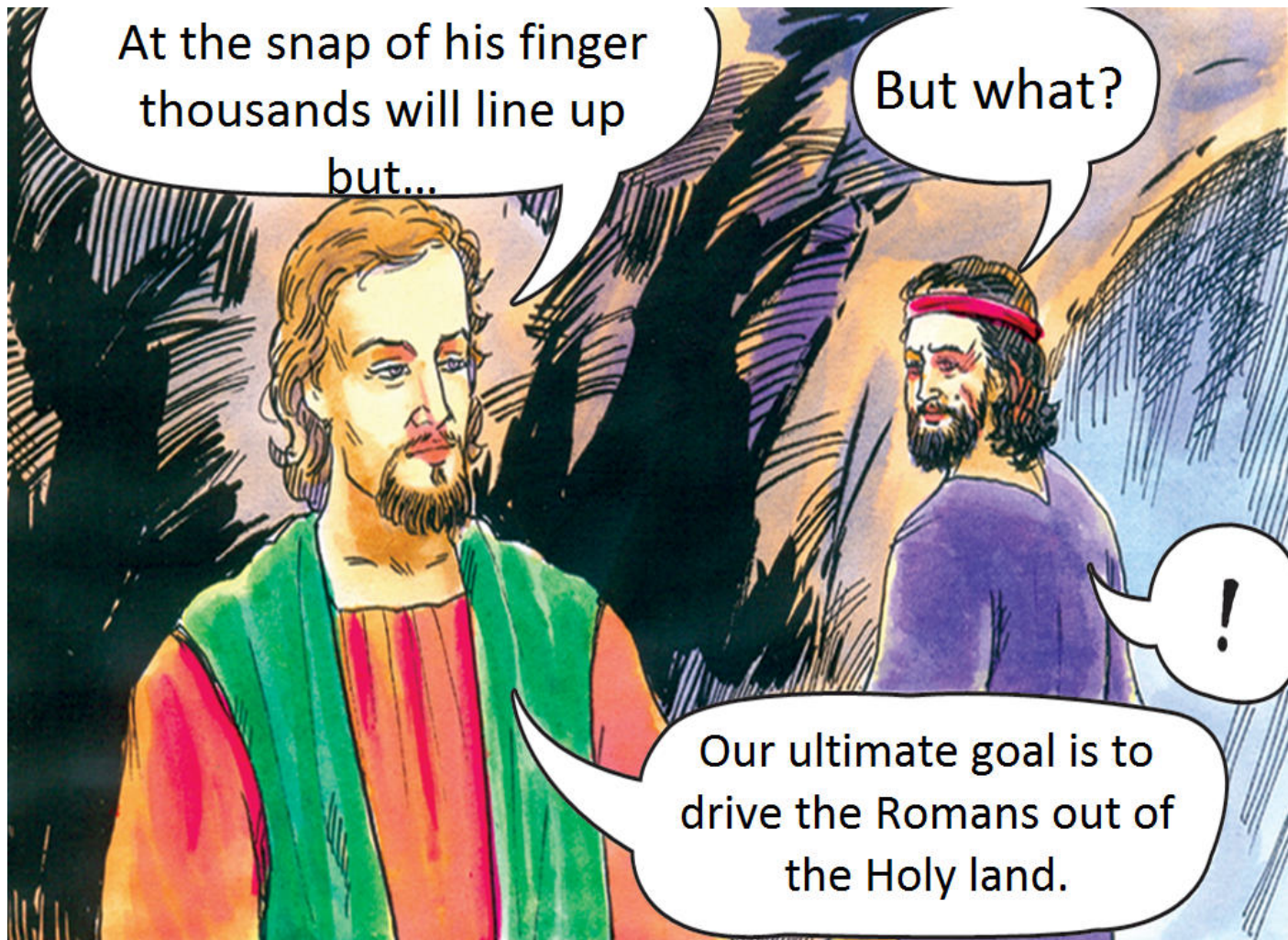
There is no doubt that Jesus is the
Messiah and capable of leading the
army.

At the snap of his finger
thousands will line up
but...

But what?

!

Our ultimate goal is to
drive the Romans out of
the Holy land.



Not only that. We must build up a world-
empire with the Holy city, Jerusalem, as its
capital.

Jesus will be the
emperor, so we must not
use him against Herod
now.

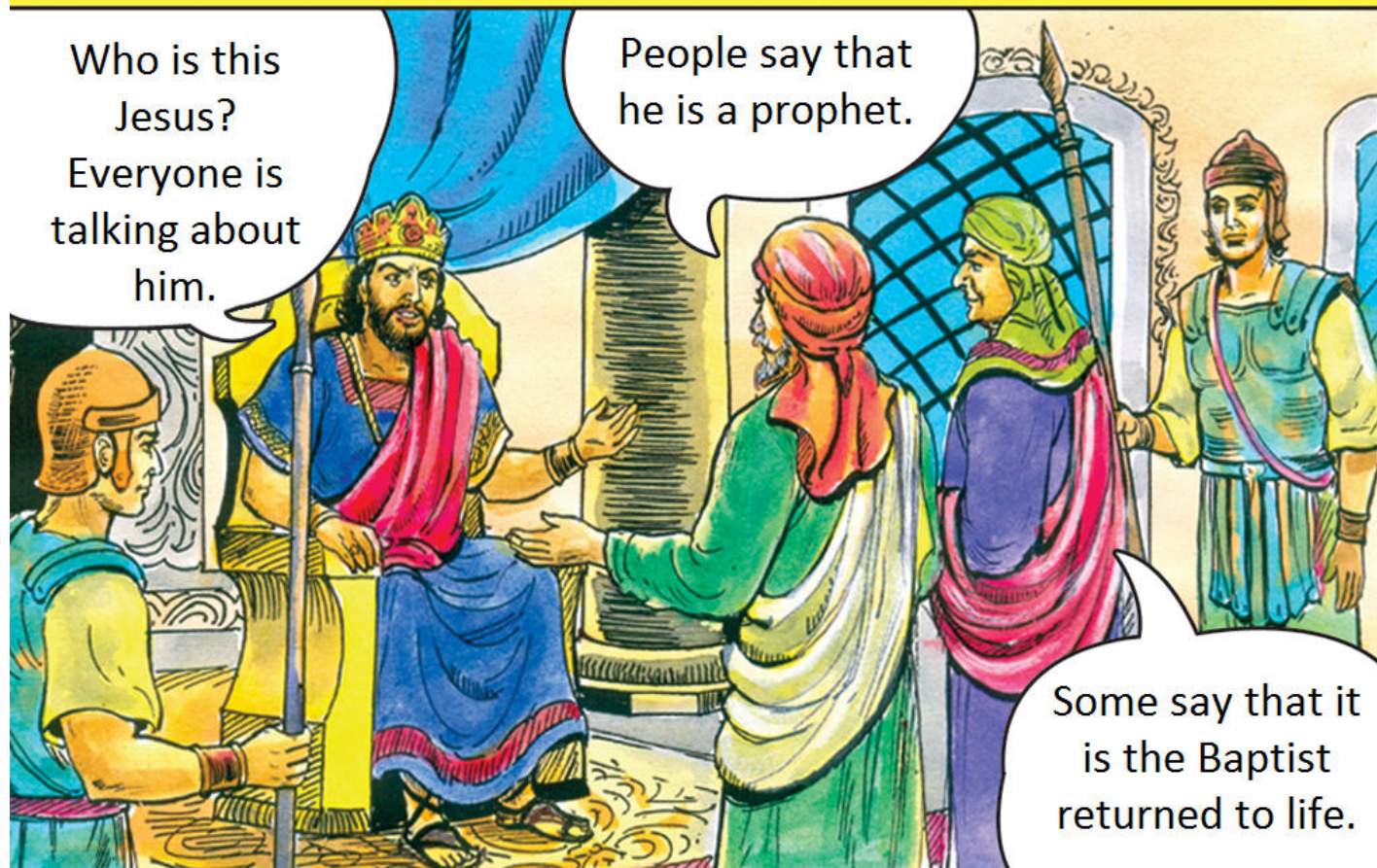


During the feast of the Passover, the Sanhedrin must proclaim Jesus as the king of the Jews with the full support of Israel.

All right! We shall prepare ourselves for that. You speak with Jesus. See you next week in Jerusalem.



The activities of the Apostles created a big commotion in Galilee.
Herod also heard about it.



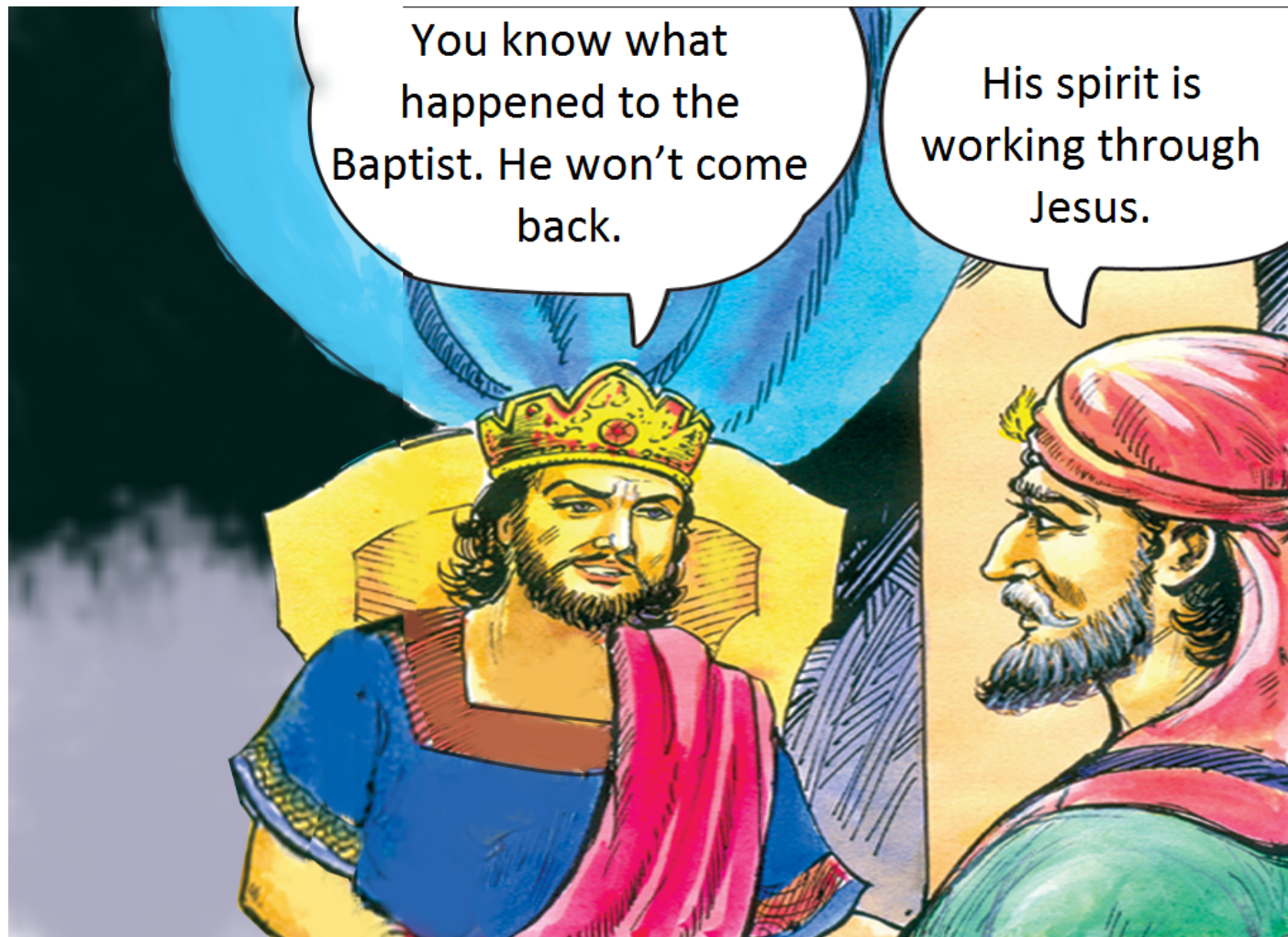
Who is this
Jesus?
Everyone is
talking about
him.

People say that
he is a prophet.

Some say that it
is the Baptist
returned to life.

You know what
happened to the
Baptist. He won't come
back.

His spirit is
working through
Jesus.



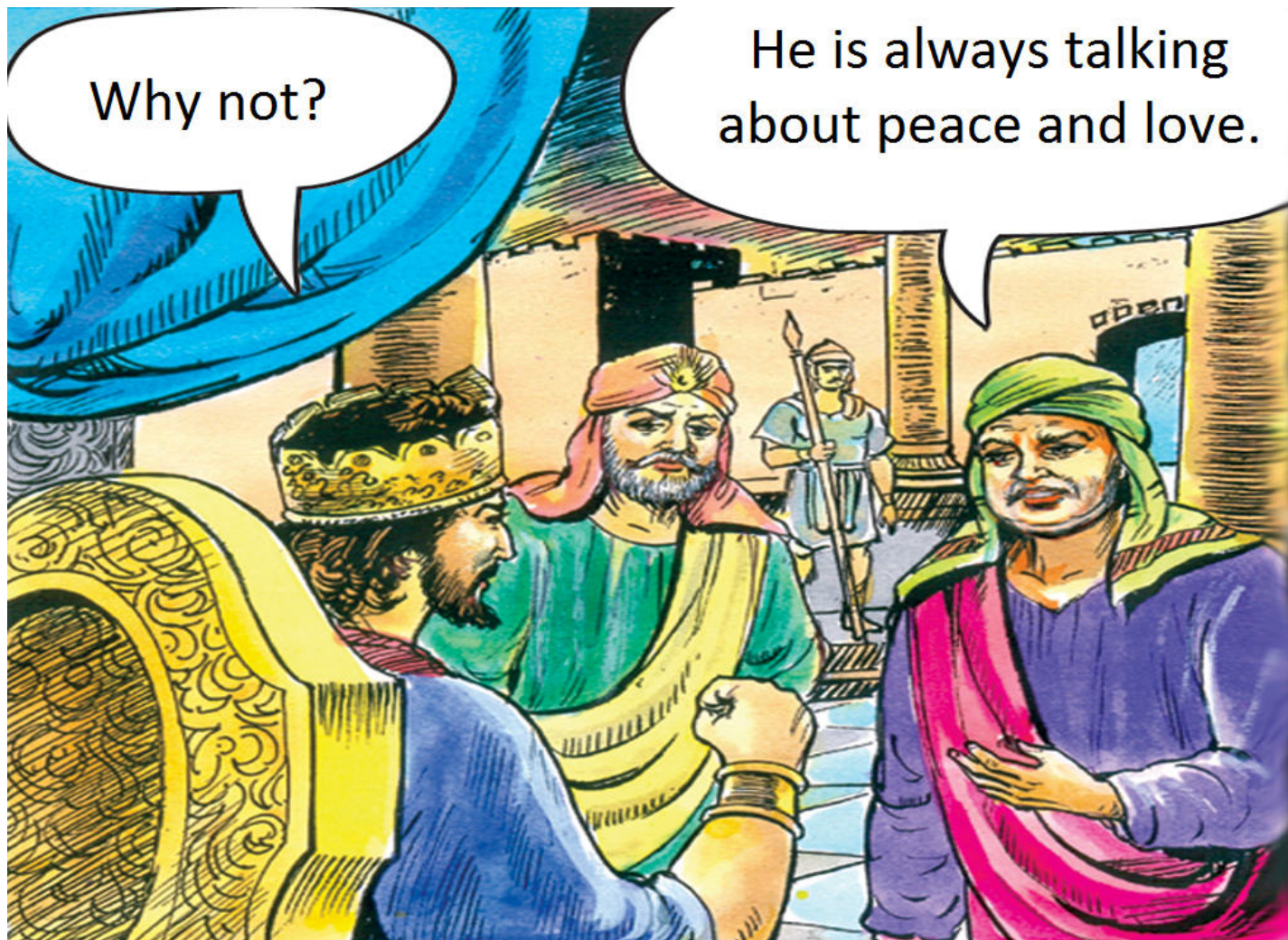
There is a rumour
that the zealots are
planning to make
Jesus their leader.

But, I don't think
Jesus would agree
to it.



Why not?

He is always talking
about peace and love.





His aim is revolution.
He is organizing the
poor and the
outcasts.

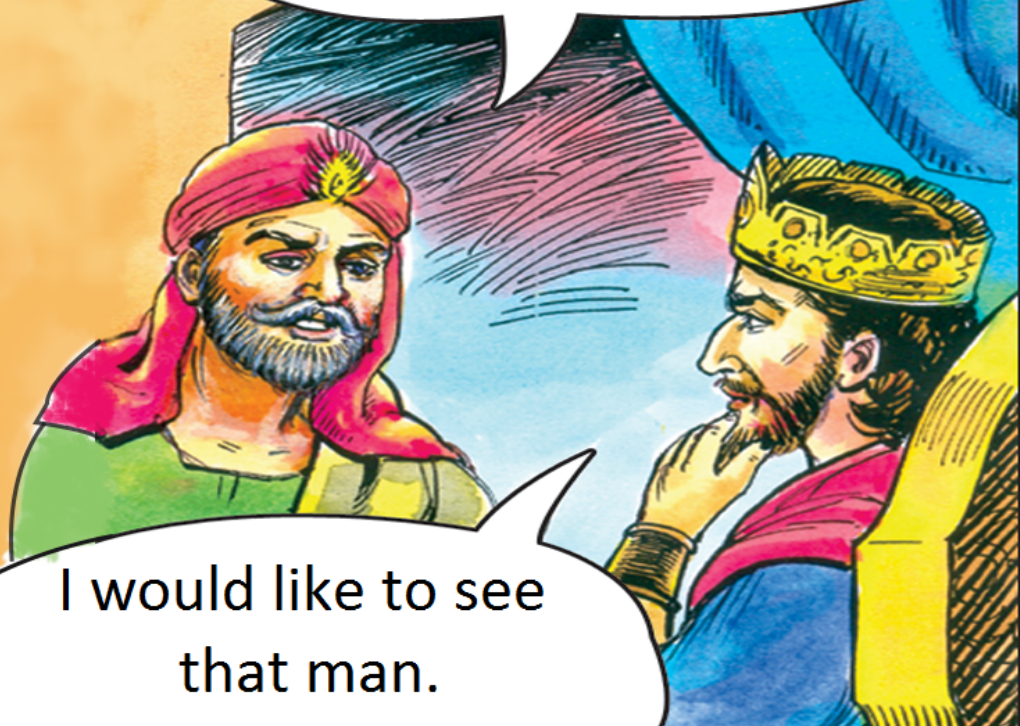
He is against all the rulers. His peace and love are dangerous for us.

What is the danger in healing the sick?



If all the outcasts stand up and revolt, we will not only lose the crown but the very heads.

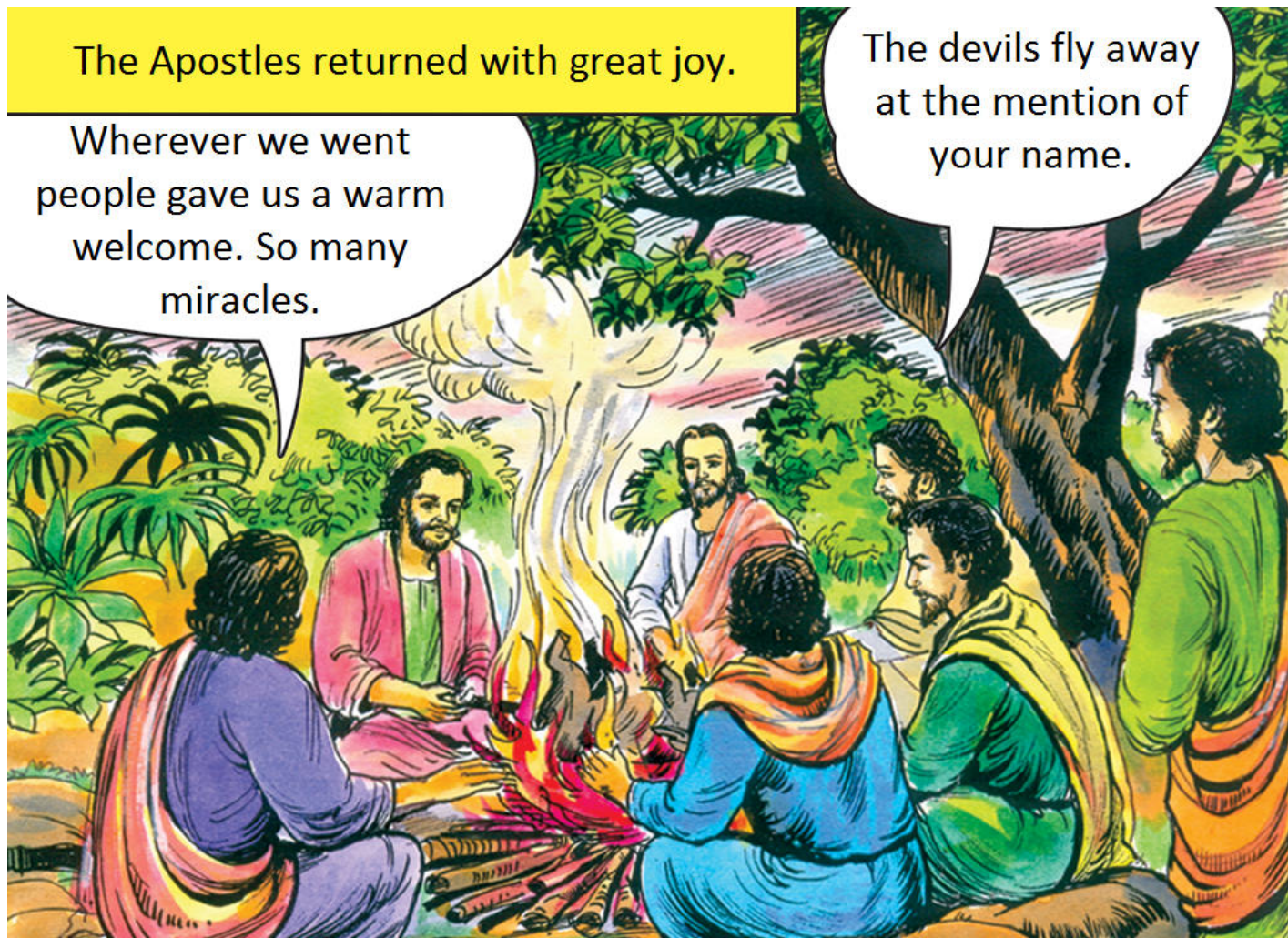
I would like to see that man.



The Apostles returned with great joy.

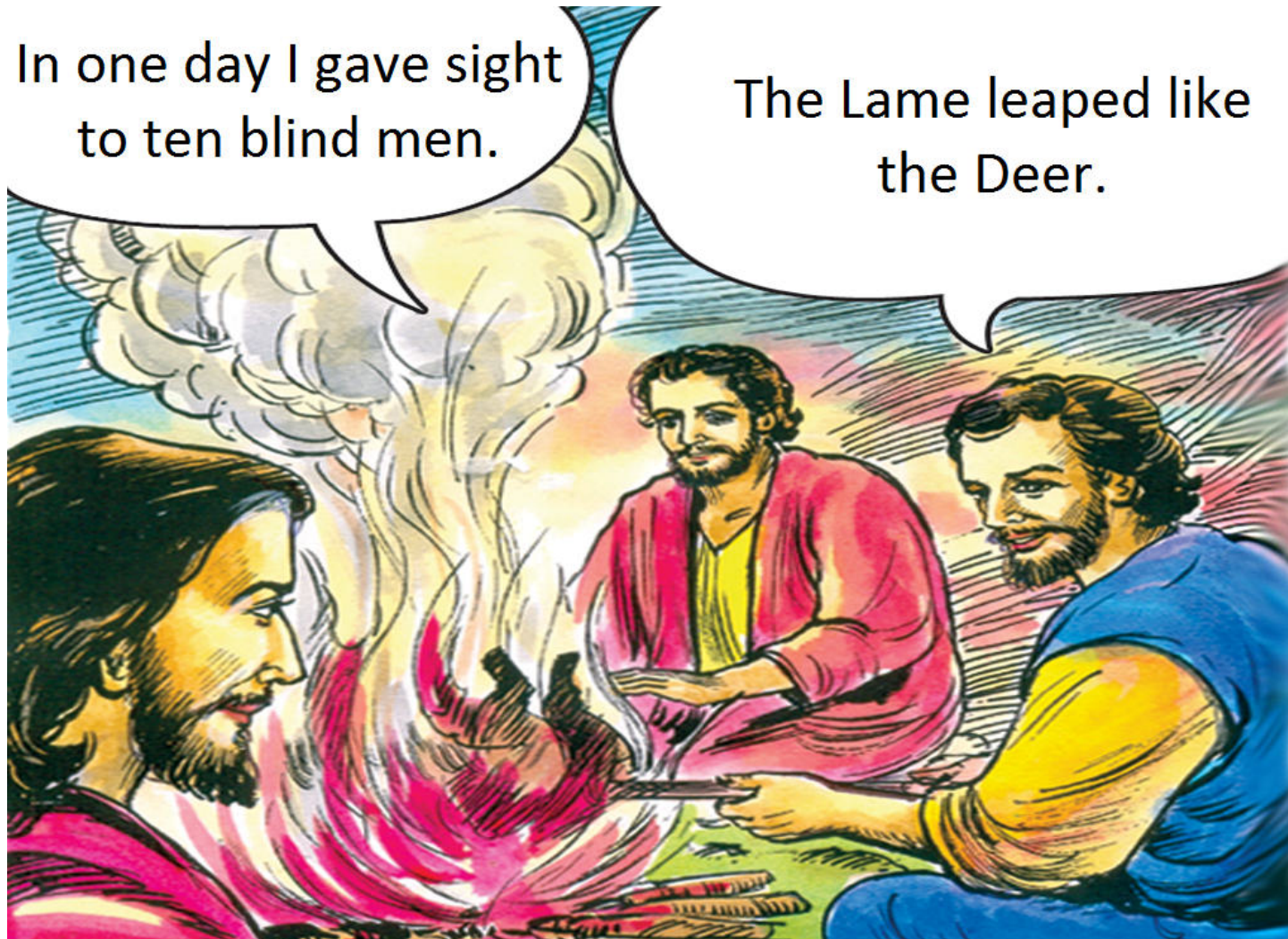
Wherever we went
people gave us a warm
welcome. So many
miracles.

The devils fly away
at the mention of
your name.



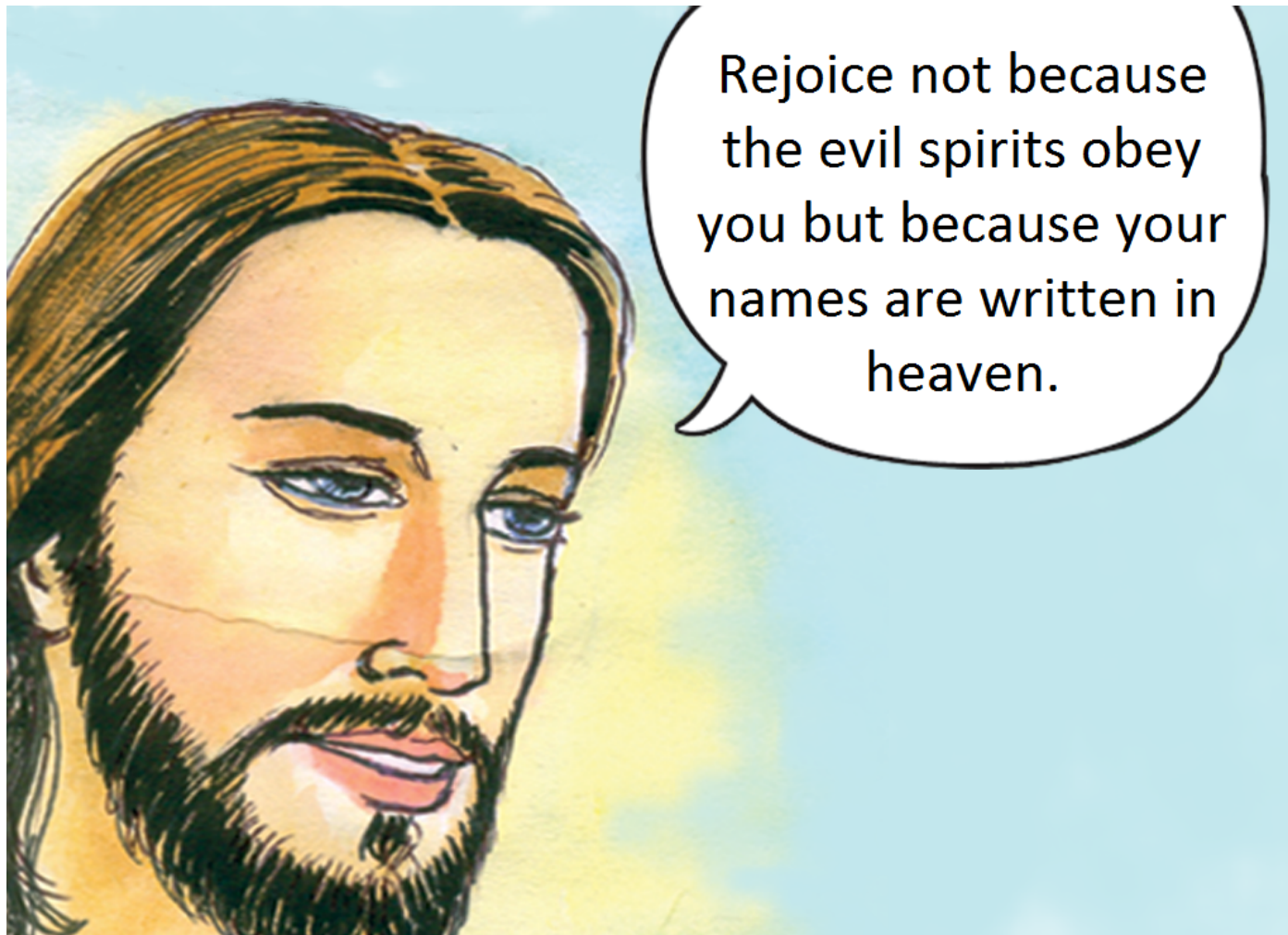
In one day I gave sight
to ten blind men.

The Lame leaped like
the Deer.



You saw the power of
evil defeated. Happy the
eyes that see what you
see! Prophets and kings
longed to see this.



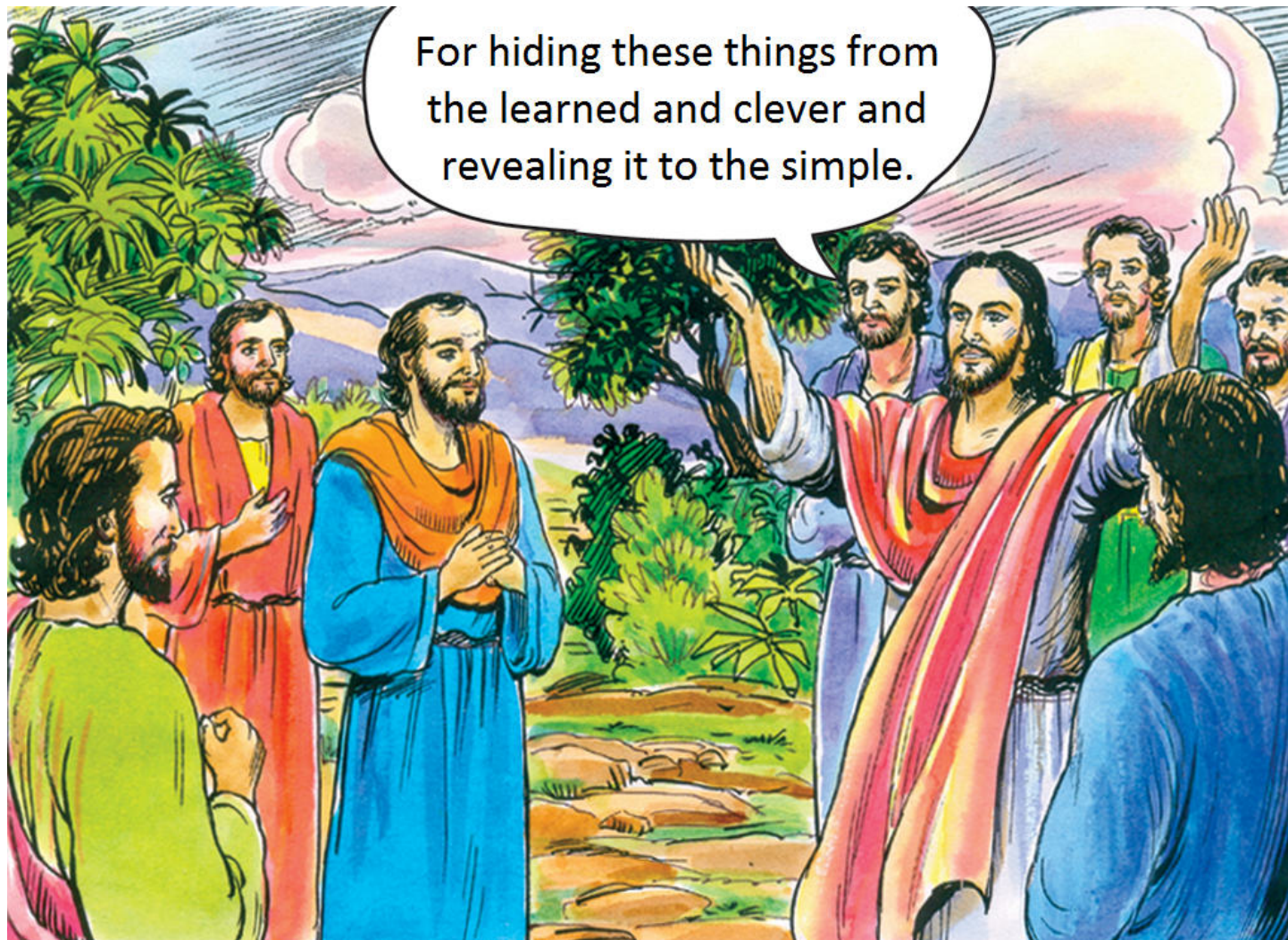


Rejoice not because
the evil spirits obey
you but because your
names are written in
heaven.

I bless you, Father,
Lord of heaven
and earth.

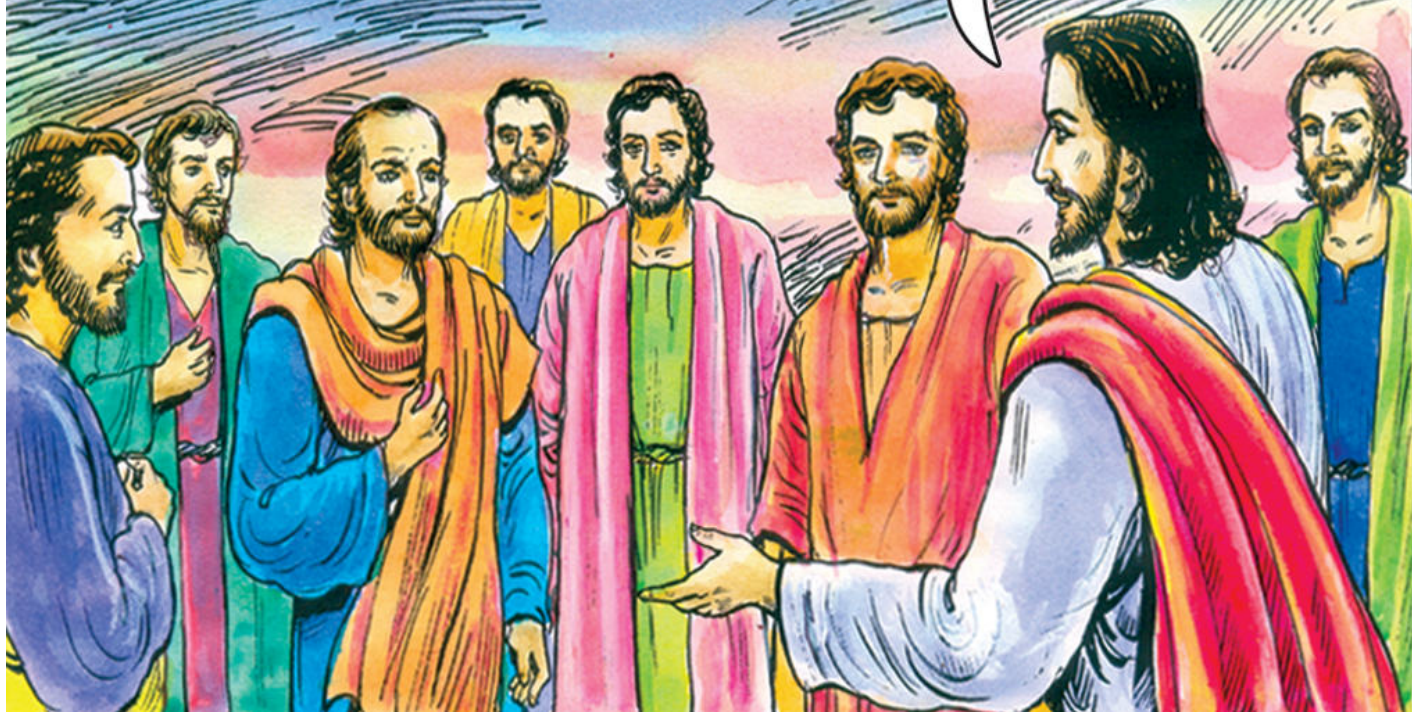


For hiding these things from
the learned and clever and
revealing it to the simple.



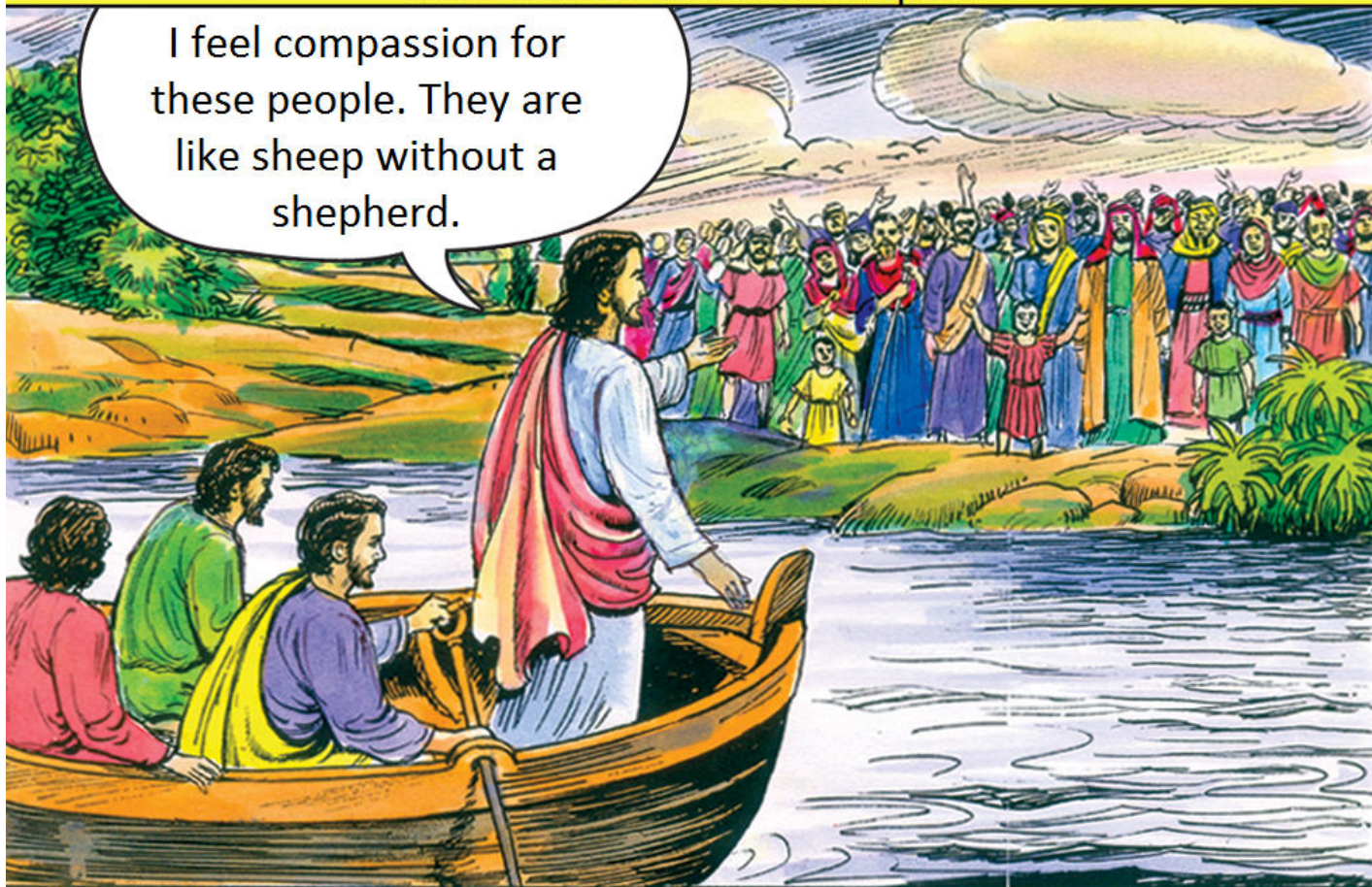
The next morning.

You worked hard. All are tired. Come, let us go to a quiet place and rest for a while.



Many saw them leaving in a boat. They reached the spot before Jesus and the disciples.

I feel compassion for these people. They are like sheep without a shepherd.



Jesus healed the sick among them and then taught them about the Kingdom of God.

Come to me all you labor
and are overburdened, I
will give you rest.

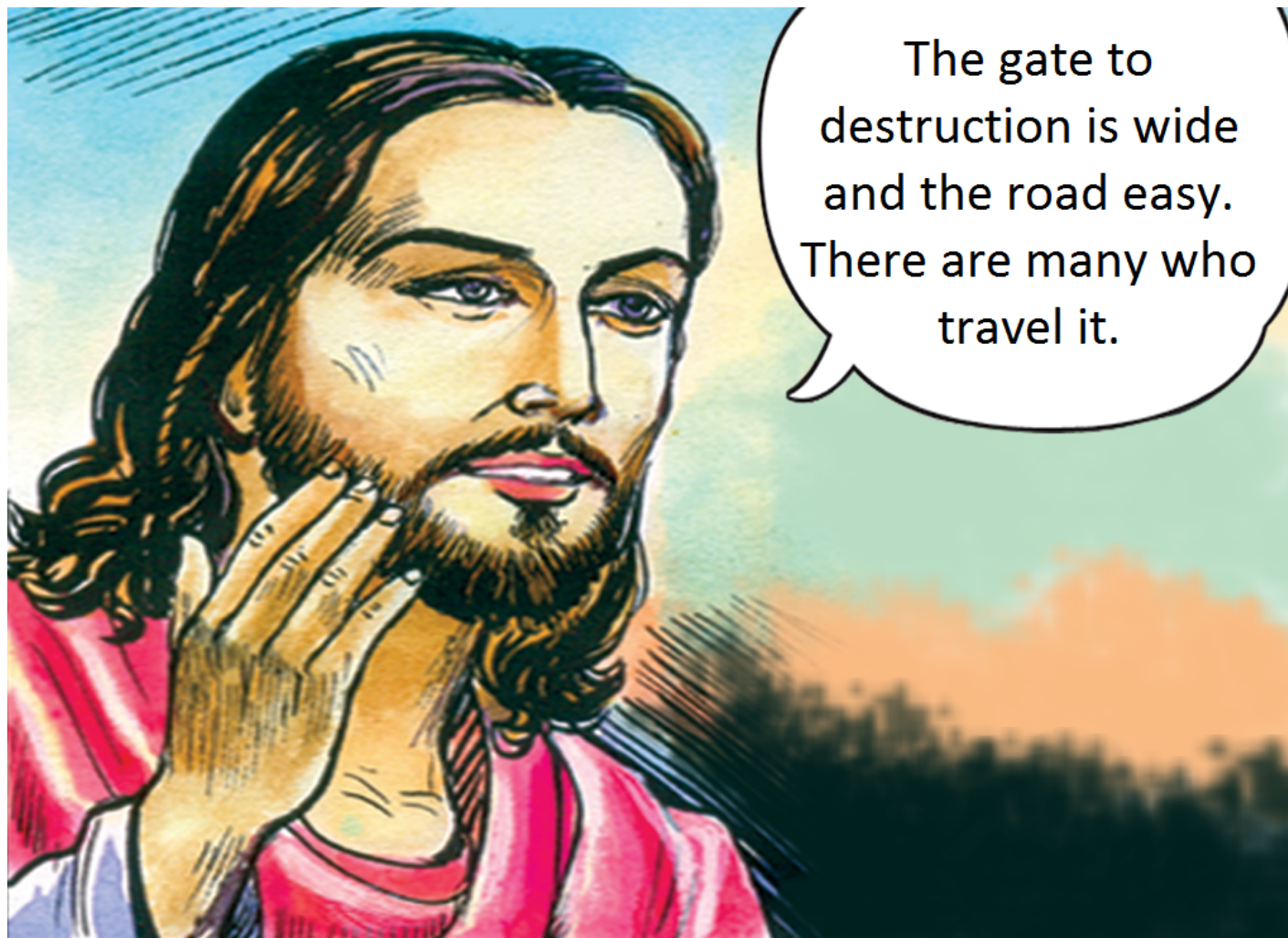


Learn from me for I
am meek and
humble in heart. And
you will find rest.



For the yoke I will give
you is easy and the load I
put on you is light.





The gate to
destruction is wide
and the road easy.
There are many who
travel it.

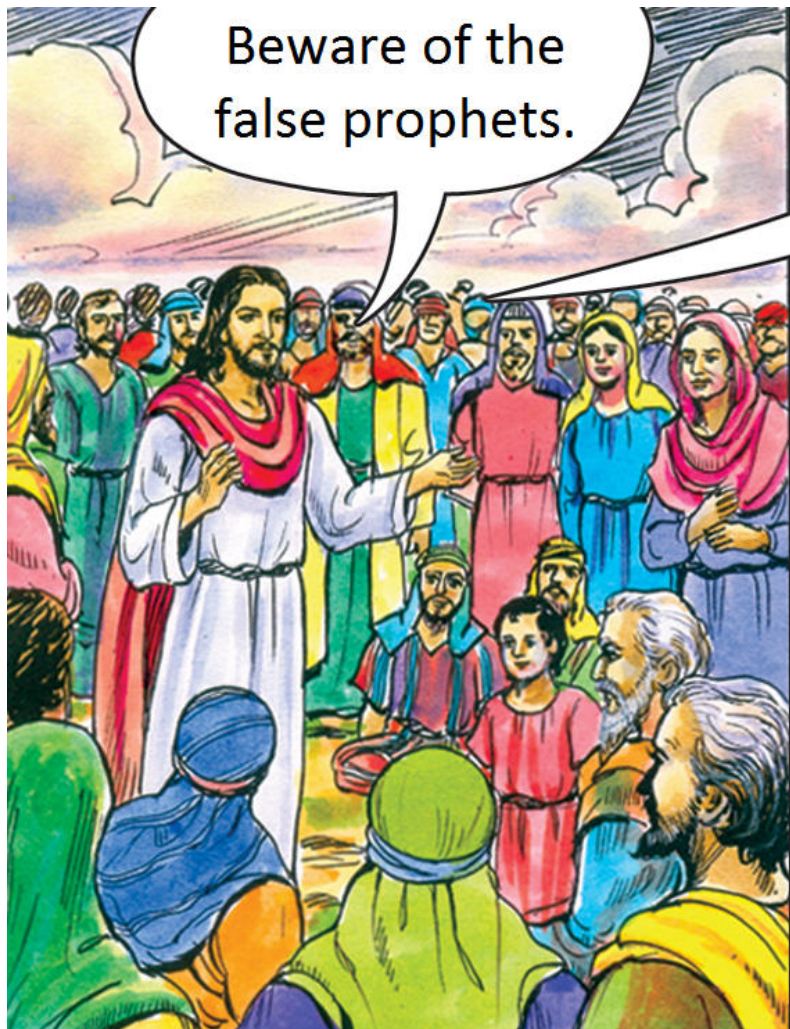


But the gate to life is
narrow and the way
difficult. Enter
through the narrow
gate.





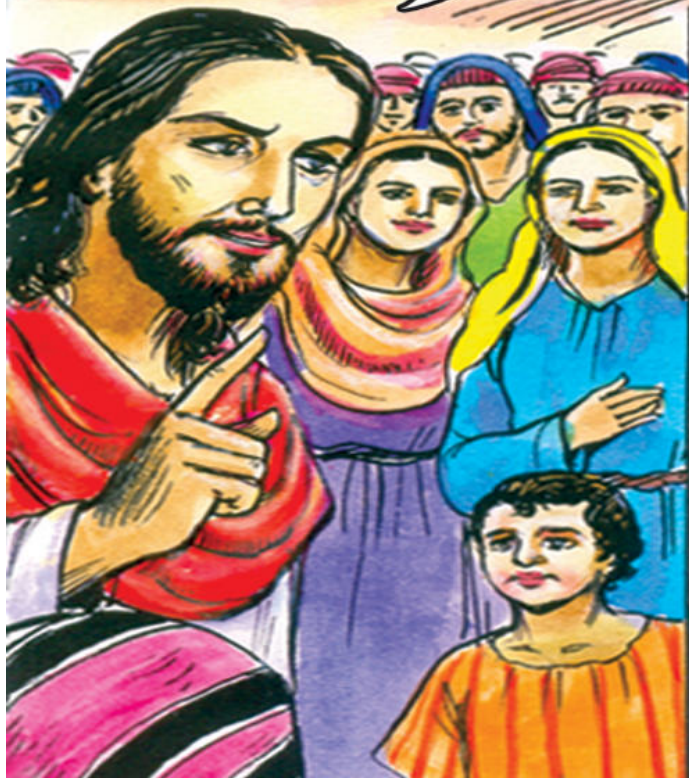
Beware of the
false prophets.



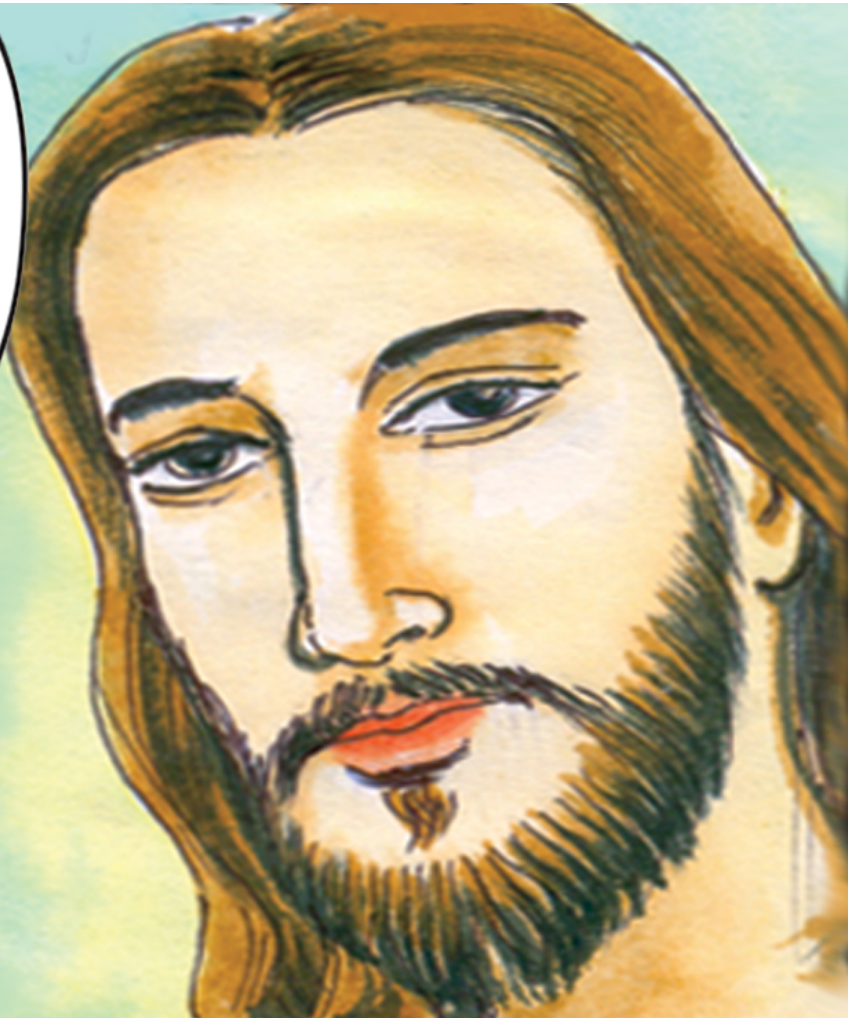
They are like wolves
in sheep's skin. Know
the tree from its
fruit.



Can you get grapes from thorns
or figs from thistles?



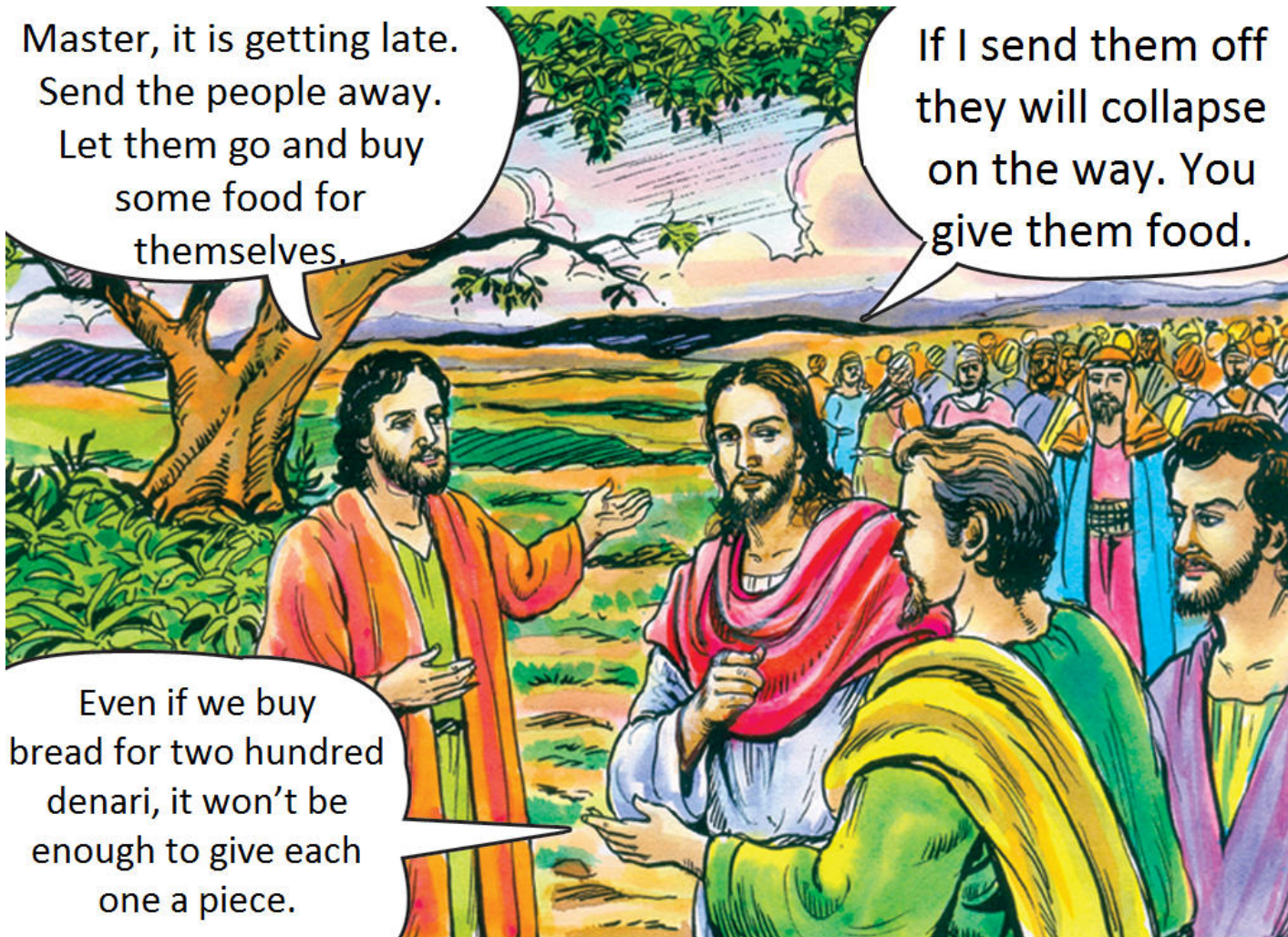
A good tree cannot give bad fruit. A bad tree cannot give good fruit. Trees that do not give good fruit will be cut and thrown in the fire.



Master, it is getting late.
Send the people away.
Let them go and buy
some food for
themselves.

If I send them off
they will collapse
on the way. You
give them food.

Even if we buy
bread for two hundred
denari, it won't be
enough to give each
one a piece.



What do you
have?

Only five loaves
and two fish.



Bring them
here. Seat the
people in
rows.



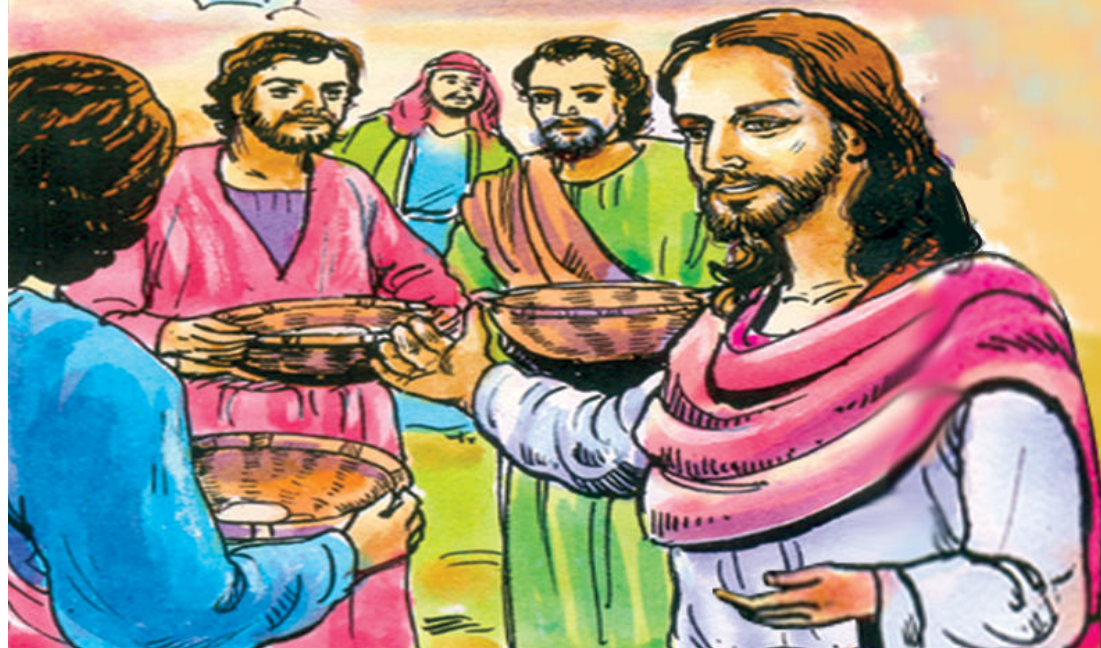
I bless you Father, Lord
of heaven and earth for
giving us bread from
this earth...

Amen.

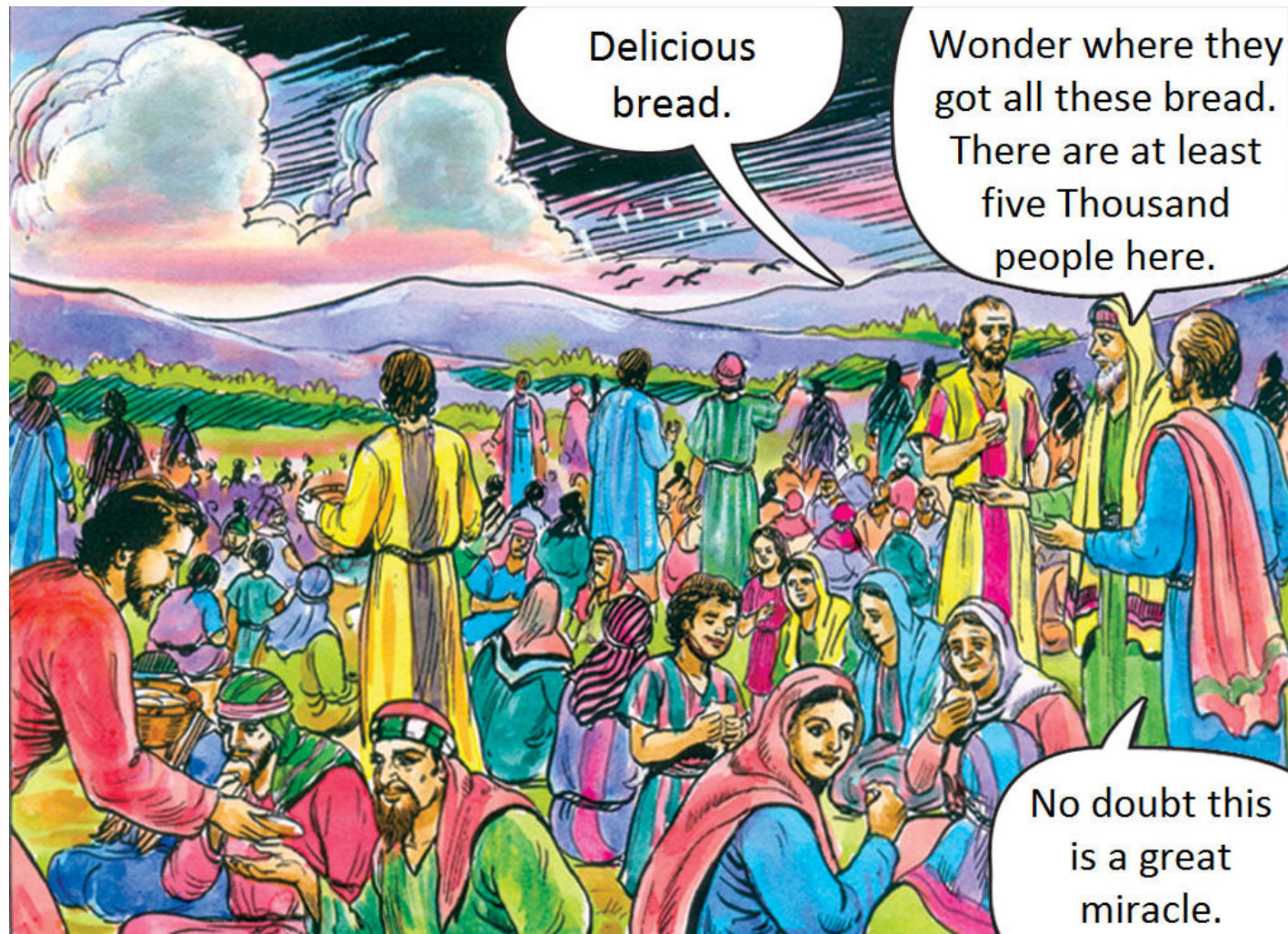


Serve these to
the people.

!!!?







Delicious
bread.

Wonder where they
got all these bread.
There are at least
five Thousand
people here.

No doubt this
is a great
miracle.

Collect all that is left over.
Don't waste anything.



Among the people.

This is the Messiah
we have been
waiting for.

Bread in the
desert as in the
time of Moses.

Come let us proclaim him
king.



The idea spread like a wild fire
among the people.

Certainly, Jesus is
the king we have
been waiting for.

We can never
get a greater
sign.

Long live
Jesus, the
king.



Seeing that the people were trying to make him king, Jesus told his disciples.

Go immediately to Capernaum, don't tarry.



Jesus went up
the hill alone
to pray.



Because the wind was against them, the disciples couldn't go far.

The Master threw away a golden opportunity. We will never get a chance like this to start the revolt.

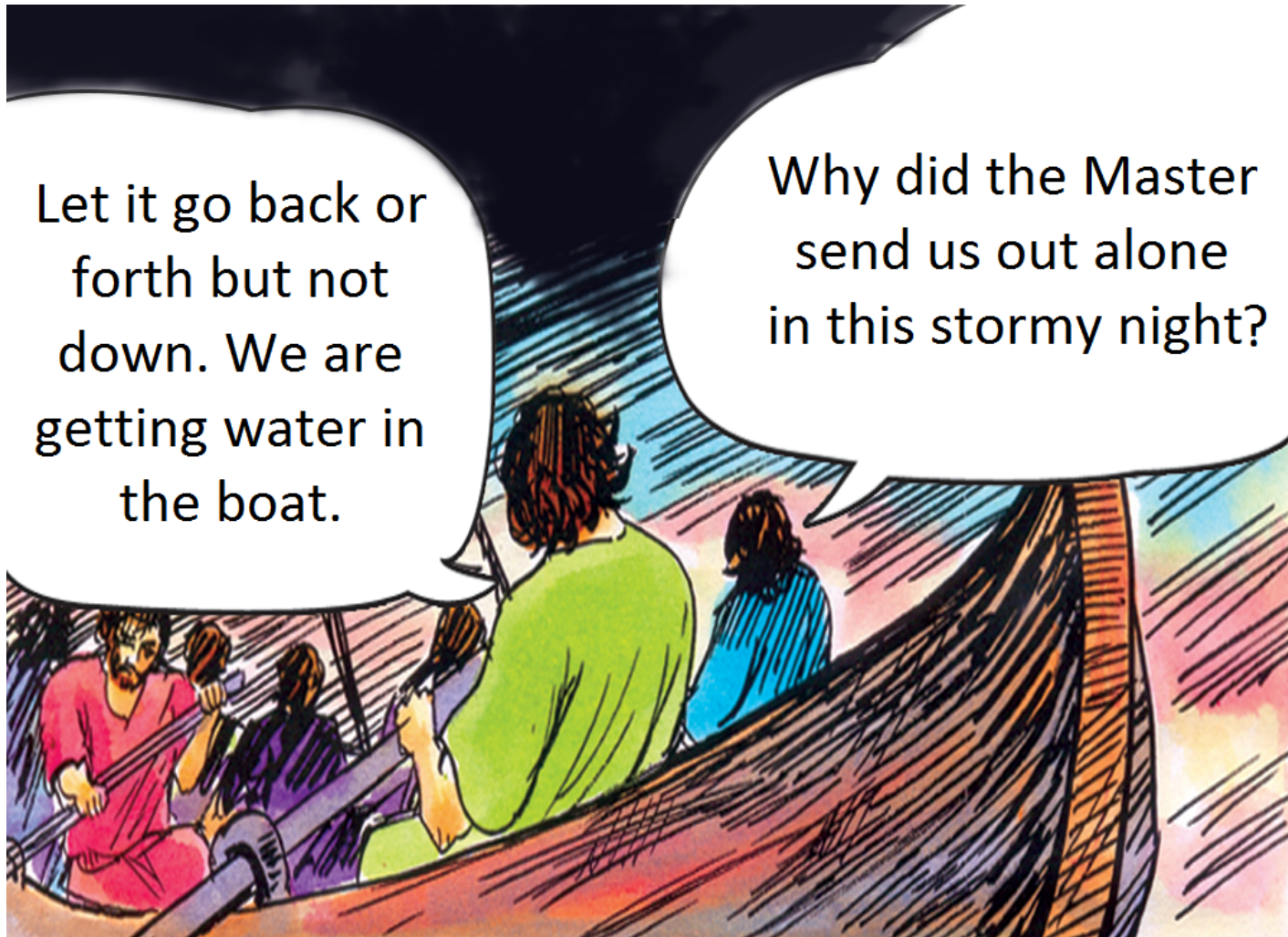
Drop your wild ideas and pay attention to rowing.

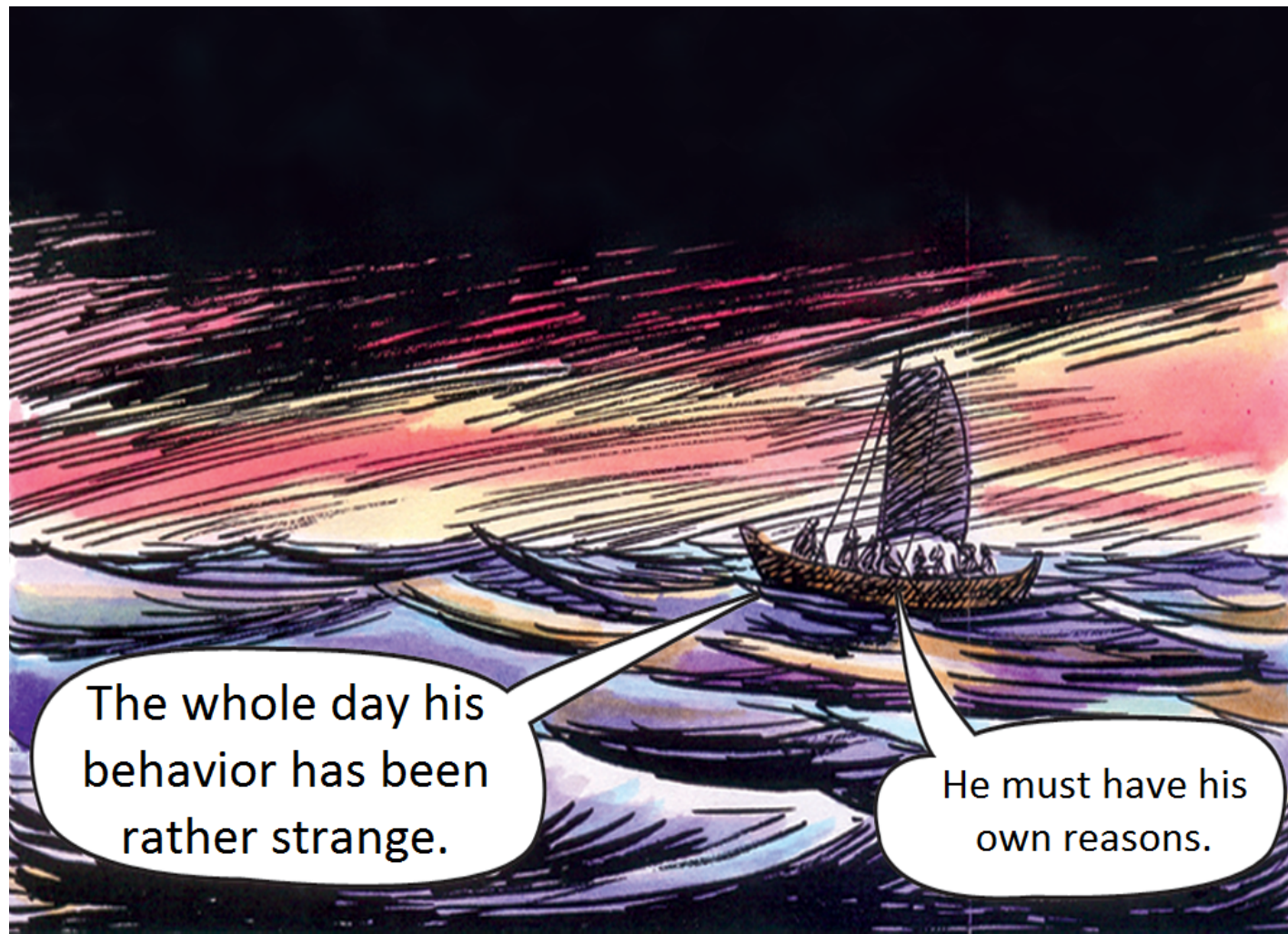
Though we try hard, the boat is going backward. What a terrible night.



Let it go back or
forth but not
down. We are
getting water in
the boat.


Why did the Master
send us out alone
in this stormy night?





The whole day his
behavior has been
rather strange.

He must have his
own reasons.



Look there is a light
in the form of a
man.

It is coming
towards us fast.

A ghost! We
are doomed.

Do not be afraid. It is I.

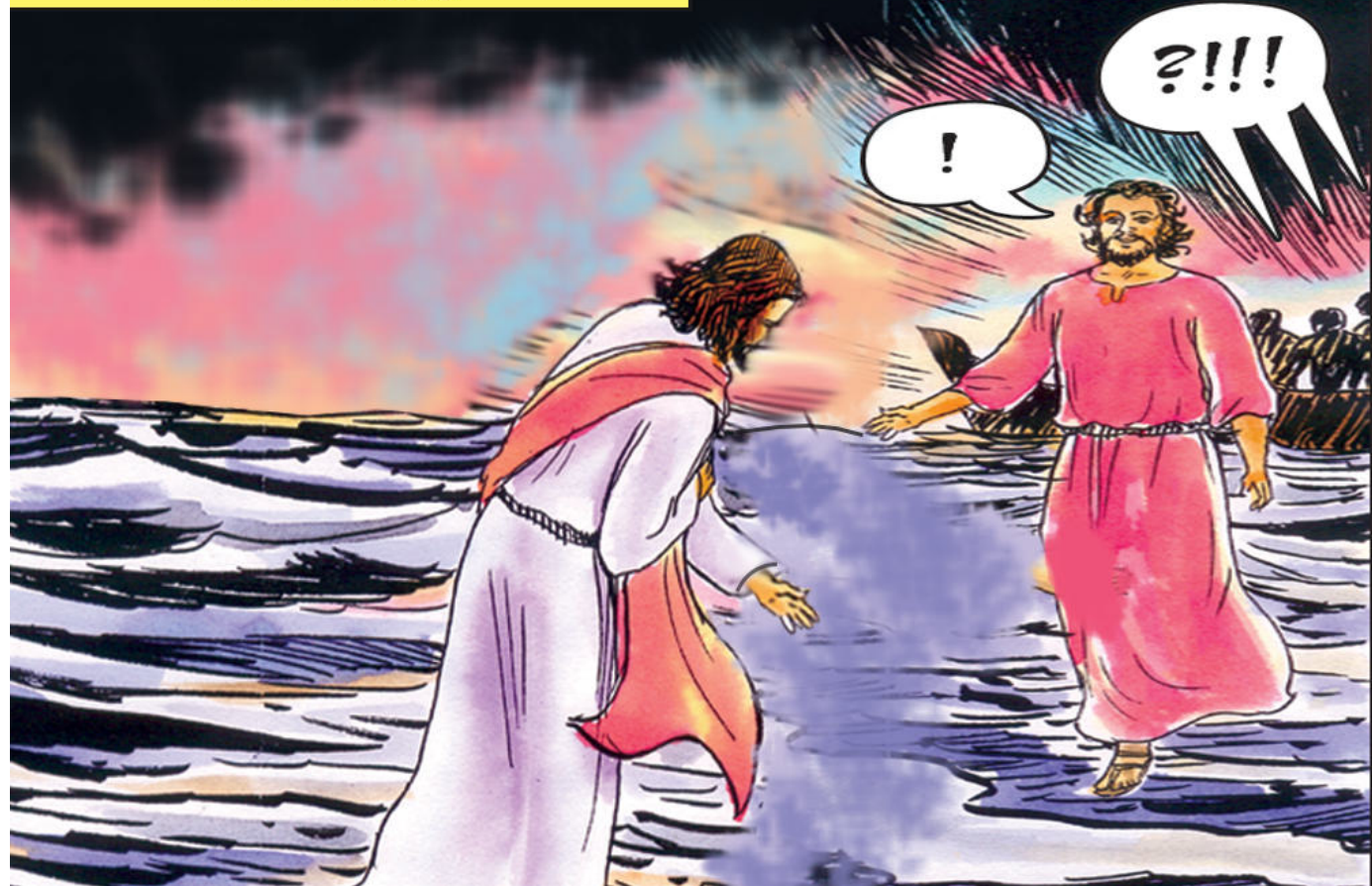
Master, if it is you, ask
me to come to you.

Come!

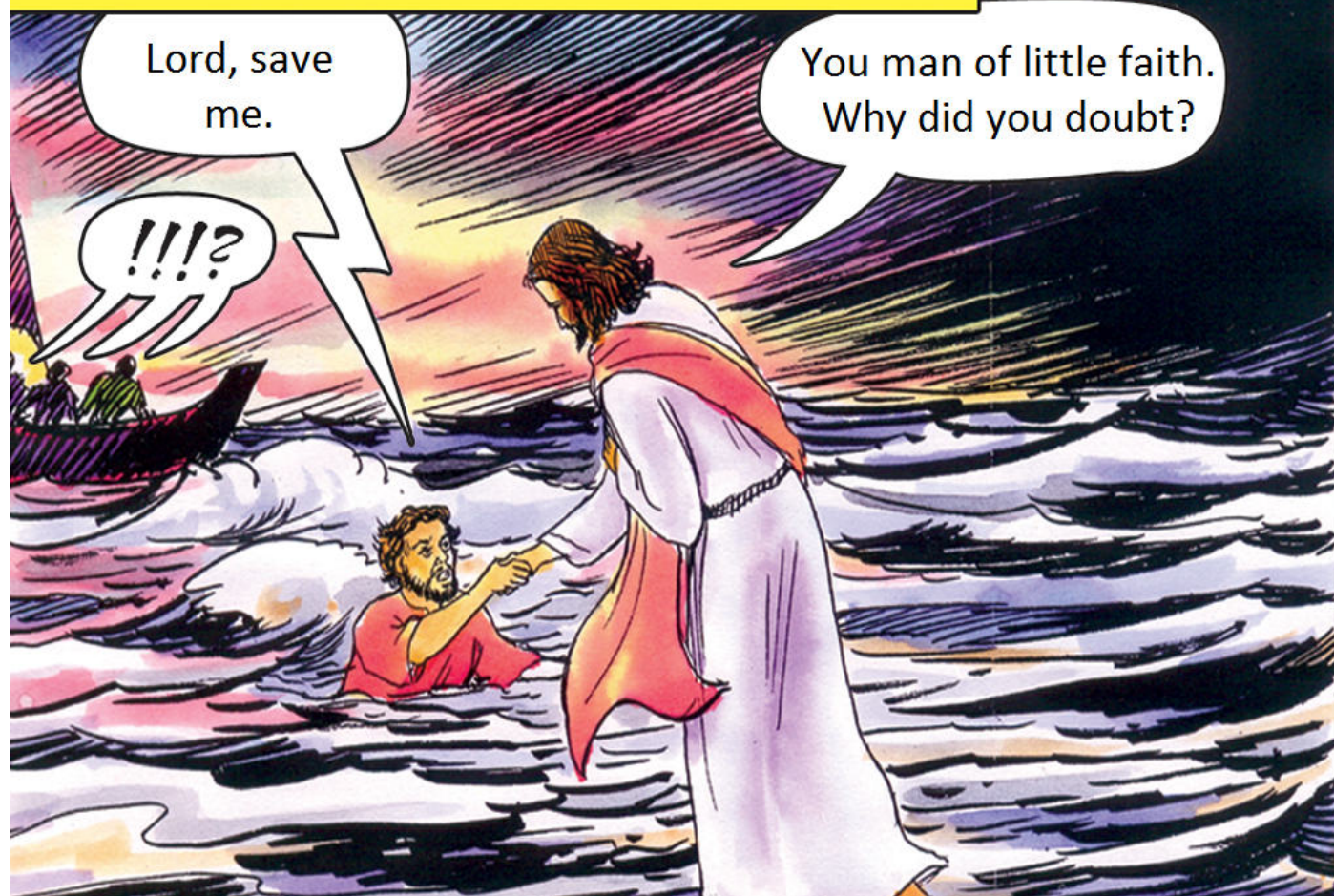
!!!?

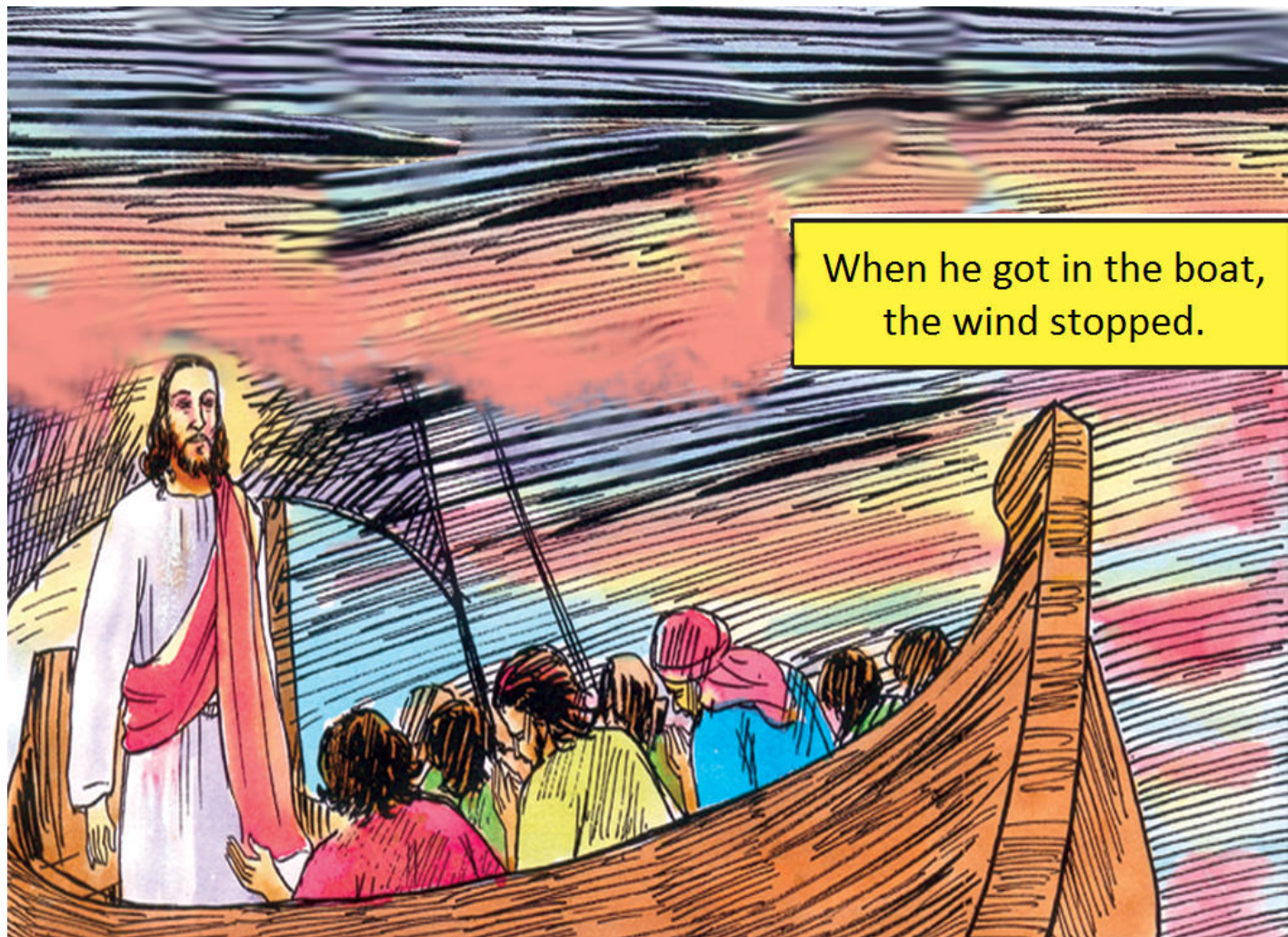


Peter walked on the water
toward Jesus.

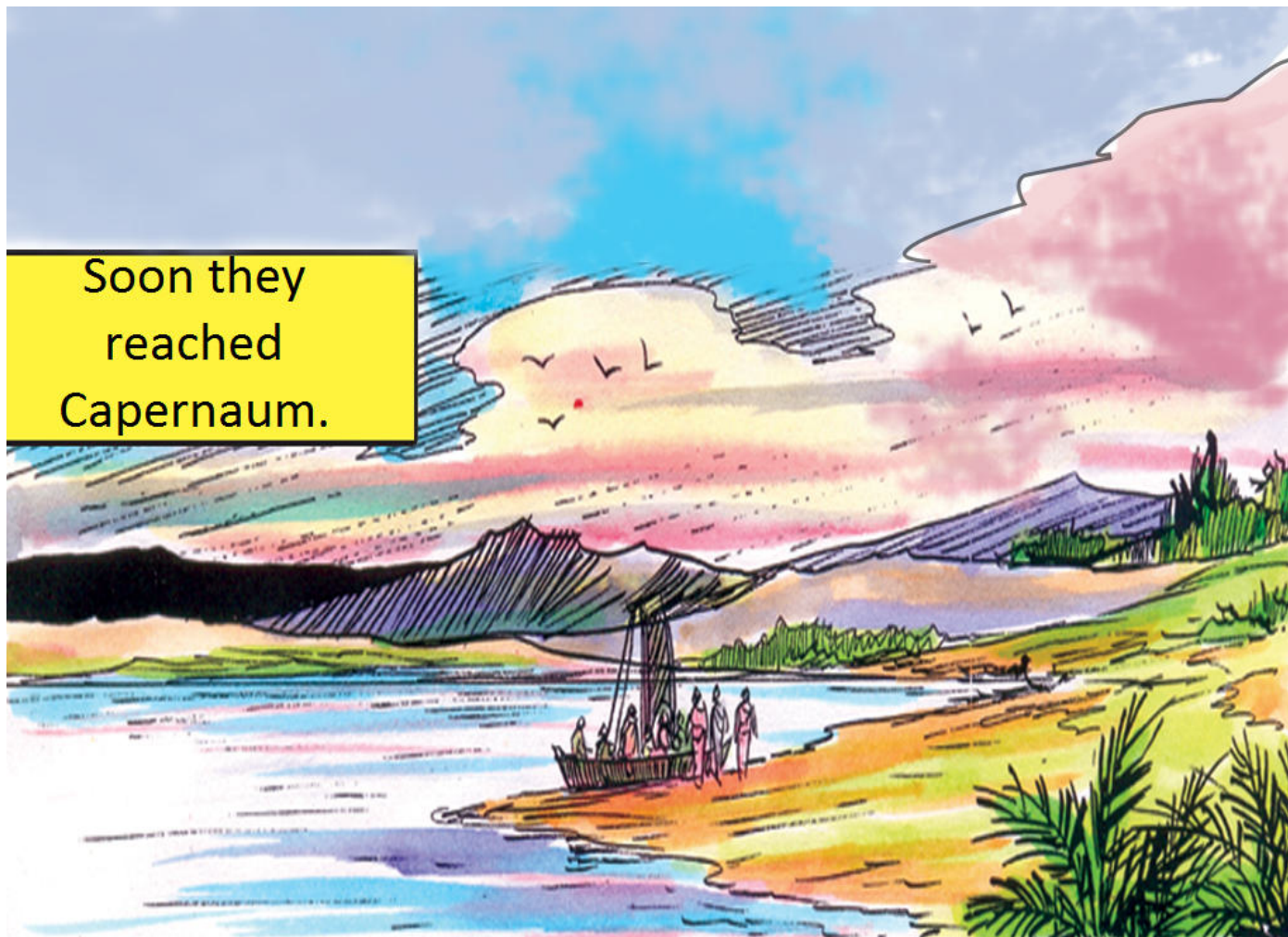


Seeing that the wind was strong Peter got scared.





Soon they
reached
Capernaum.





Yesterday we searched
for you all over.

!!

You are looking for me not
because you have seen the
signs but because you have all
the bread you wanted to eat.

Do not work for food that cannot last,
but work for food that endures to
eternal life the Son of Man is
offering you.

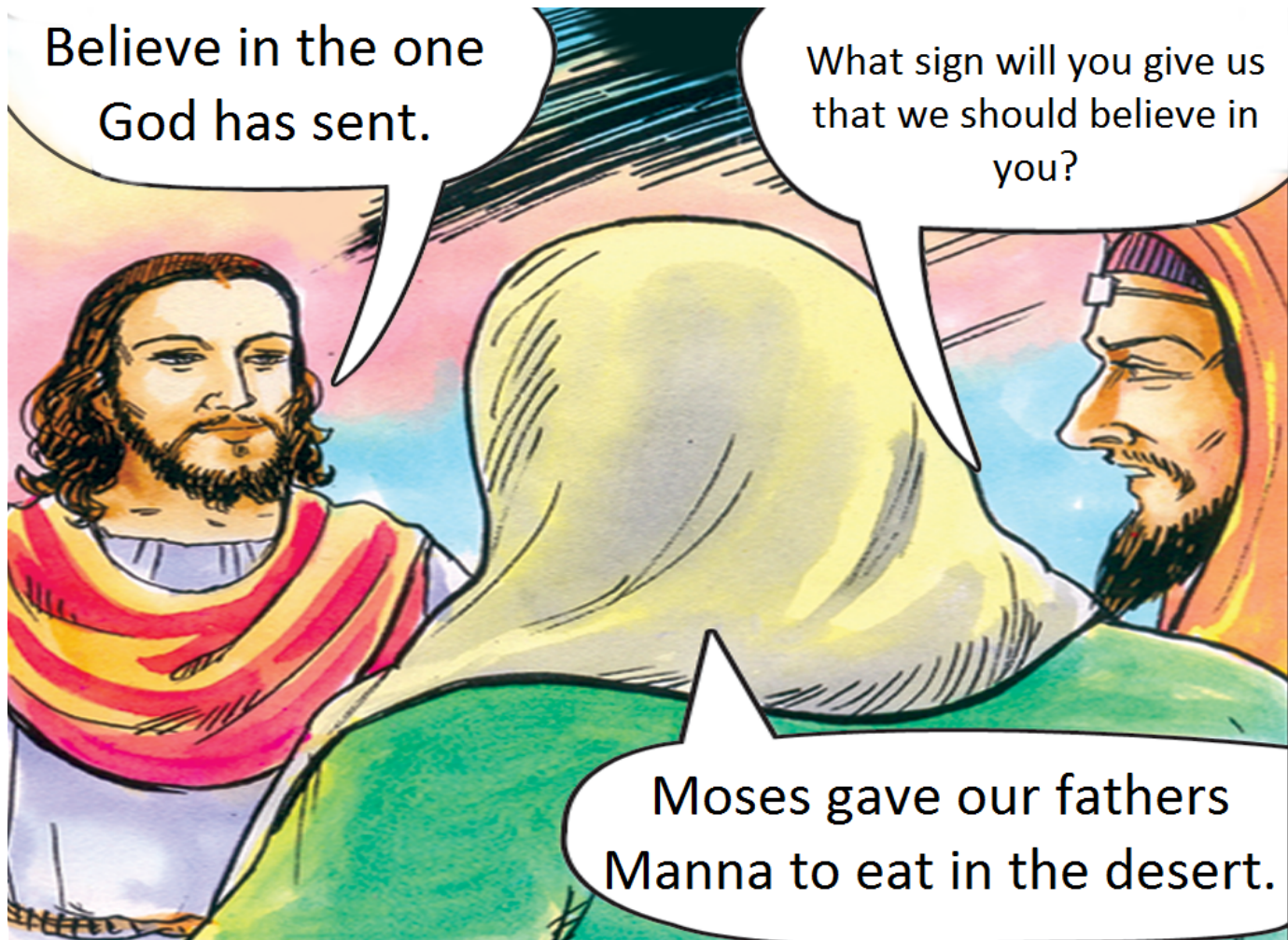
What must we do?



Believe in the one
God has sent.

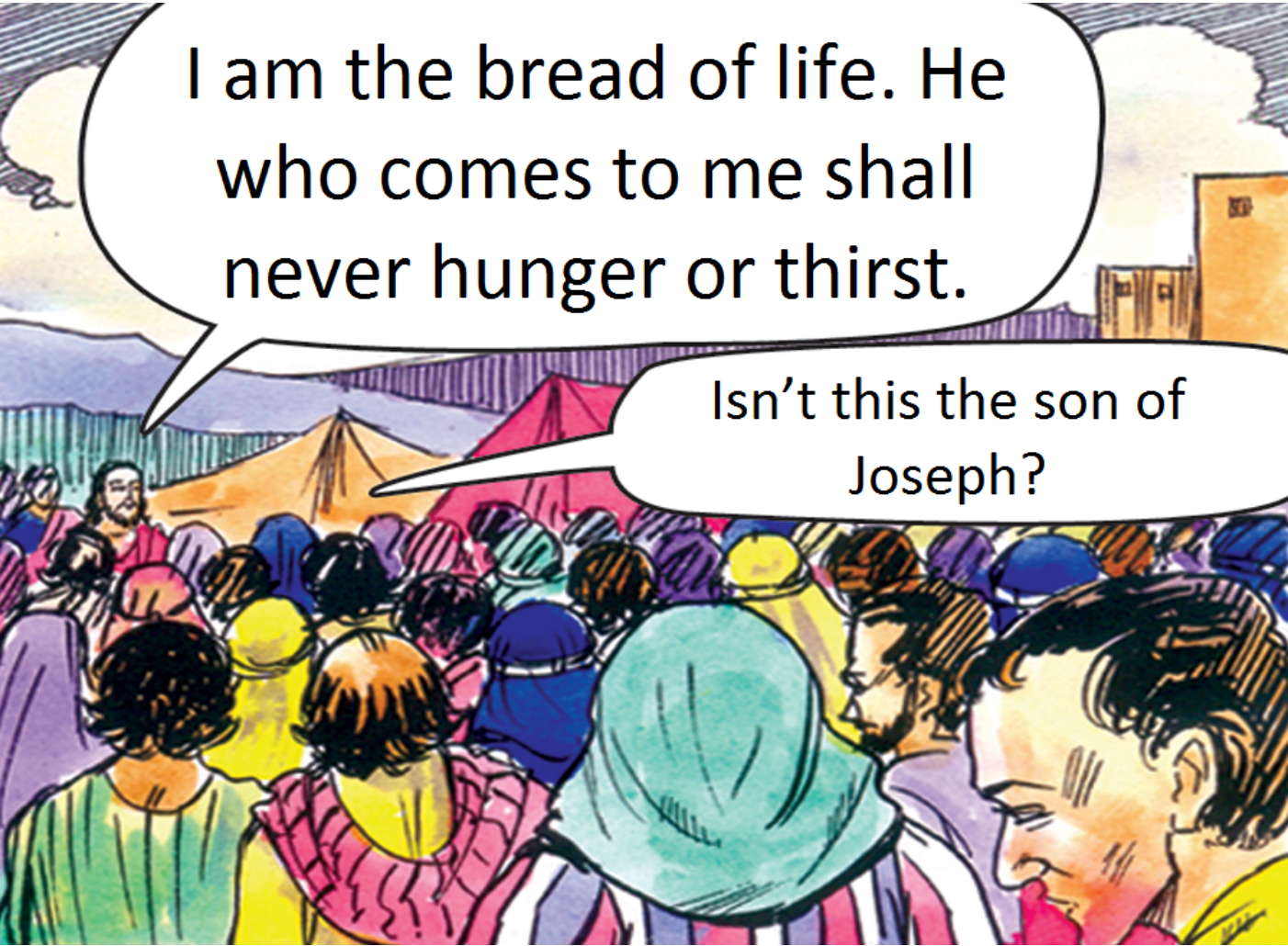
What sign will you give us
that we should believe in
you?

Moses gave our fathers
Manna to eat in the desert.



It is not Moses but my
Father who gives you
the bread from
heaven, the true
bread that gives life
to the world.



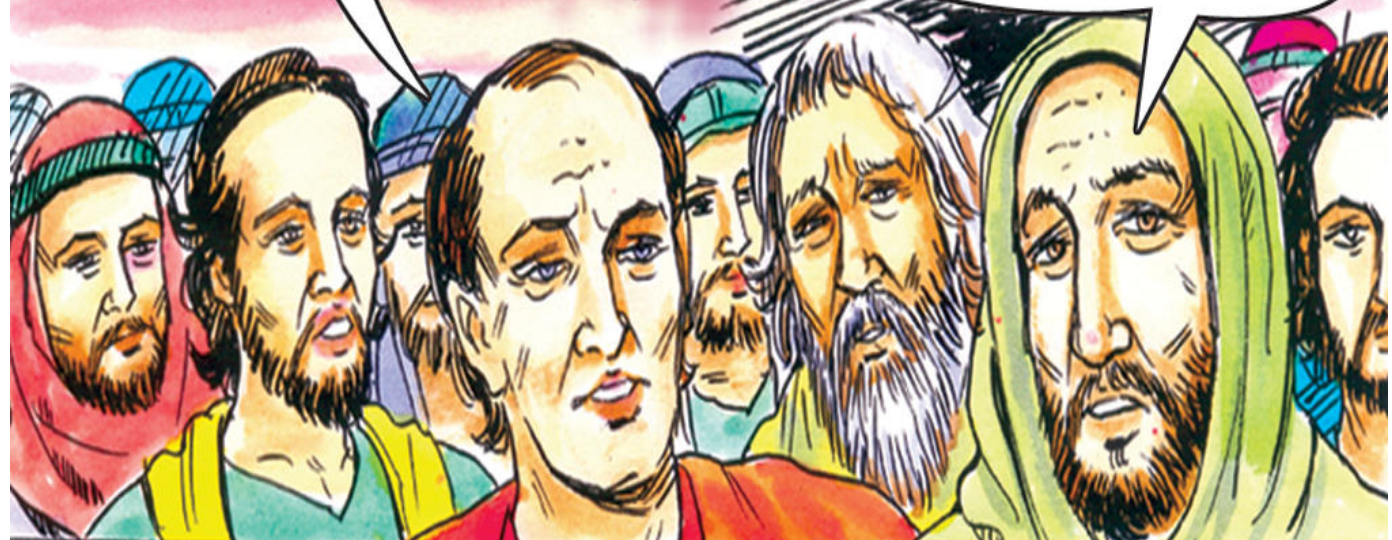


I am the bread of life. He
who comes to me shall
never hunger or thirst.

Isn't this the son of
Joseph?

What is he
saying?

I am starving.



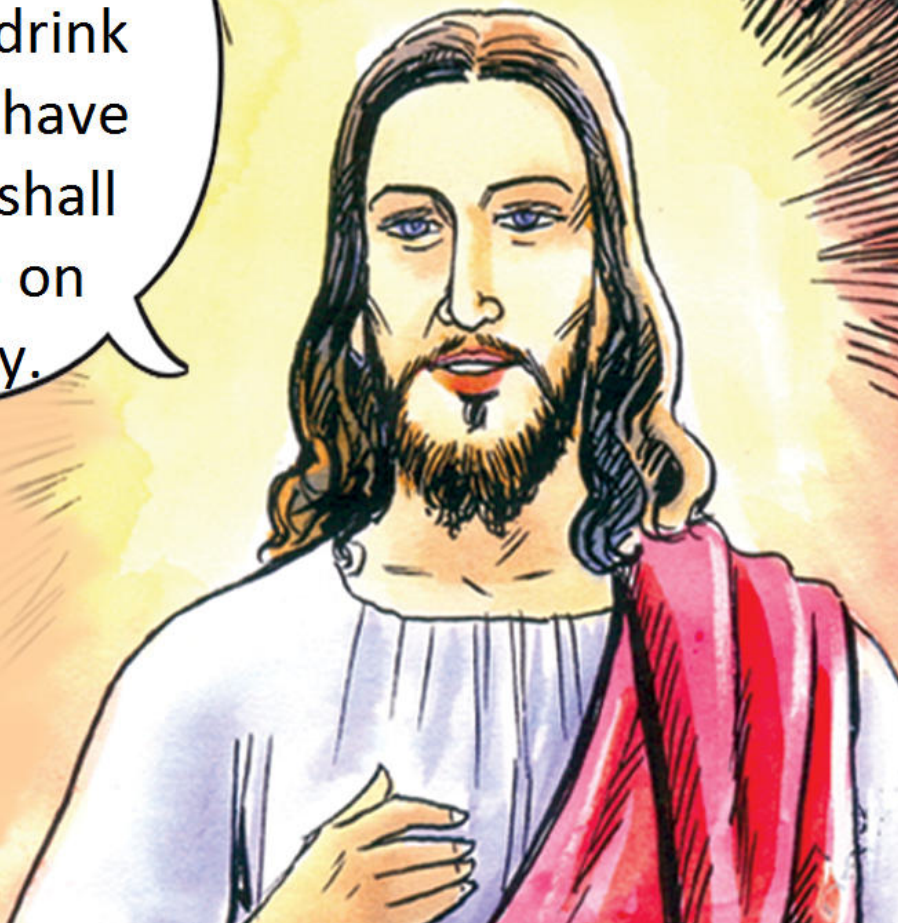
Stop Grumbling, the bread that I give for the life of the world is my body.

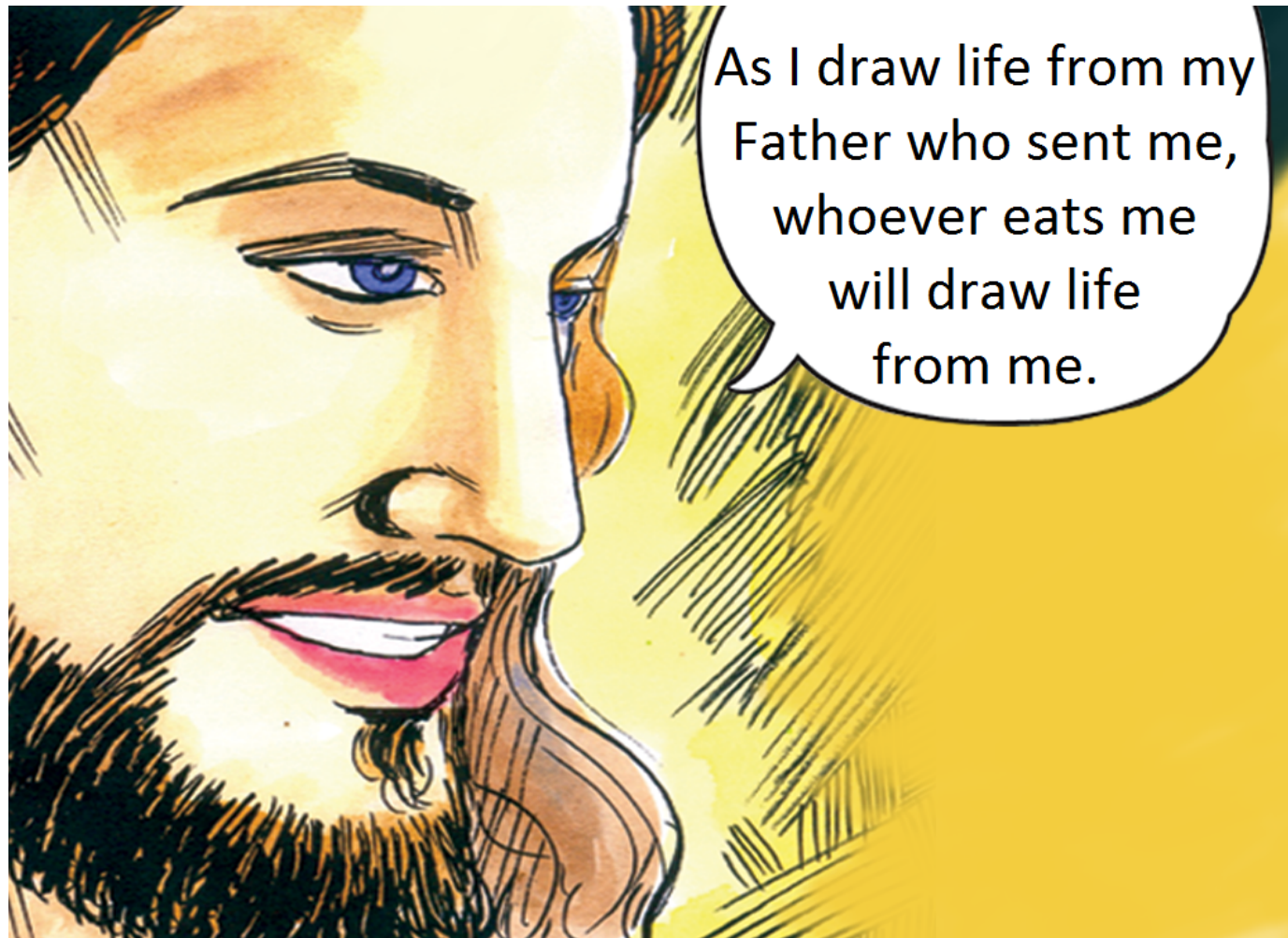
!?

You are crazy, how can you give your own body as food?



Anyone who eats
my body and drink
my blood will have
eternal life. I shall
raise him up on
the last day.





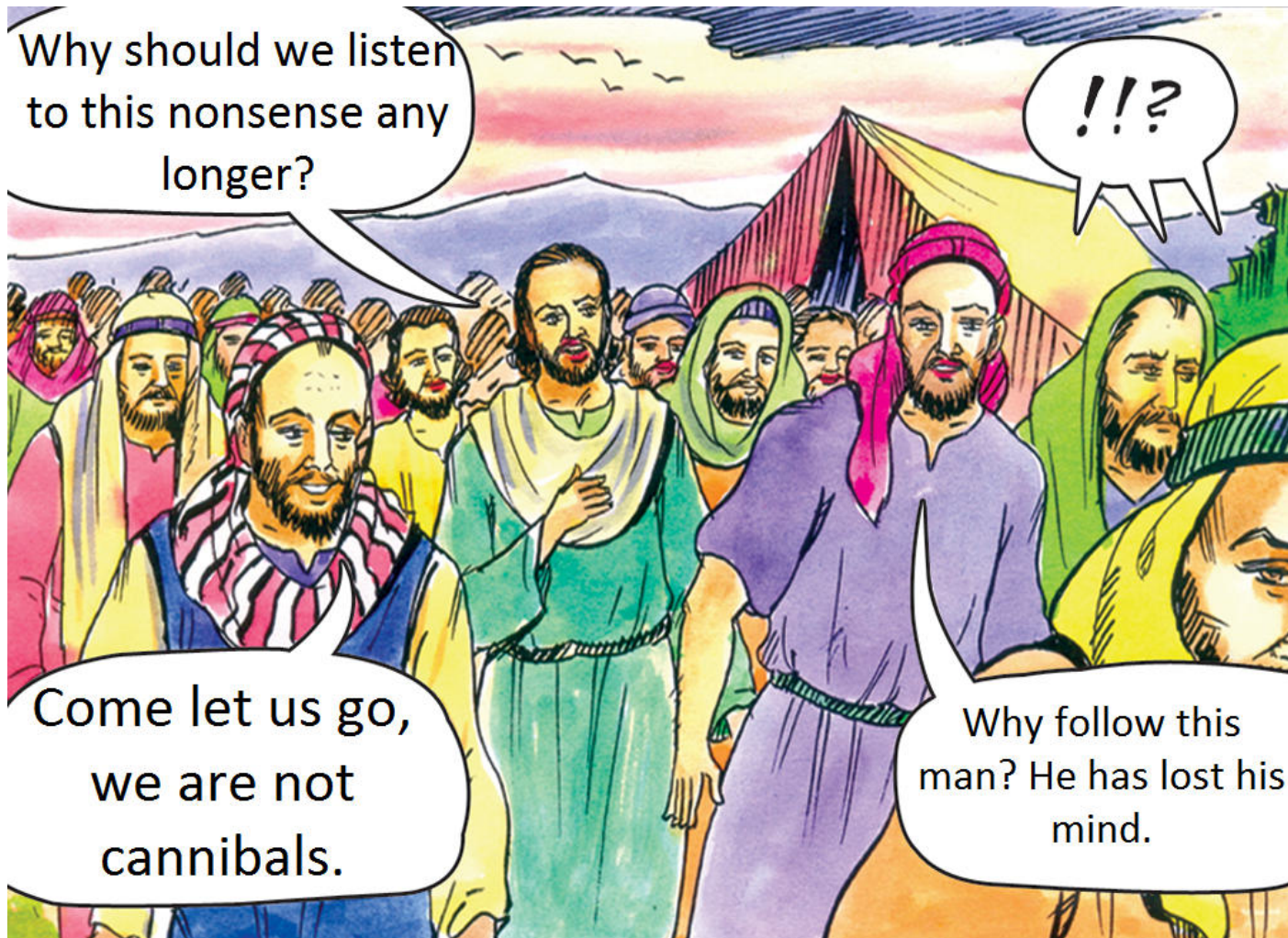
As I draw life from my
Father who sent me,
whoever eats me
will draw life
from me.

Why should we listen
to this nonsense any
longer?

!!?

Come let us go,
we are not
cannibals.

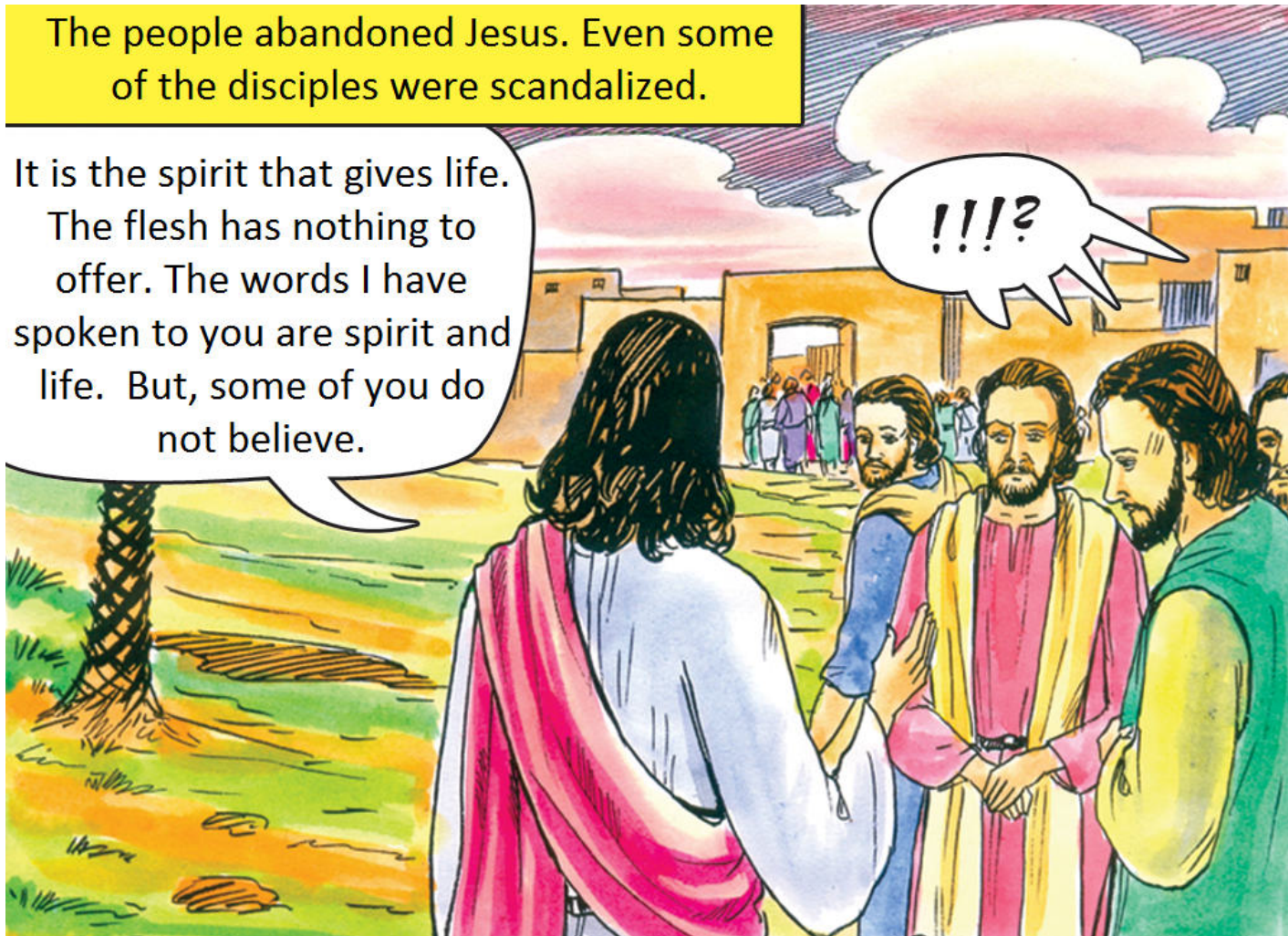
Why follow this
man? He has lost his
mind.



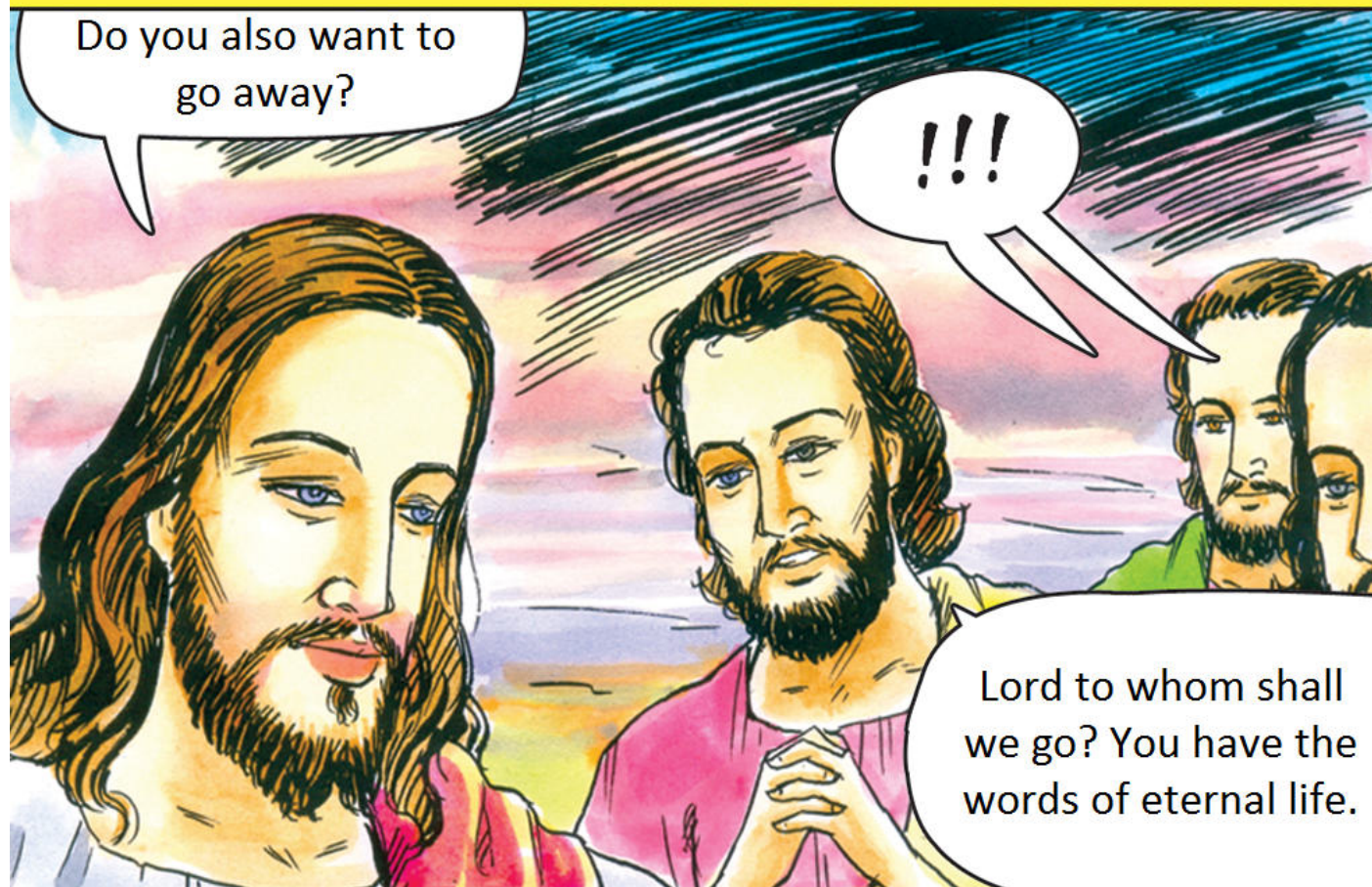
The people abandoned Jesus. Even some of the disciples were scandalized.

It is the spirit that gives life.
The flesh has nothing to
offer. The words I have
spoken to you are spirit and
life. But, some of you do
not believe.

!!!?



Many disciples left Jesus. He asked his twelve Apostles.

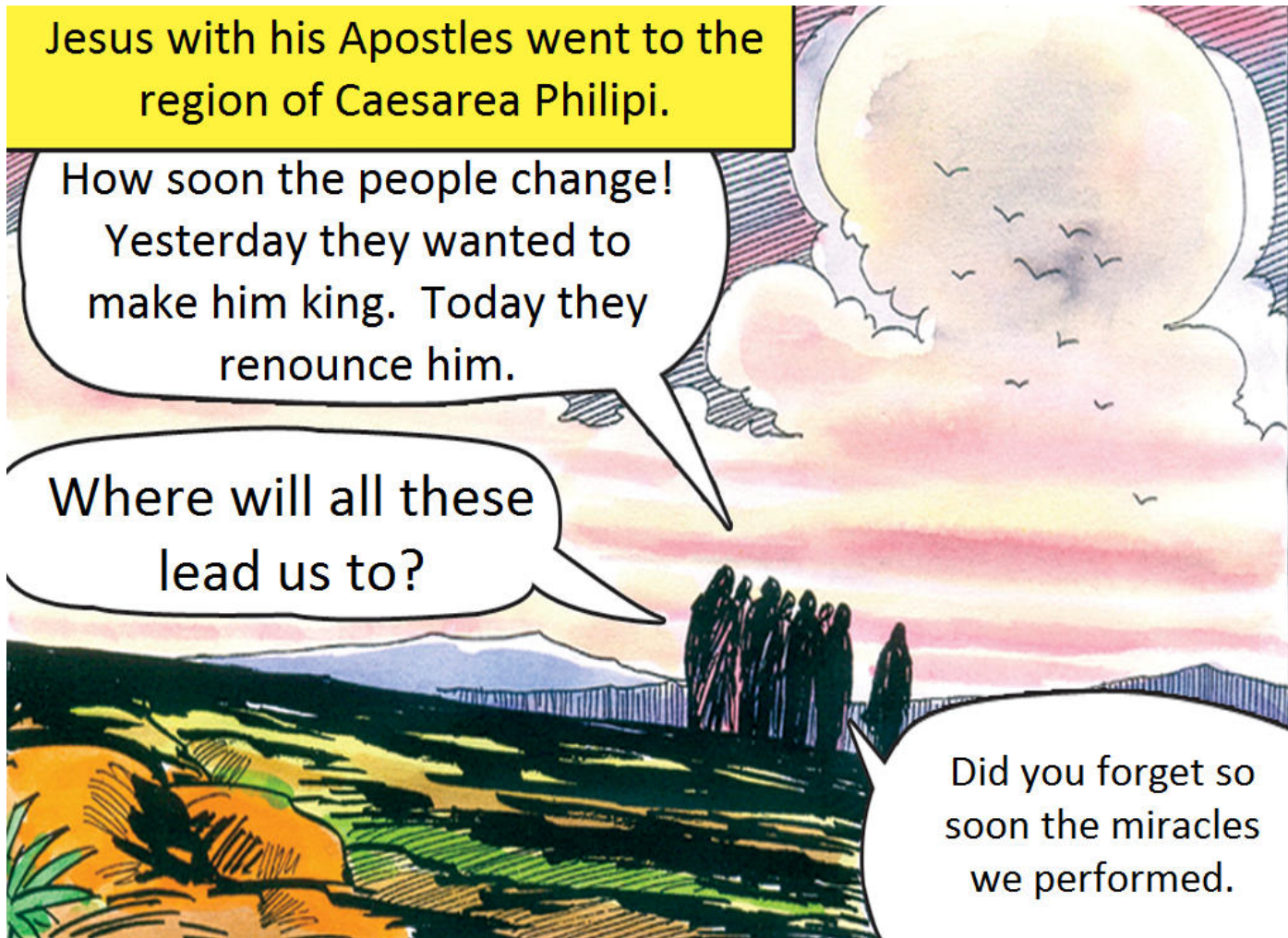


Jesus with his Apostles went to the region of Caesarea Philipi.

How soon the people change!
Yesterday they wanted to
make him king. Today they
renounce him.

Where will all these
lead us to?

Did you forget so
soon the miracles
we performed.



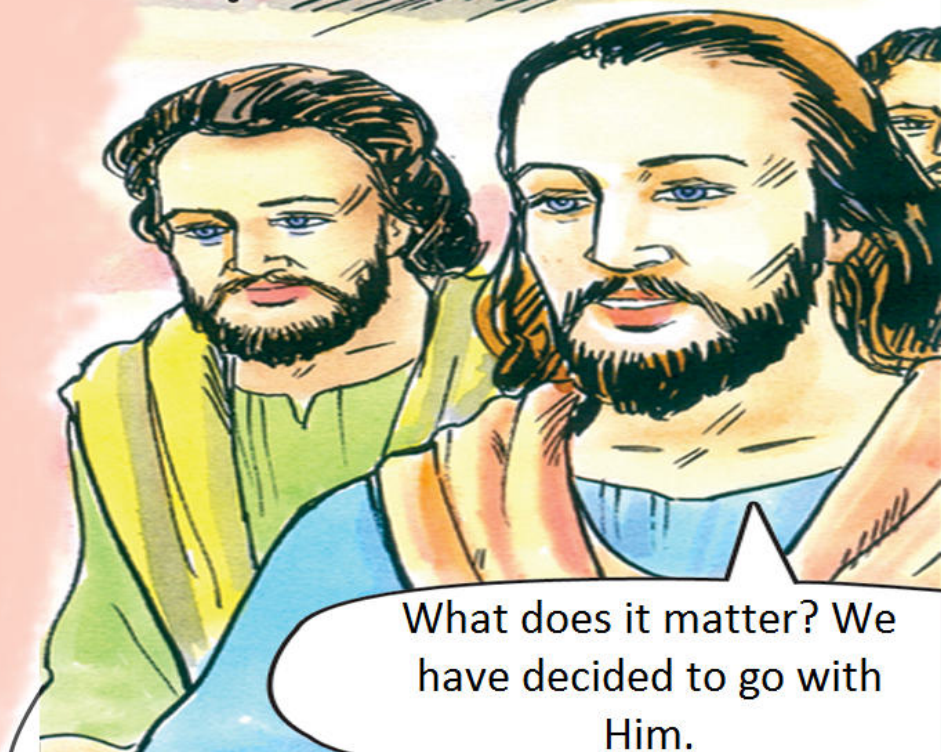
Not that I forgot. I was just saying that
the popular opinion is so unsteady.

Only a few people from
Capernaum opposed.

The Master seems to be rather
preoccupied today. I wonder
what he is up to.



Now we are going toward the north outside of Galilee. I wonder what direction he will take tomorrow.



What does it matter? We have decided to go with Him.

As they often did, they spent that night under a tree.

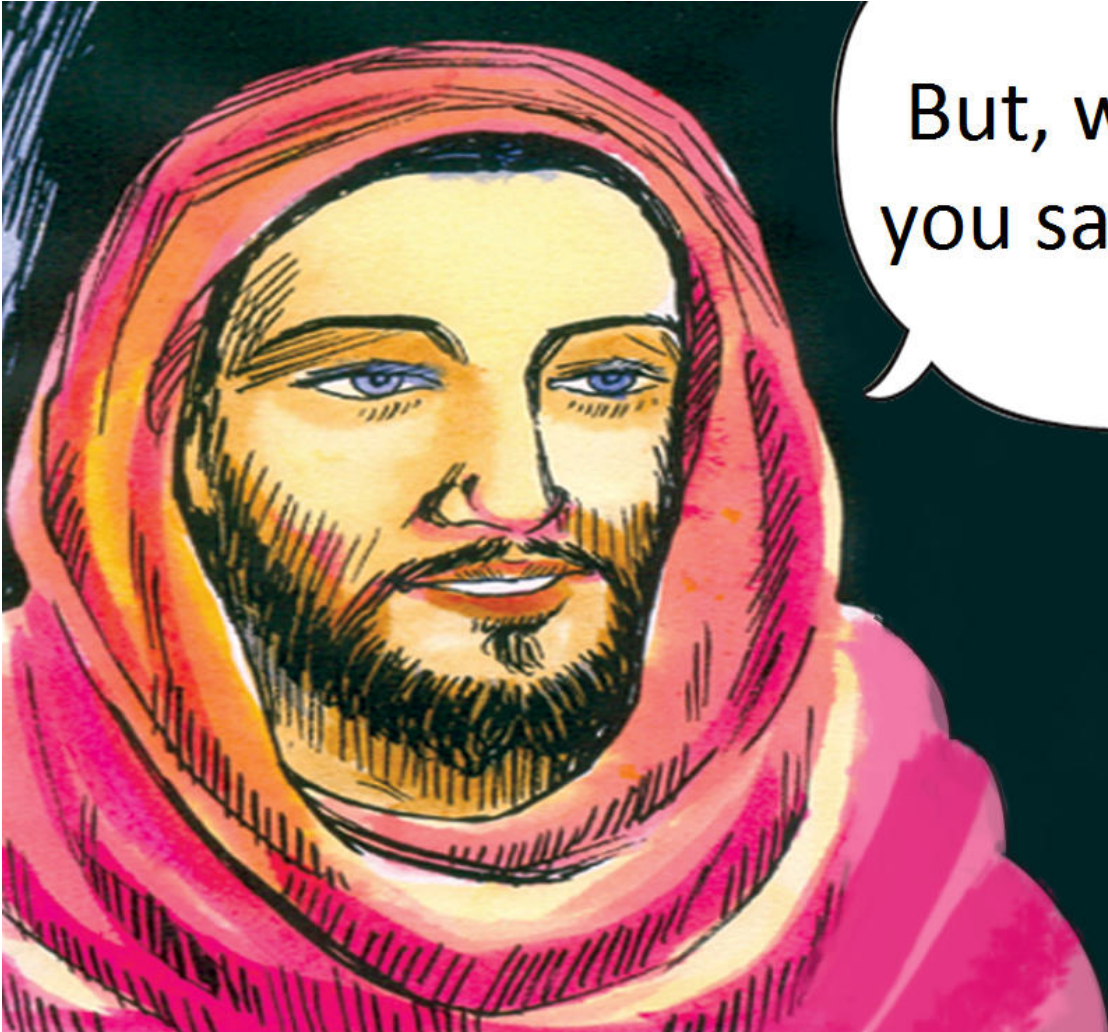
Who do the people say that I am?

Some say that you are John the Baptist raised from the dead.

Others say that you're Elijah.

All agree that you are a Prophet.





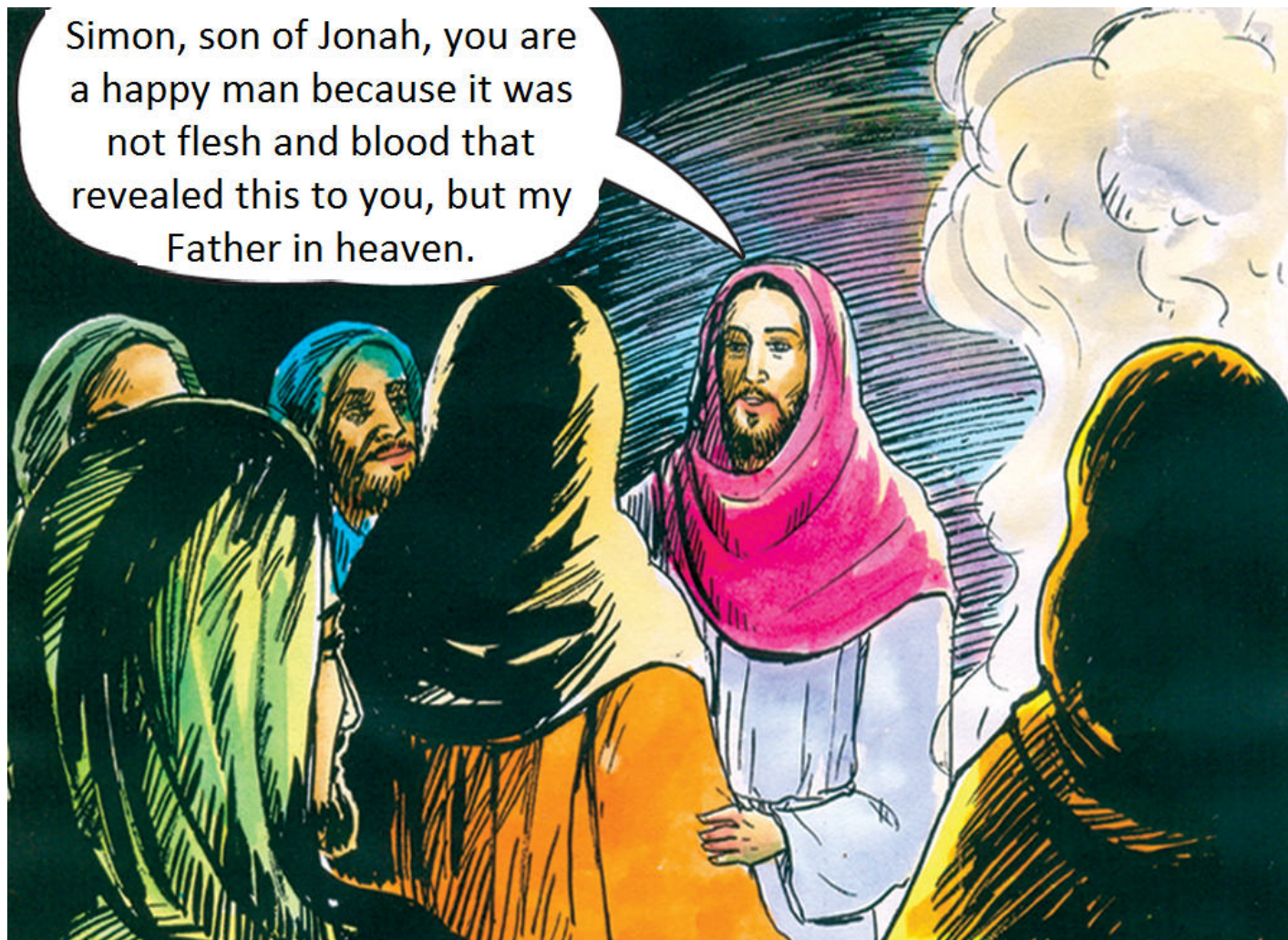
But, who do
you say I am?

Peter replied.

You are the Christ, the son
of the living God.



Simon, son of Jonah, you are a happy man because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.



You are rock and on this rock I will build my Church. The gates of the netherworld can never hold against it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of God.





What Peter said is true. But it is not yet time to make it public. We have to go to Jerusalem.

There in Jerusalem I shall suffer grievously at the hands of the leaders and be put to death. But on the third day I will rise again.

?!!

If this is true, Lord, you must not go to Jerusalem. This must not happen to you.

!



Get behind me, Satan! The way you think is not God's way but man's. Satan is speaking through you.



If anyone wants to follow
me, let him renounce
himself and take up his
cross and follow me.



They started the journey to Jerusalem. Six days later Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John and went to the Mountain to pray.



Jesus spent the whole night in prayers.

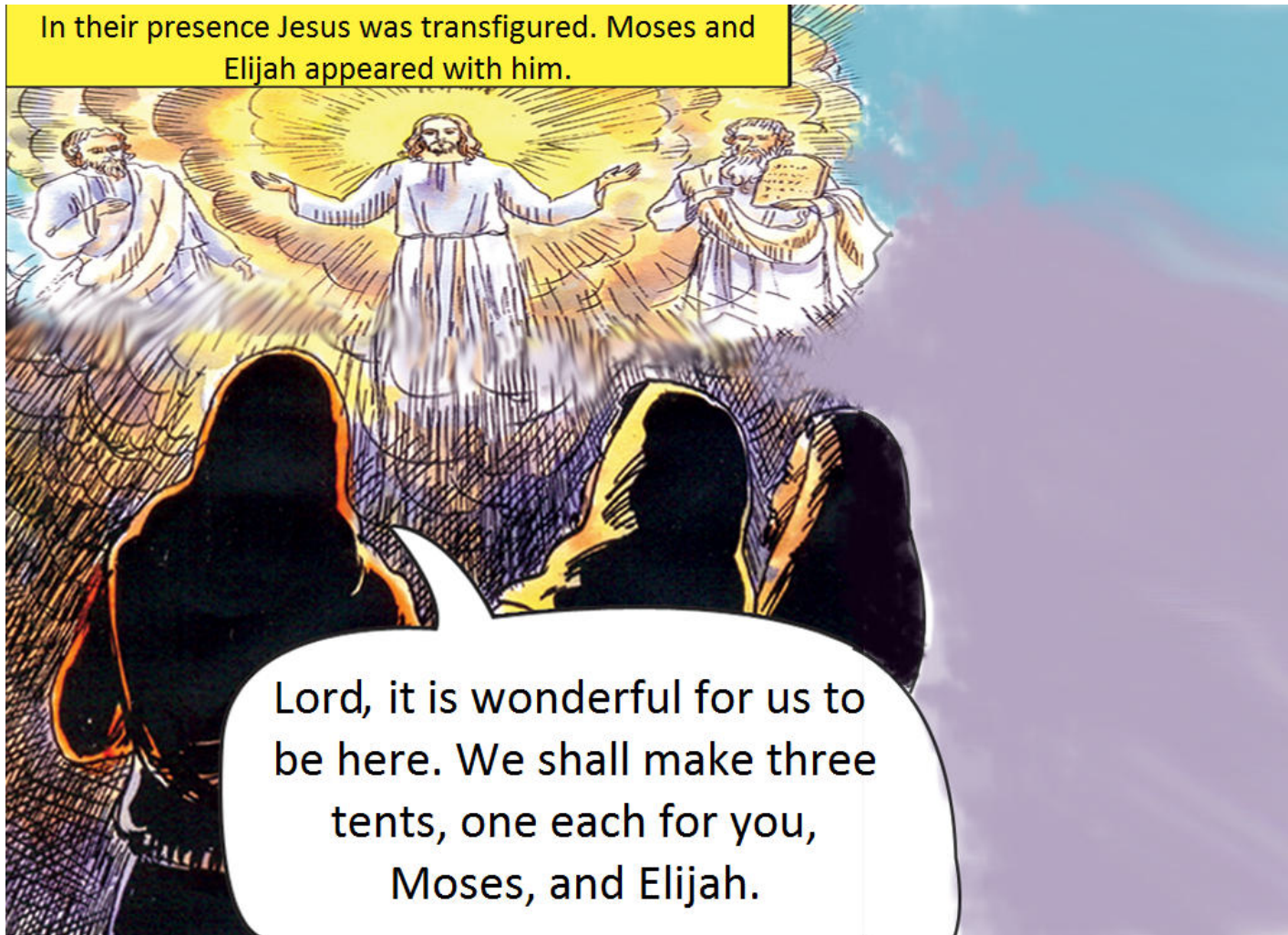


Suddenly.

Look!



In their presence Jesus was transfigured. Moses and Elijah appeared with him.



Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here. We shall make three tents, one each for you, Moses, and Elijah.

Suddenly a cloud covered them.

**THIS IS MY BELOVED SON,
LISTEN TO HIM.**



Peter and the disciples who tried to pitch tents on the Mountain of glory had to learn the necessity of suffering. They had to follow Jesus on the way of the Cross.

Next story

The Son of Man

Questions

1. How does the way of Jesus differ from that of Barabbas?
2. Evaluate Judas' interpretation of the teaching of Jesus on wealth.
3. What did the people say about Jesus?
4. According to Jesus what should be the ground of our joy?
5. What did Jesus say to the apostles who asked him to send away the people?
6. Why did Peter begin to sink in the sea?
7. Why did the people go away from Jesus?
8. How did Peter realize that Jesus is the Son of God?
9. What is the meaning of the name "Peter"?
10. Why did Moses and Elijah appear at the transfiguration?

Memorize: "Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest" (Mathew 11, 28)

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