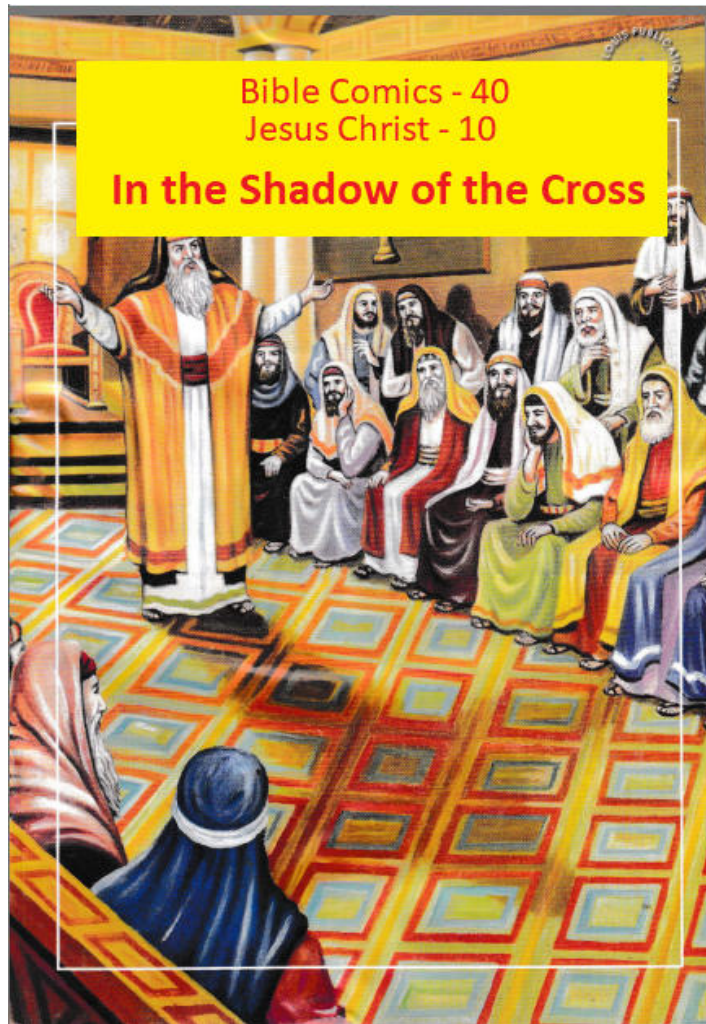


Bible Comics - 40  
Jesus Christ - 10

## In the Shadow of the Cross



## **IN THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS**

Jesus went around Palestine doing good and proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom of God. He comforted the afflicted, healed the sick, and forgave the sinners.

Jesus is the love of God that became visible in human form; nobody could remain indifferent to him. One will have to either accept him as the Son of God and the Savior or reject him and oppose him. Those who opened their hearts to him and his message became new persons and were filled with happiness. But, during the

second half of his public ministry, the vast majority of the people turned away from him because he wasn't performing many miracles and his call to conversion was too demanding.

Turning away from Jesus is rejecting God's saving love. Those who preferred the comforts and pleasures of this world felt uneasy with the presence of Jesus who demanded a thorough change of life. God's love rejected, took the form of the cross. As the public ministry drew near to its end, the shadow of the cross darkened his path.

The Jewish leaders sought to eliminate him because his teachings and dealings, and his very existence were a threat to their authority and credibility. The revolutionaries tried in vain to manipulate him for their political goals. Even his own relatives did not believe in him. But, Jesus with firm determination continued on the path chosen for him by the Father, knowing very well that it was inexorably leading him to the cross. As the good shepherd who risks his life to save the sheep from thieves and wild beasts, Jesus



was ready to sacrifice himself to save us from sin and death.

As a faithful Jew, Jesus observed the religious laws in their true sense. He made pilgrimages to Jerusalem during the major festivals, namely the feasts of the booths, Passover and Pentecost. He re-interpreted the meaning of Exodus to proclaim the Good News in the religious capital. The journey out of the slavery in Egypt symbolized man's journey out of the slavery of sin. The water that miraculously gushed out of the rock foreshadowed the living water, the Holy

Spirit. The column of fire symbolized Jesus, the Light of the World.

The tragic experience of the freedom fighters demonstrates that true freedom and lasting peace cannot be achieved by violence. Nobody is sinless before God. Hence before condemning others one should examine one's own life. Constant prayer and selfless service should characterize the lives of the followers of Jesus. Martha and Mary are the examples of these two dimensions of discipleship.

Wealth is a major obstacle in following Jesus. Even though nobody can take material riches beyond the grave, people are usually more concerned about accumulating wealth rather than sharing it with the needy. In the parable of the camel and needle's eye, Jesus warns that it will be impossible for the rich to enter the kingdom of God unless they part with their riches for the benefit of the poor. This sharing should be motivated by love rather than compulsion. Following Jesus demands sacrifice. Only the way of the Cross will lead us to salvation.

Bible Comics – 40

Jesus Christ – 10

# **In the Shadow of the Cross**

Script

Dr. Michael Karimattam

Illustration

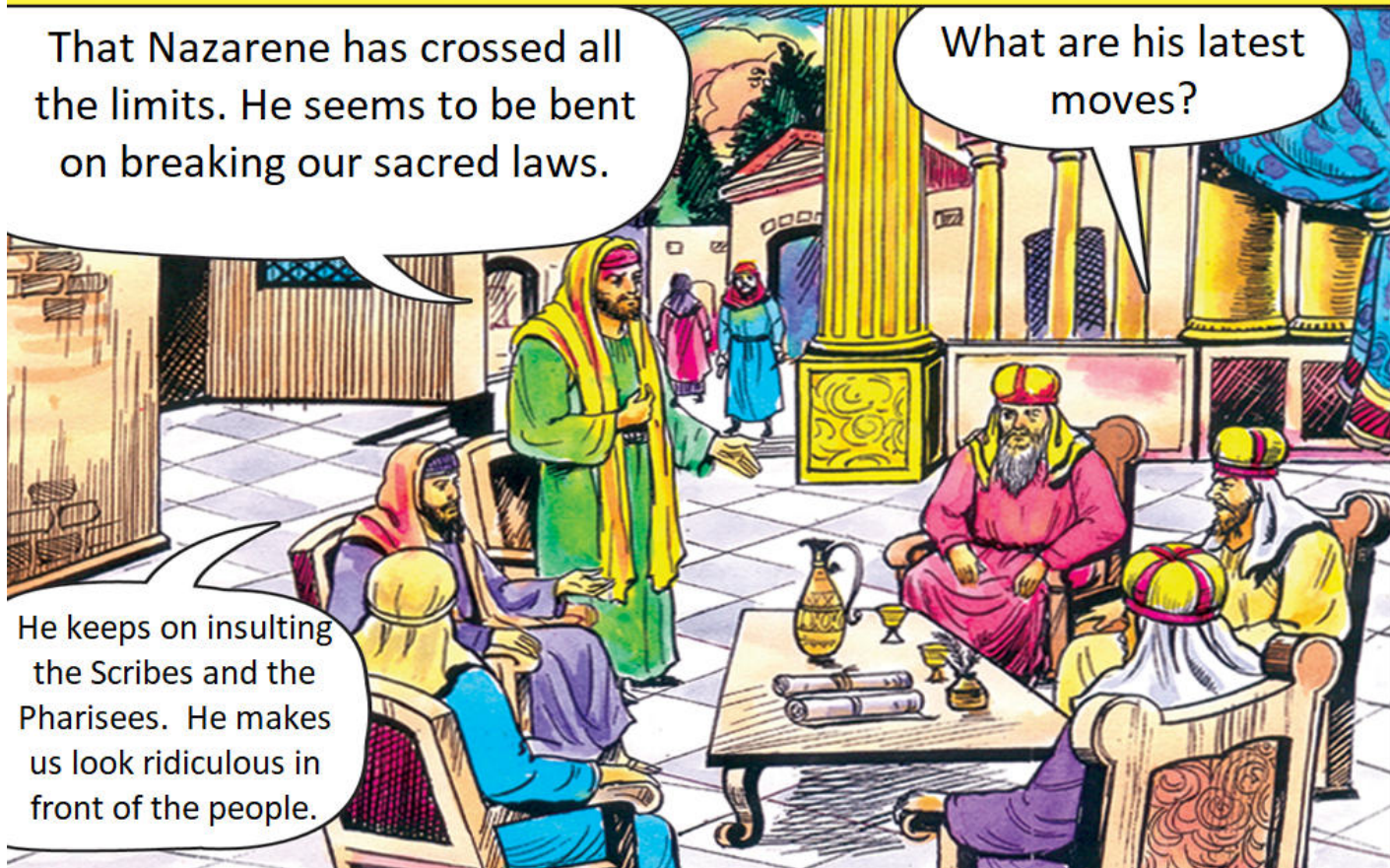
Devassy \* Benny

As the days passed, Jesus' enemies increased. They conspired in various circles. In Jerusalem at the house of the high priest.

That Nazarene has crossed all the limits. He seems to be bent on breaking our sacred laws.

What are his latest moves?

He keeps on insulting the Scribes and the Pharisees. He makes us look ridiculous in front of the people.




Is there any  
truth in saying  
that he performs  
miracles?

There is some truth in it. I  
have seen a paralytic get  
up and walk away. He  
has also cured lepers and  
blind men.







He has healed some who were possessed as well, with the help of the Devil, of course.

What are his main teachings?

The Sabbath is for man, implying that working on Sabbath is not forbidden. Doing good on the Sabbath is permitted before God. The Jews and the gentiles are alike.

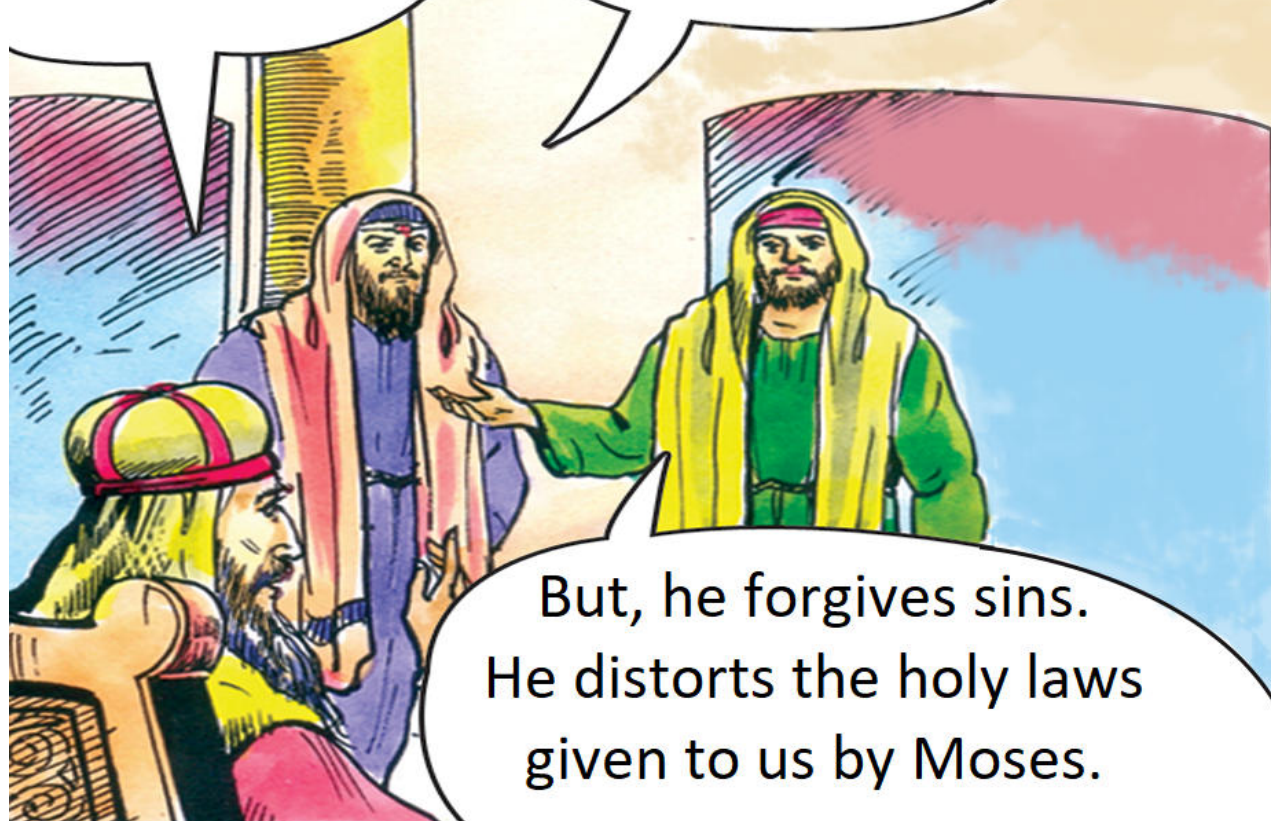
He keeps on saying that the prophecies are fulfilled and that the Kingdom of God is at hand.





Who does he  
claim to be?

Nothing directly.



But, he forgives sins.  
He distorts the holy laws  
given to us by Moses.

Lately he talks about the Son of Man.  
We do not know if he is talking about  
himself.

There is no doubt about it.  
Now he presents himself  
as the Son of Man.

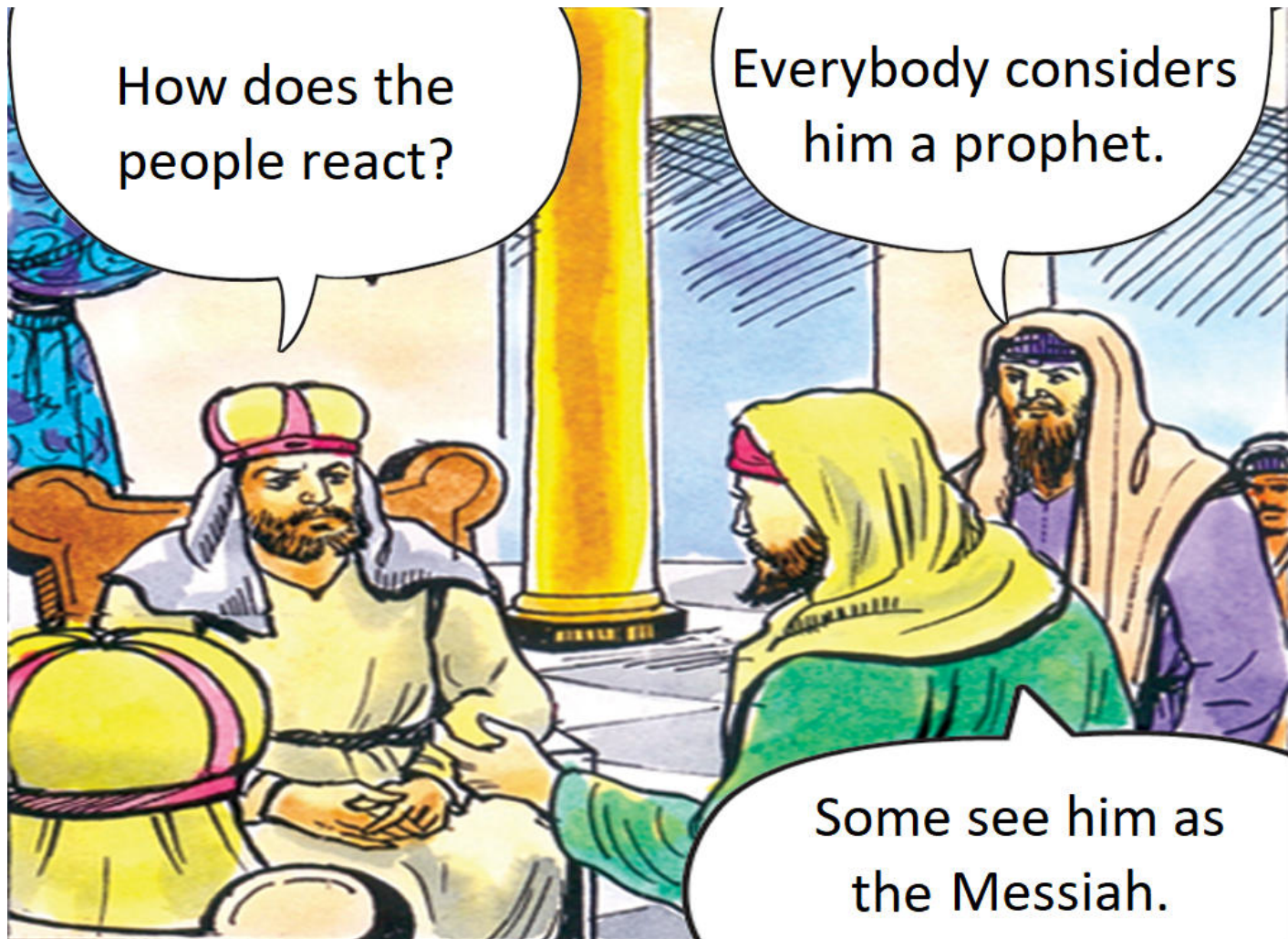




How does the people react?

Everybody considers him a prophet.

Some see him as the Messiah.



What is your  
opinion?

His miracles  
are just witch-  
craft.





He is trying to capture power by turning the people against us.

He seems to have connections with Barabbas and his men.



Examining his words  
and deeds, we can see  
that he is trying to  
appropriate God's  
power.

He addresses God as  
"My Father".





We have to find  
out what his  
intentions are.

We must turn the  
people against him.



All the leaders are already  
against him. Now, only some  
simpletons are with him.

They also must be taken away from him.  
Forbid him to enter the Synagogue.  
Those who associate with him should be  
banned from the community.





Get in touch with the Romans immediately and inform them that we do not approve of Jesus; and at the same time seek their assistance.



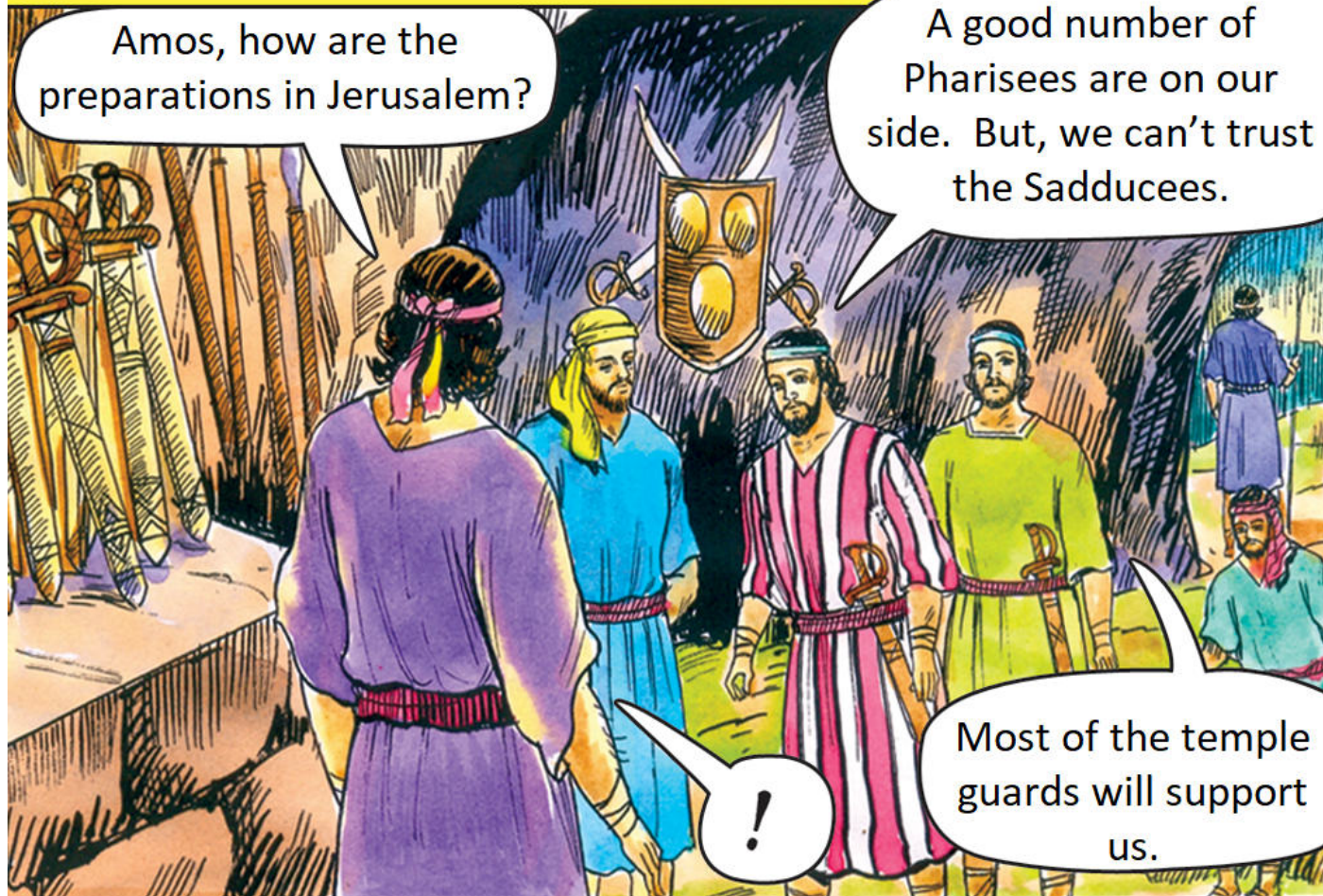
At the same time among the Zealots.

Amos, how are the preparations in Jerusalem?

A good number of Pharisees are on our side. But, we can't trust the Sadducees.

Most of the temple guards will support us.

!



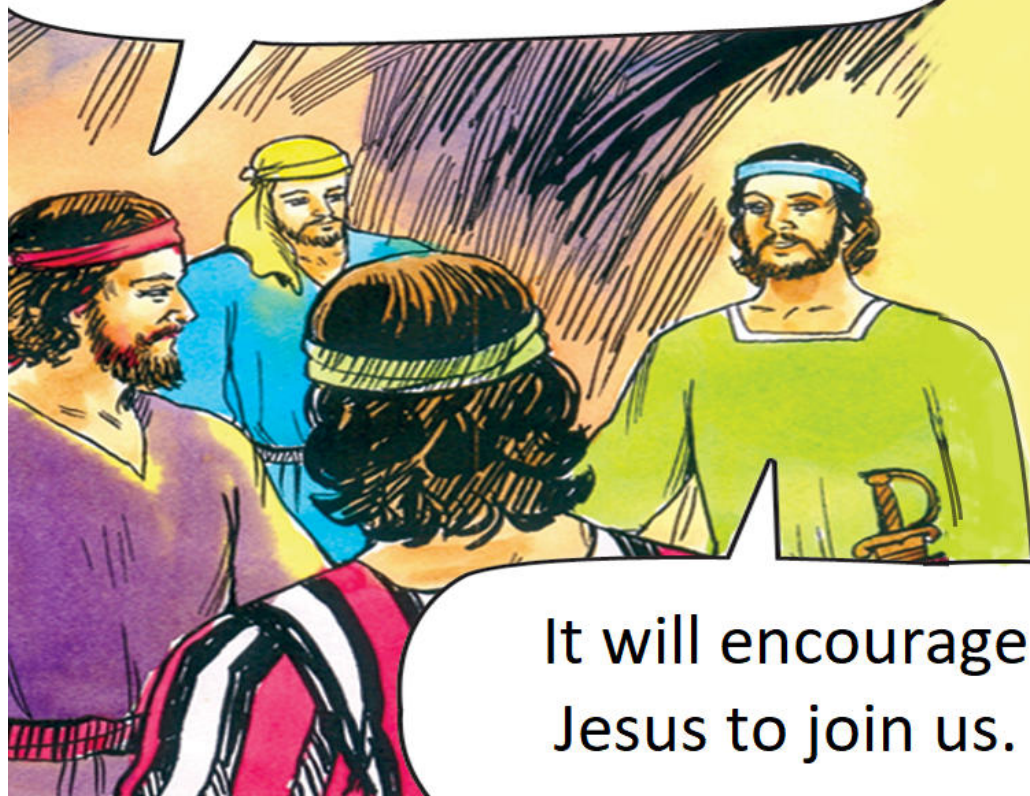


Only two weeks left before the Feast of the Tabernacles. As a trial we must launch an attack on the Romans that day.

I thought we had decided to start the revolution at the Passover time under Jesus of Nazareth.

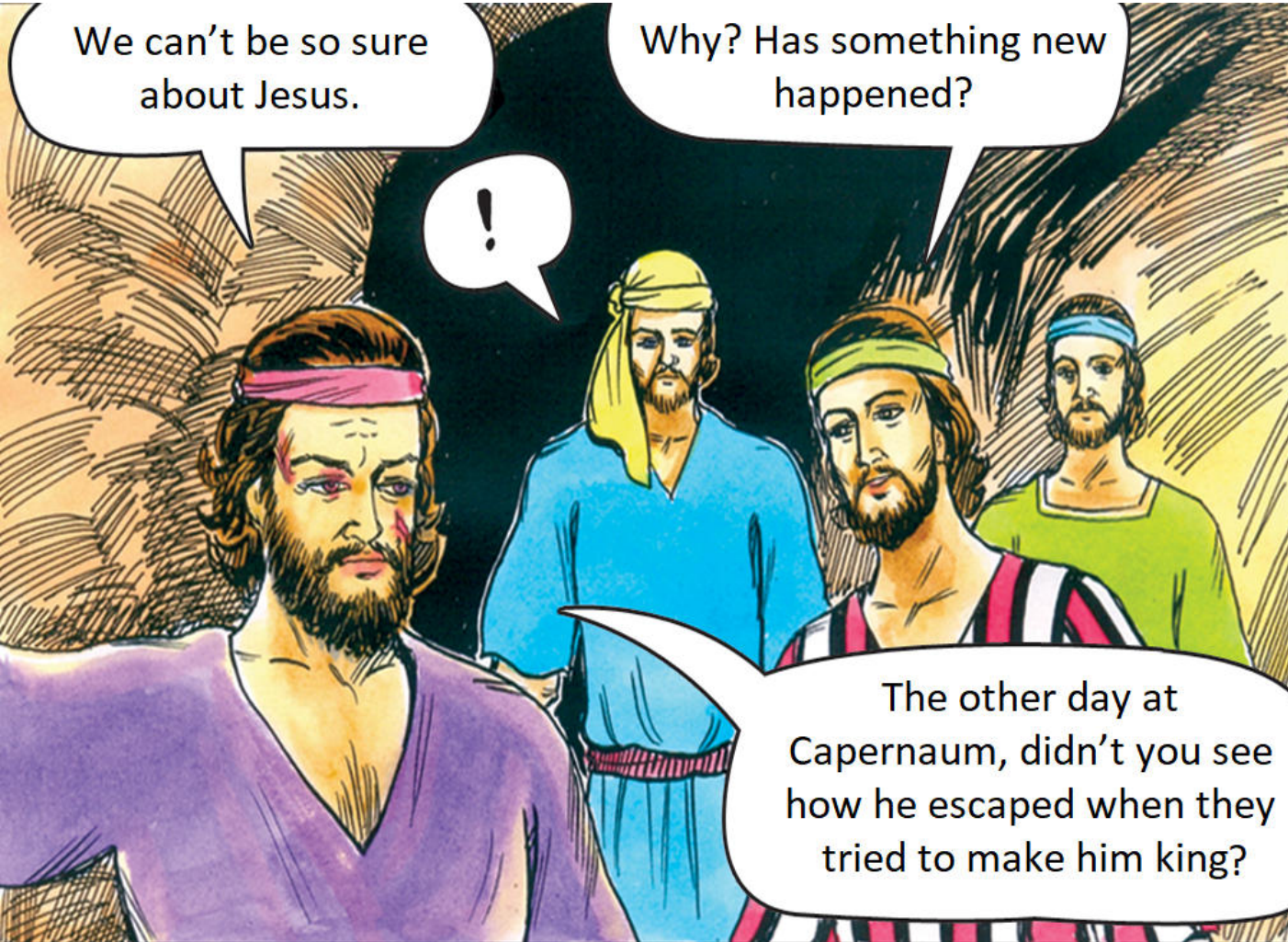


That will be the decisive confrontation.  
This is just a surprise attack to prove our  
strength and to solicit popular support.



It will encourage  
Jesus to join us.





We can't be so sure  
about Jesus.

Why? Has something new  
happened?

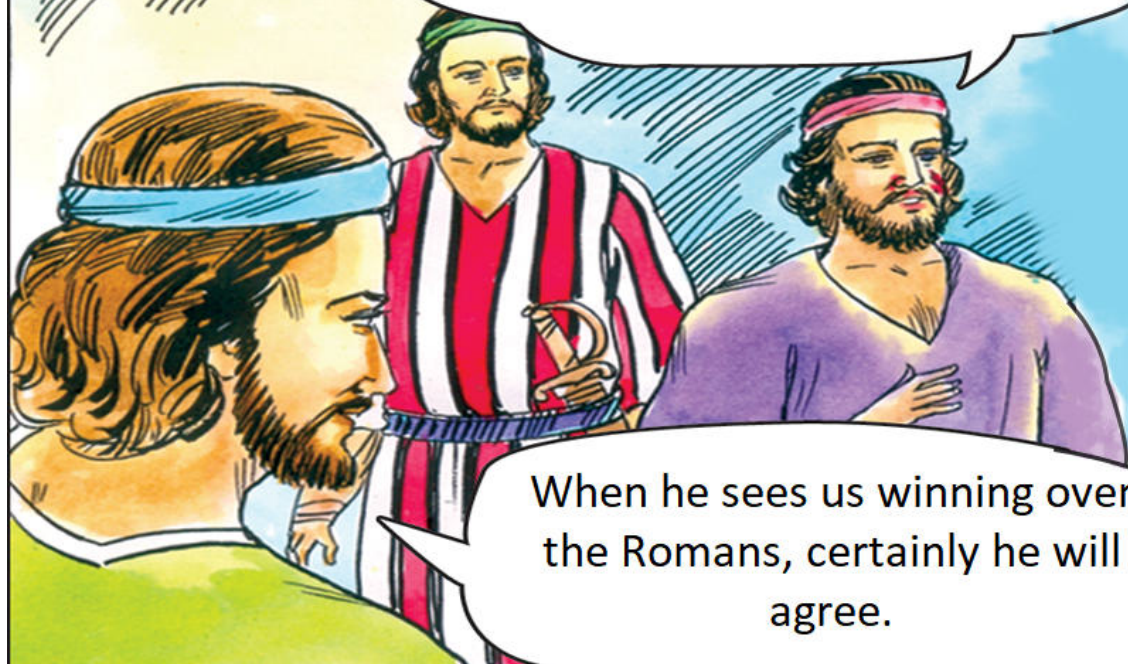
!

The other day at  
Capernaum, didn't you see  
how he escaped when they  
tried to make him king?

We had gone into some trouble to incite the people.

Judas had come the other day. Jesus will be going to Jerusalem for the Passover, but he is not sure if Jesus will consent to our plan.

When he sees us winning over the Romans, certainly he will agree.





All right, Amos and Joshua,  
you attack the Roman  
soldiers during the last night  
of the celebration. Just  
ten of you must go.



Not even the relatives of Jesus believed in him.  
Some of them came to him.

Why are you hanging  
around Galilee? Your  
activities must be in  
the capital.

Those who wish to be  
known must work in the  
cities.

Are you going to  
Jerusalem for the  
upcoming feast of  
the booths?





My time has not  
yet come.

Time waits for no  
one. Make use of  
the opportunities  
you have.



This is the best time to gain approval. There will be thousands of people in Jerusalem.

Any time is the right time for you. But, it is not so for me.

!!





When all were gone for the feast.

We must leave for  
Jerusalem  
immediately.

Master, we could have gone  
with the pilgrims. The last  
group left only yesterday.



I do not want to  
attract any attention.





They reached the house of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus in Bethania.

Master, welcome.  
We are blessed with  
your presence.

So long we have  
been waiting for  
you.

Please sit down.  
You must be  
hungry. I shall  
prepare some  
food.

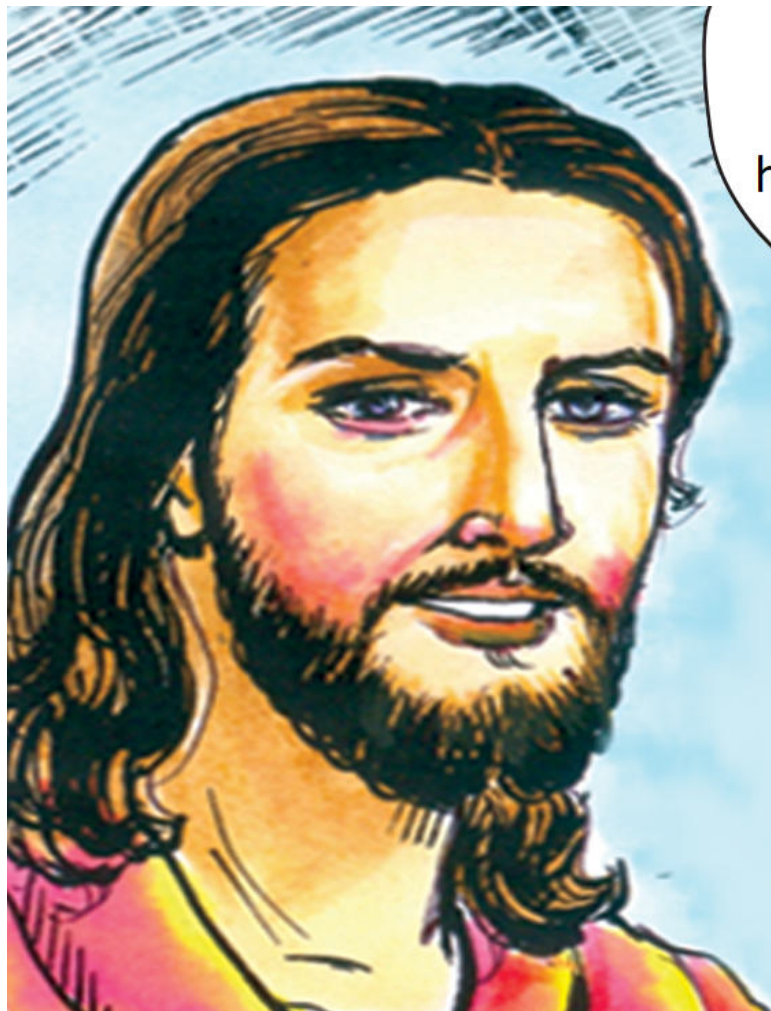


Master, looks like all the people in authority are turning against you. Opposition is mounting in Jerusalem.

Only those attracted by my Father can come to me.







The mystery of the  
Kingdom of God is  
hidden from the learned  
and the wise...

While they were talking.

Master, don't you see that my sister had left be alone in the kitchen? Please ask her to help me.



Martha, you worry and fret about so many things. Only one thing is needed.



Mary has chosen  
the better part; it is  
not to be taken  
from her.



The feast of the booths began in Jerusalem. The first day the priests carried water from the pool of Siloam to the Temple in solemn procession. The people shouted waving olive branches.

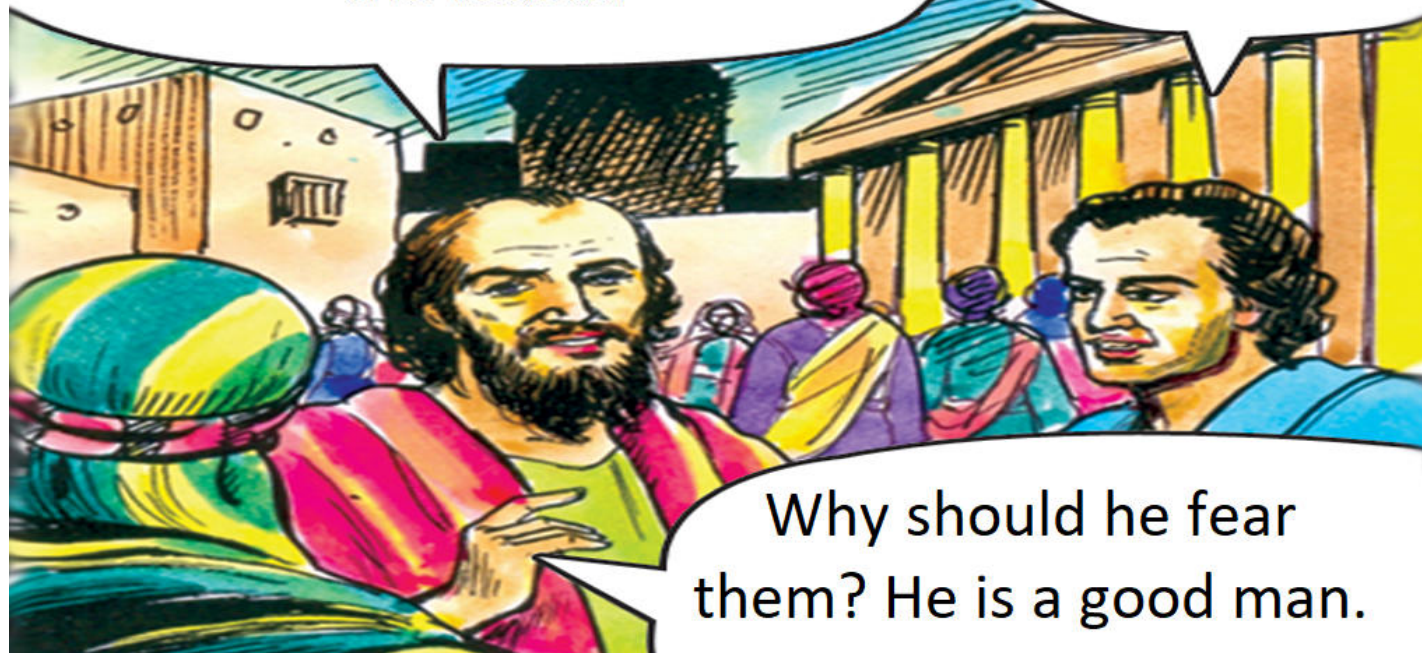




The second day, a conversation among the people.

I haven't seen Jesus of Nazareth around. He usually comes for all the feasts.


He might be scared of the authorities.



Why should he fear them? He is a good man.

Good man? He is  
leading all the people  
astray.

It is not Jesus but  
our leaders who  
mislead them.

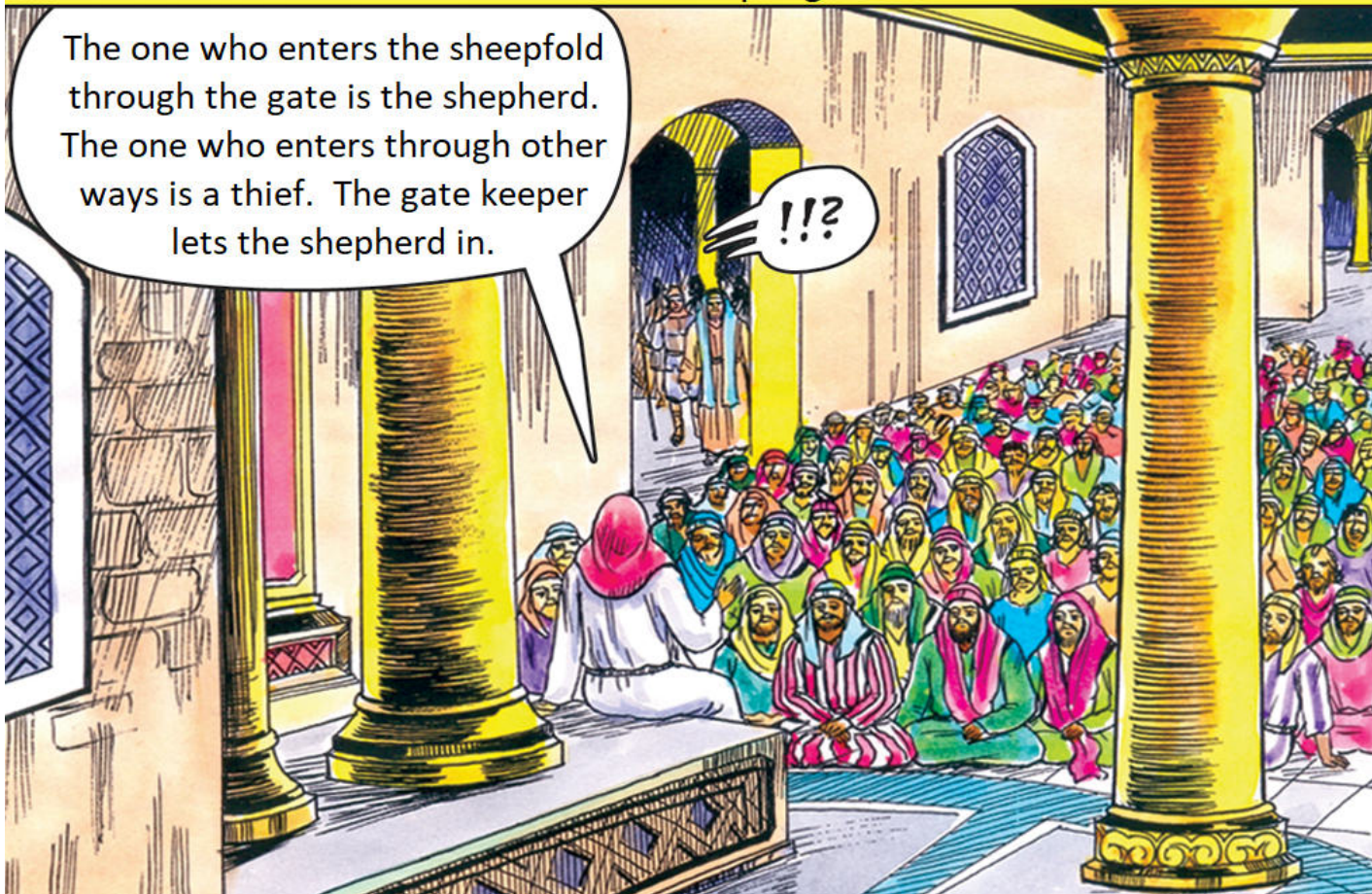


Keep your voice down.  
Others might hear!



On the fourth day of the festival, Jesus came to the Temple and began to teach. The leaders sent Temple guards to arrest him.

The one who enters the sheepfold through the gate is the shepherd. The one who enters through other ways is a thief. The gate keeper lets the shepherd in.





The shepherd calls his sheep by name and leads them out. They follow the shepherd but run away from the strangers.





Among the People.

Why is he saying these things? Everybody knows about the sheep and shepherd.

Probably this has some hidden meaning.



I am the Good Shepherd and the gate to the sheepfold as well. All who came before me were thieves.



The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life to the full.

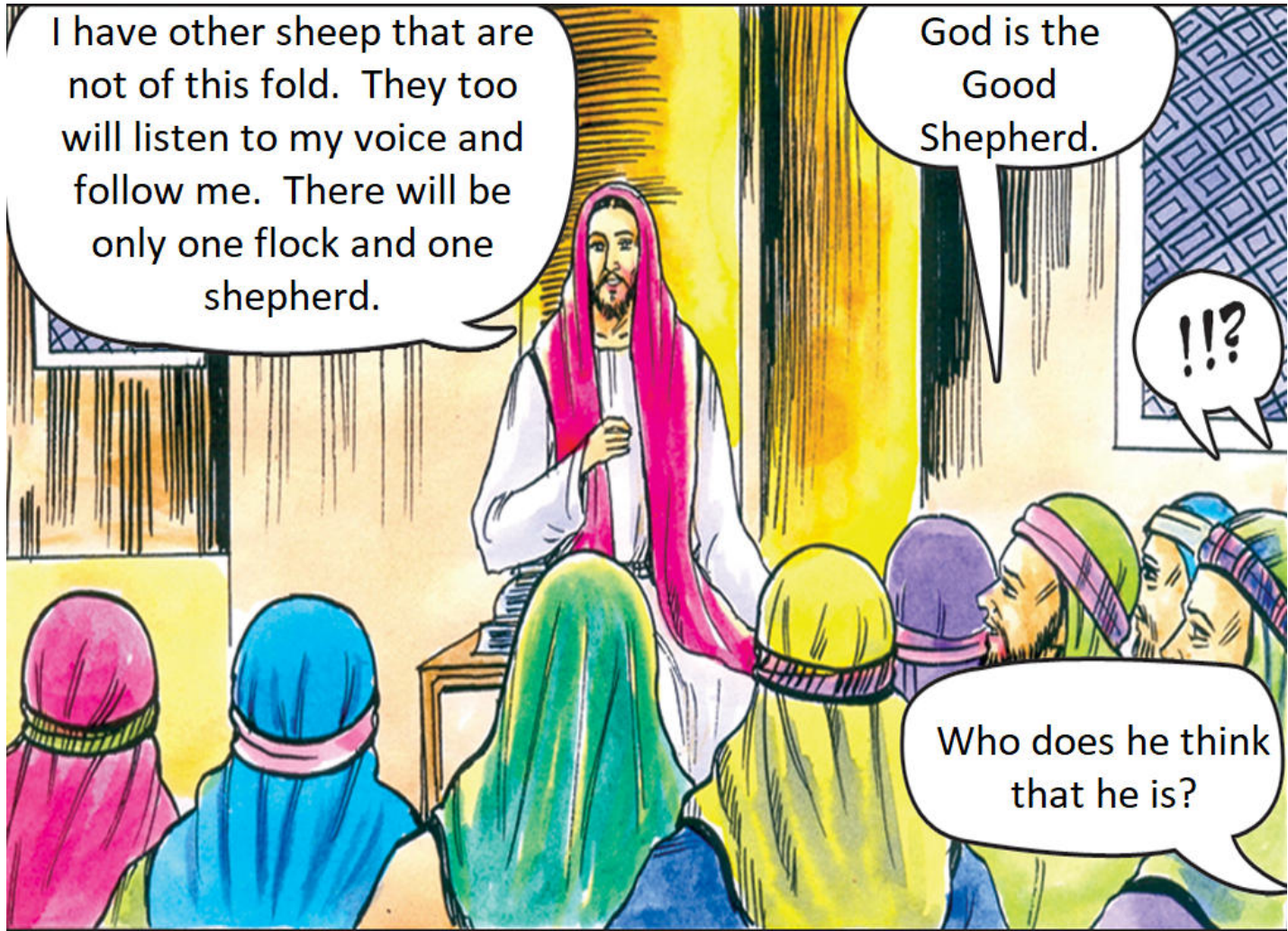




I know my sheep and  
they know me because I  
lay down my life for  
them.







I have other sheep that are not of this fold. They too will listen to my voice and follow me. There will be only one flock and one shepherd.

God is the Good Shepherd.

!!?

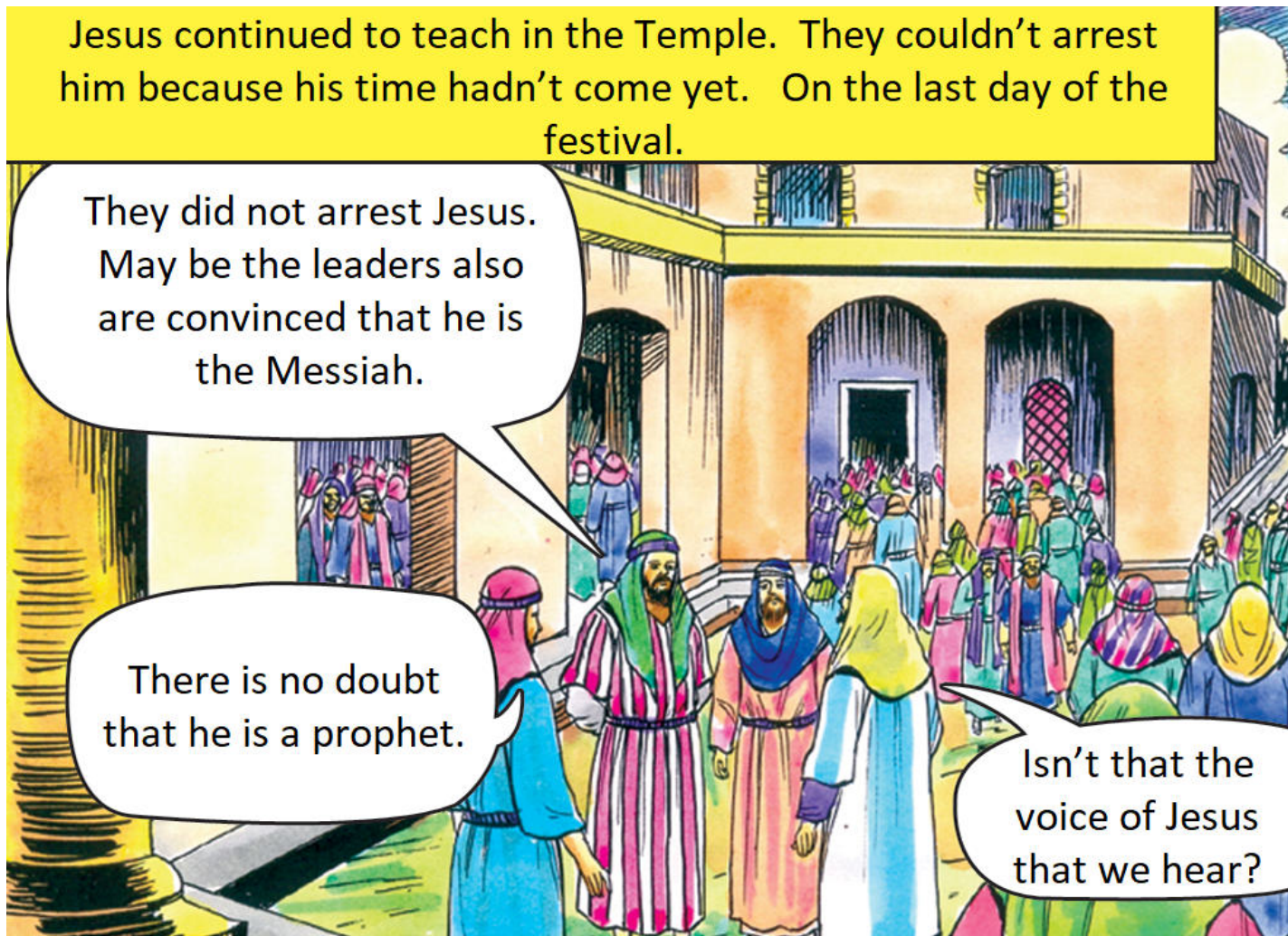
Who does he think that he is?

Jesus continued to teach in the Temple. They couldn't arrest him because his time hadn't come yet. On the last day of the festival.

They did not arrest Jesus. May be the leaders also are convinced that he is the Messiah.

There is no doubt that he is a prophet.

Isn't that the voice of Jesus that we hear?



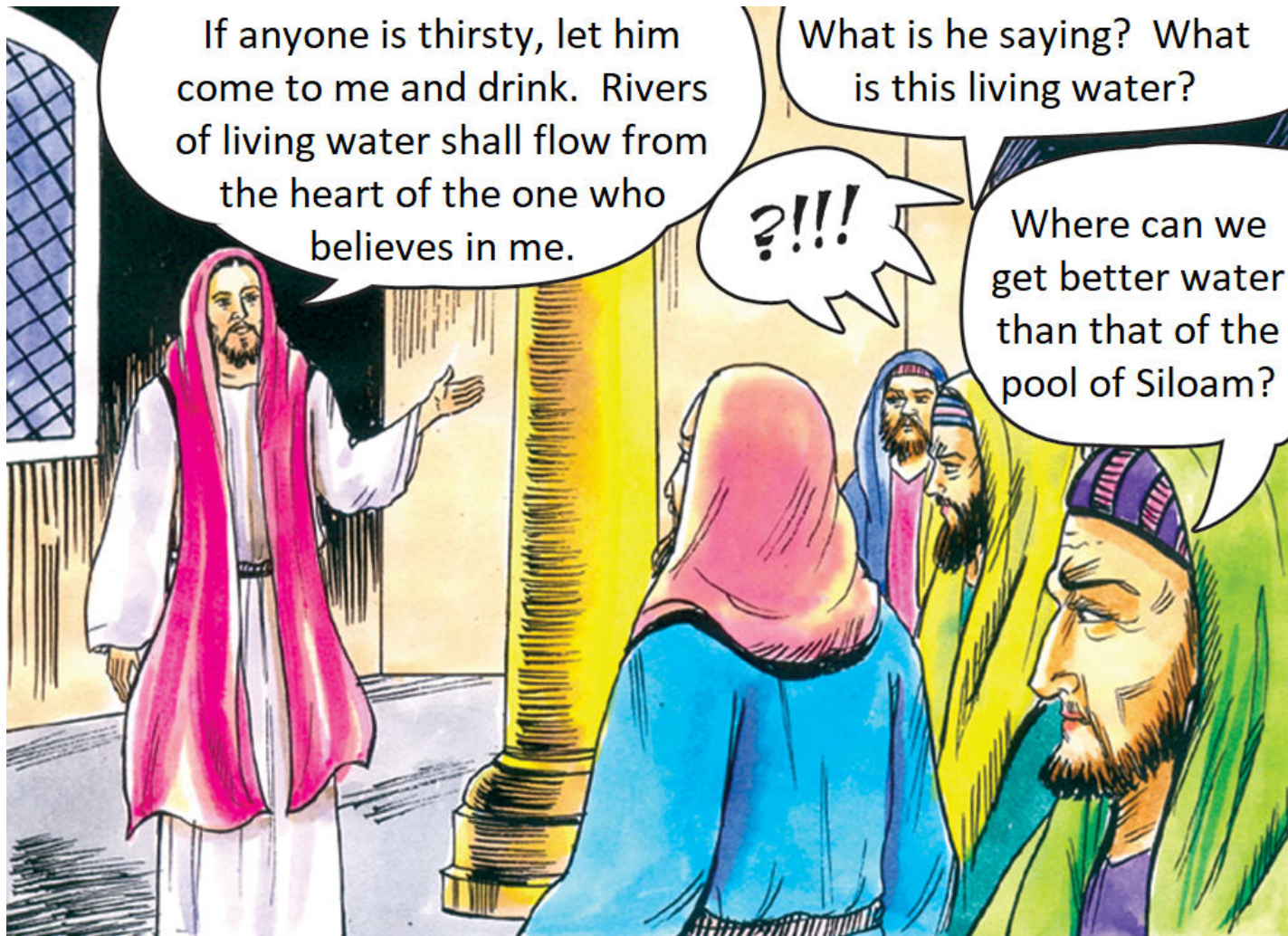


If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Rivers of living water shall flow from the heart of the one who believes in me.

What is he saying? What is this living water?

?!!!

Where can we get better water than that of the pool of Siloam?



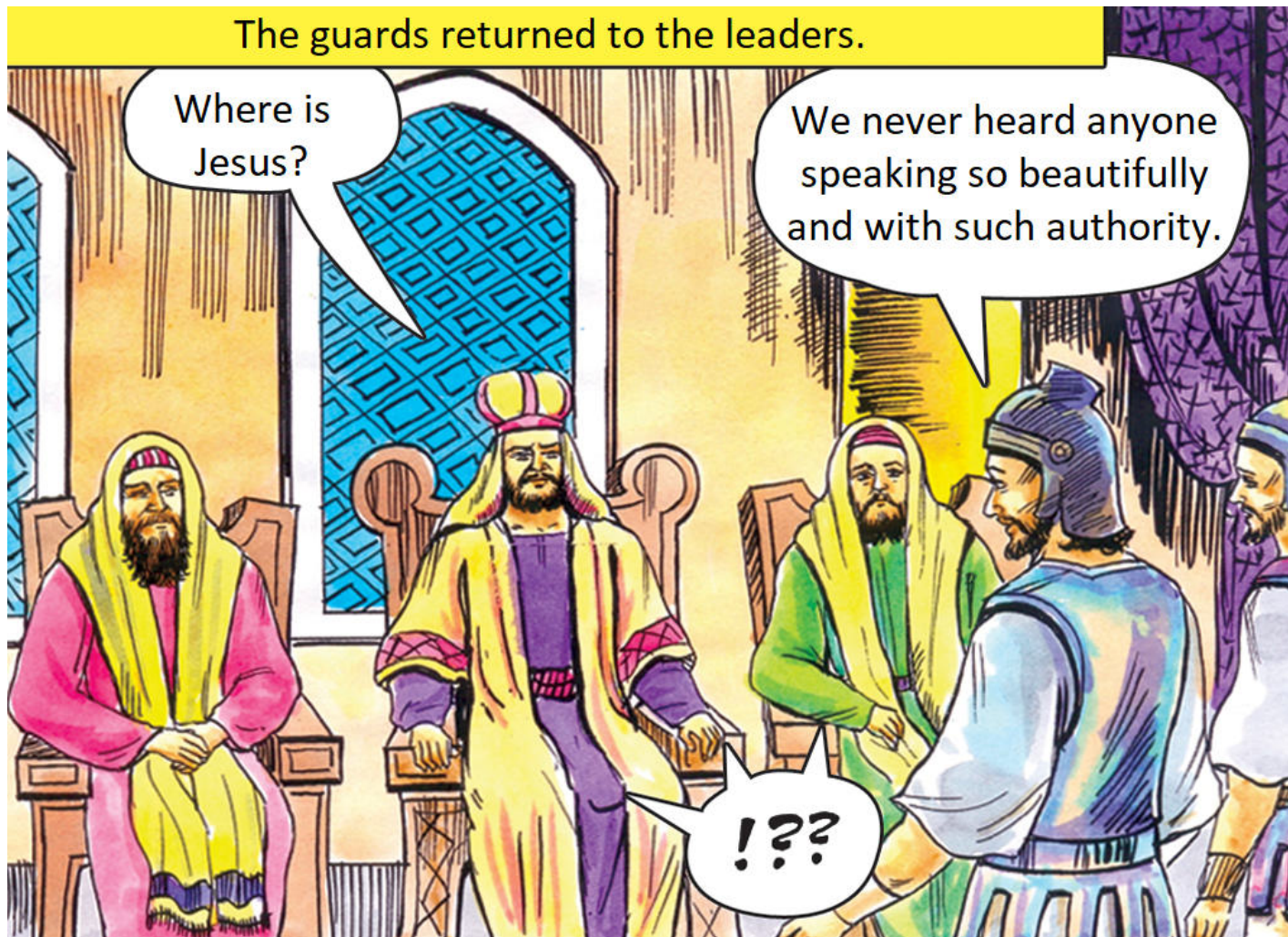


The guards returned to the leaders.

Where is  
Jesus?

We never heard anyone  
speaking so beautifully  
and with such authority.

!??



So, you are deceived as well.  
Except for this ignorant and  
accursed rabble, has anyone  
in authority believed in  
him?





Does our law allow us  
to pass judgment on  
anyone without proper  
trial?

Rabbi Nicodemus, don't  
you know that no prophet  
will ever come from  
Galilee? You may examine  
the sacred scriptures.

!

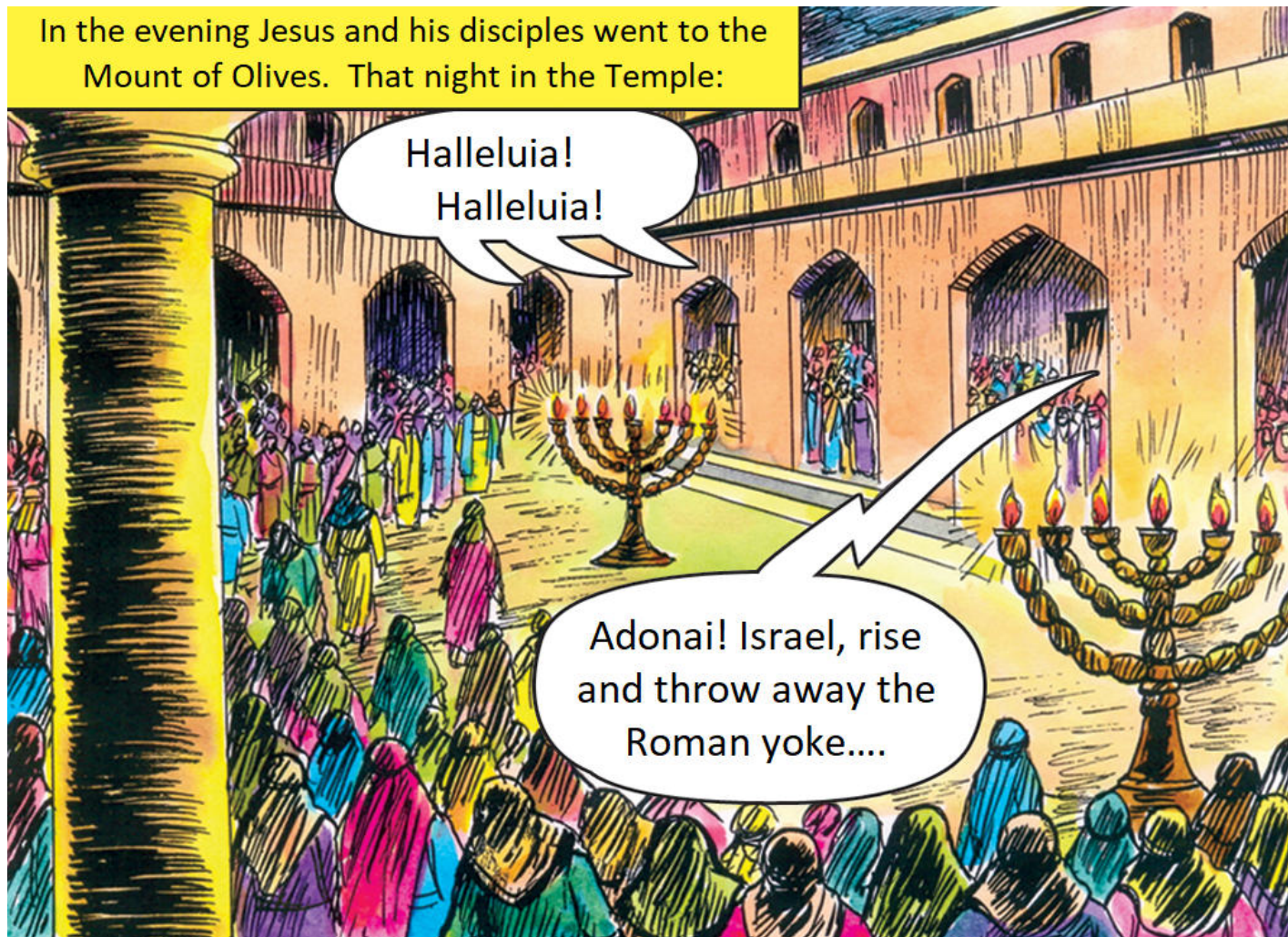




In the evening Jesus and his disciples went to the Mount of Olives. That night in the Temple:

Halleluia!  
Halleluia!

Adonai! Israel, rise  
and throw away the  
Roman yoke....





The next moment.

!?

?!!!

A comic book illustration depicting a moment of combat. On the left, a man with a beard and a blue headband, wearing a green tunic, is shown in a dynamic pose, swinging a sword with a wooden hilt. He is looking towards the right. On the right, a man in ornate, multi-colored armor (purple, blue, and gold) with a helmet is shown. He has a speech bubble above his head containing '!?' and a larger speech bubble below his head containing '?!!!'. The background is a simple blue sky with some dark, rocky terrain on the left. The style is reminiscent of classic comic book art with bold lines and a limited color palette.



Brethren, Join forces, take up  
arms against the Romans.

!!!!



Roman soldiers rushed into the court yard and killed many Zealots as well as innocent bystanders.





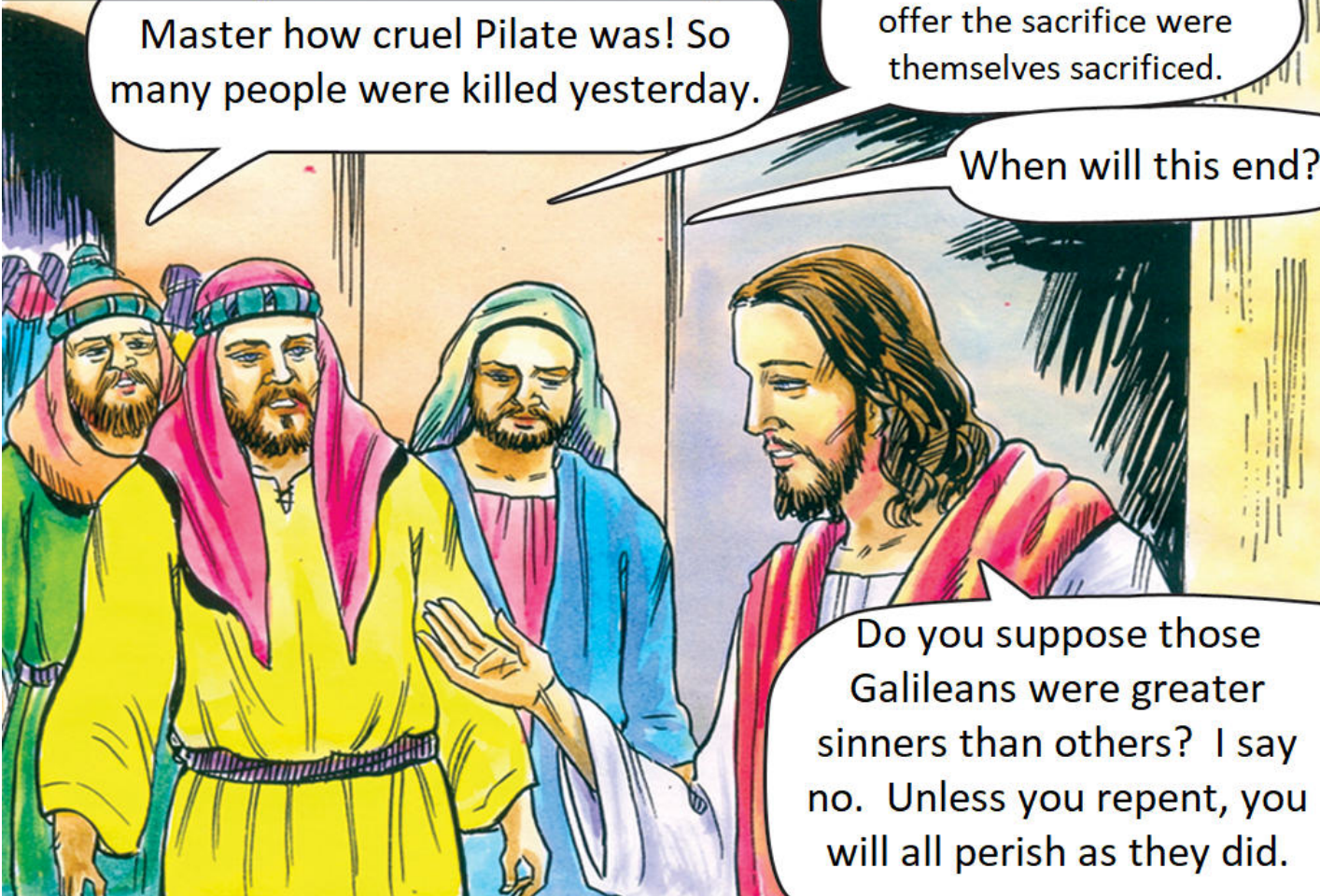
The next day Jesus came to the Temple.

Master how cruel Pilate was! So many people were killed yesterday.

The Galileans who came to offer the sacrifice were themselves sacrificed.

When will this end?

Do you suppose those Galileans were greater sinners than others? I say no. Unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.



While they were talking, a woman caught in adultery was bought to Jesus.

Rabbi, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. According to the Law of Moses, she should be stoned to death.

?!!

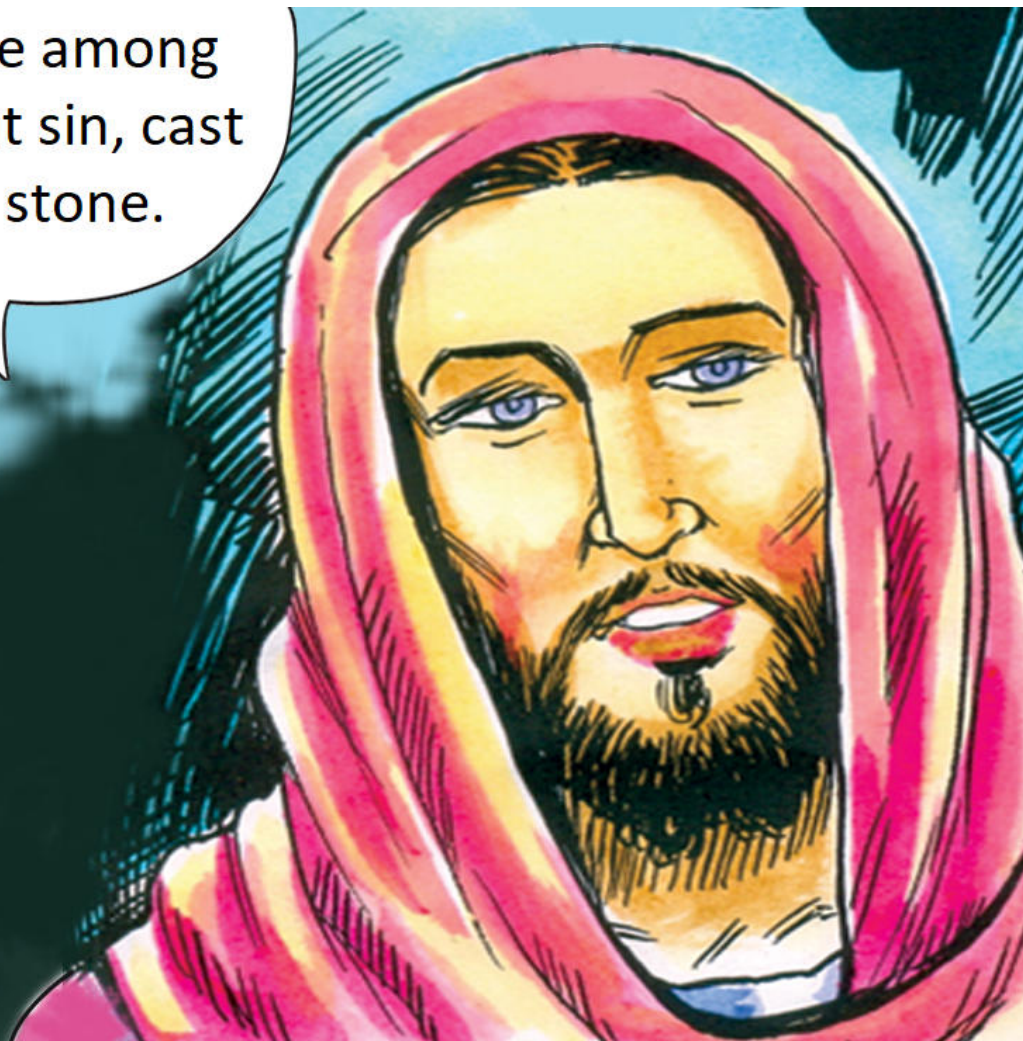
Rabbi Jesus, what do you say?

Tell us.





Let the one among  
you without sin, cast  
the first stone.







Upon hearing this, one by one, they left the place.

Woman, has no one condemned you?

!!?

No Sir, nobody.



Neither do I  
condemn you. Go in  
peace and sin no  
more.



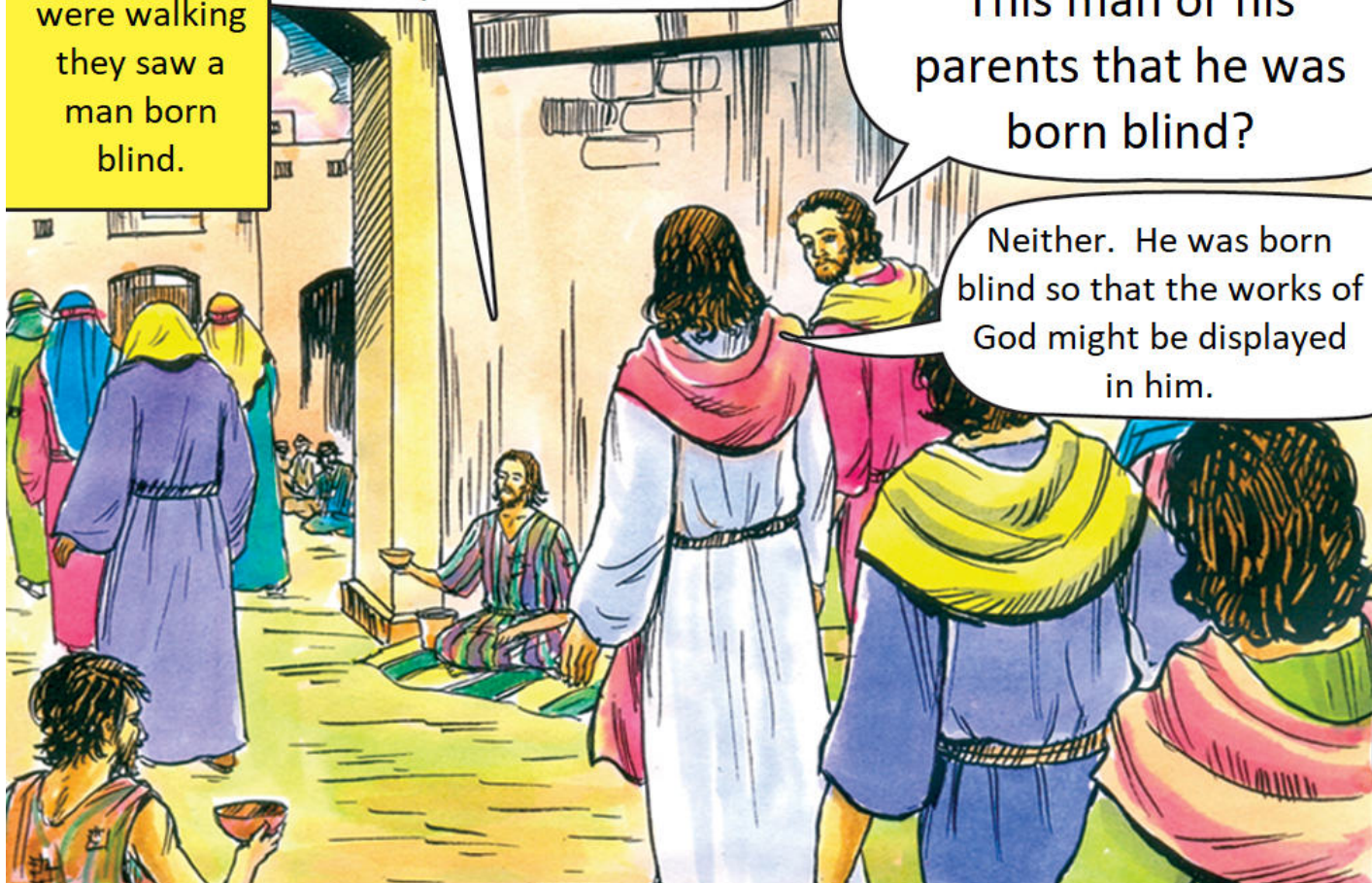


As Jesus and the disciples were walking they saw a man born blind.

Have mercy; give alms to this poor blind man...

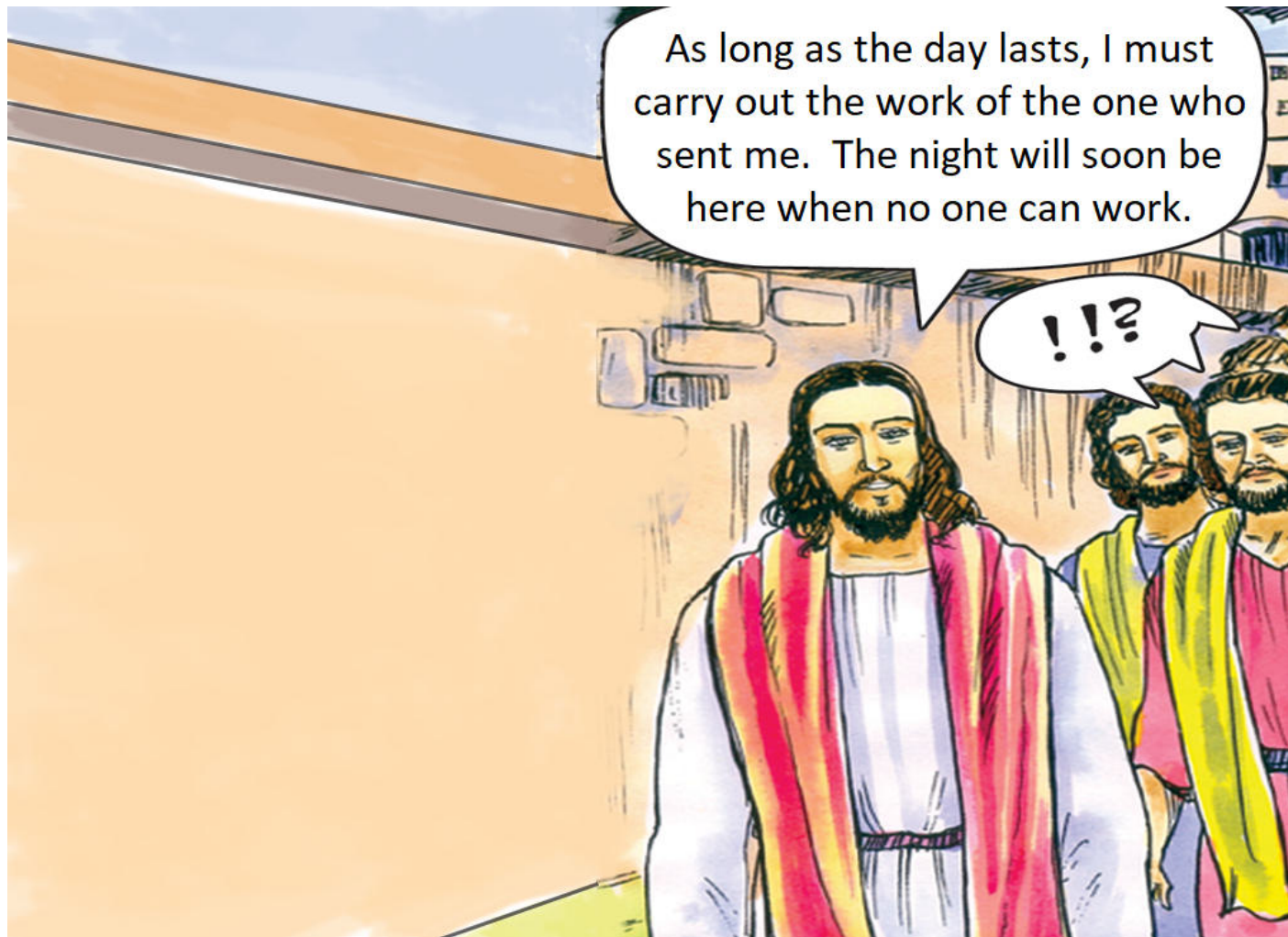
Master who sinned?  
This man or his  
parents that he was  
born blind?

Neither. He was born  
blind so that the works of  
God might be displayed  
in him.



As long as the day lasts, I must  
carry out the work of the one who  
sent me. The night will soon be  
here when no one can work.

!!?

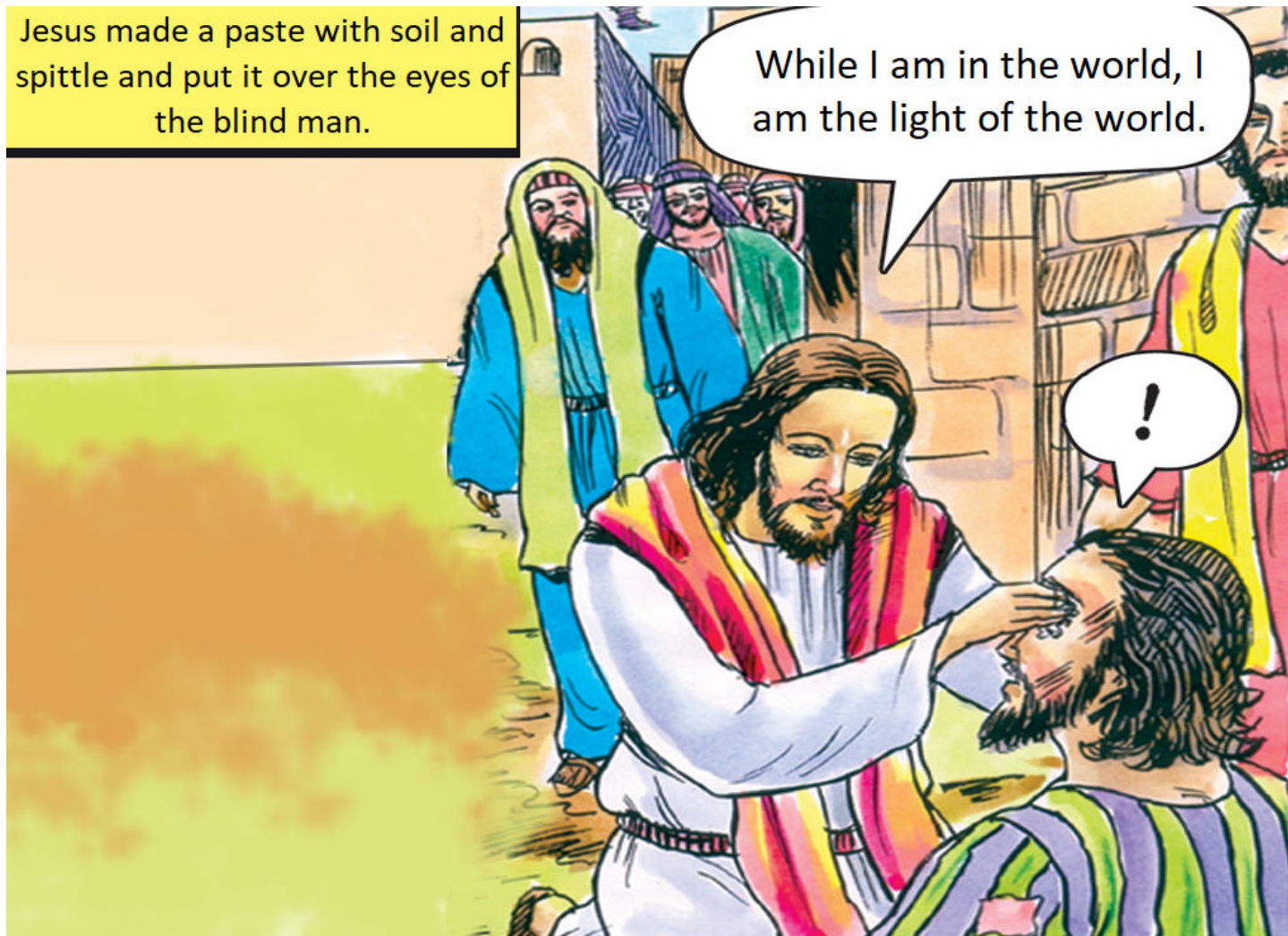




Jesus made a paste with soil and spittle and put it over the eyes of the blind man.

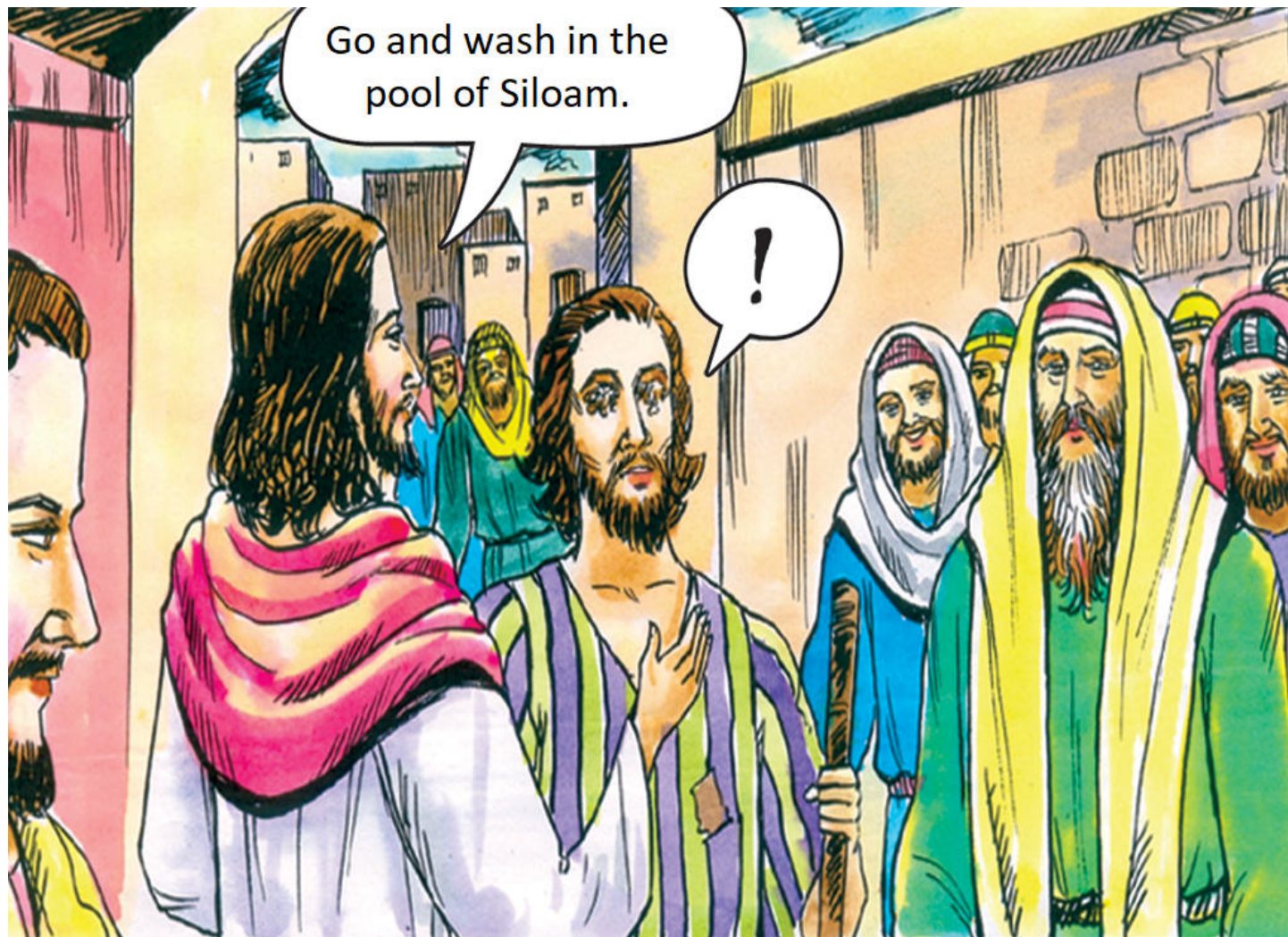
While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

!



Go and wash in the  
pool of Siloam.

!





He went and washed.

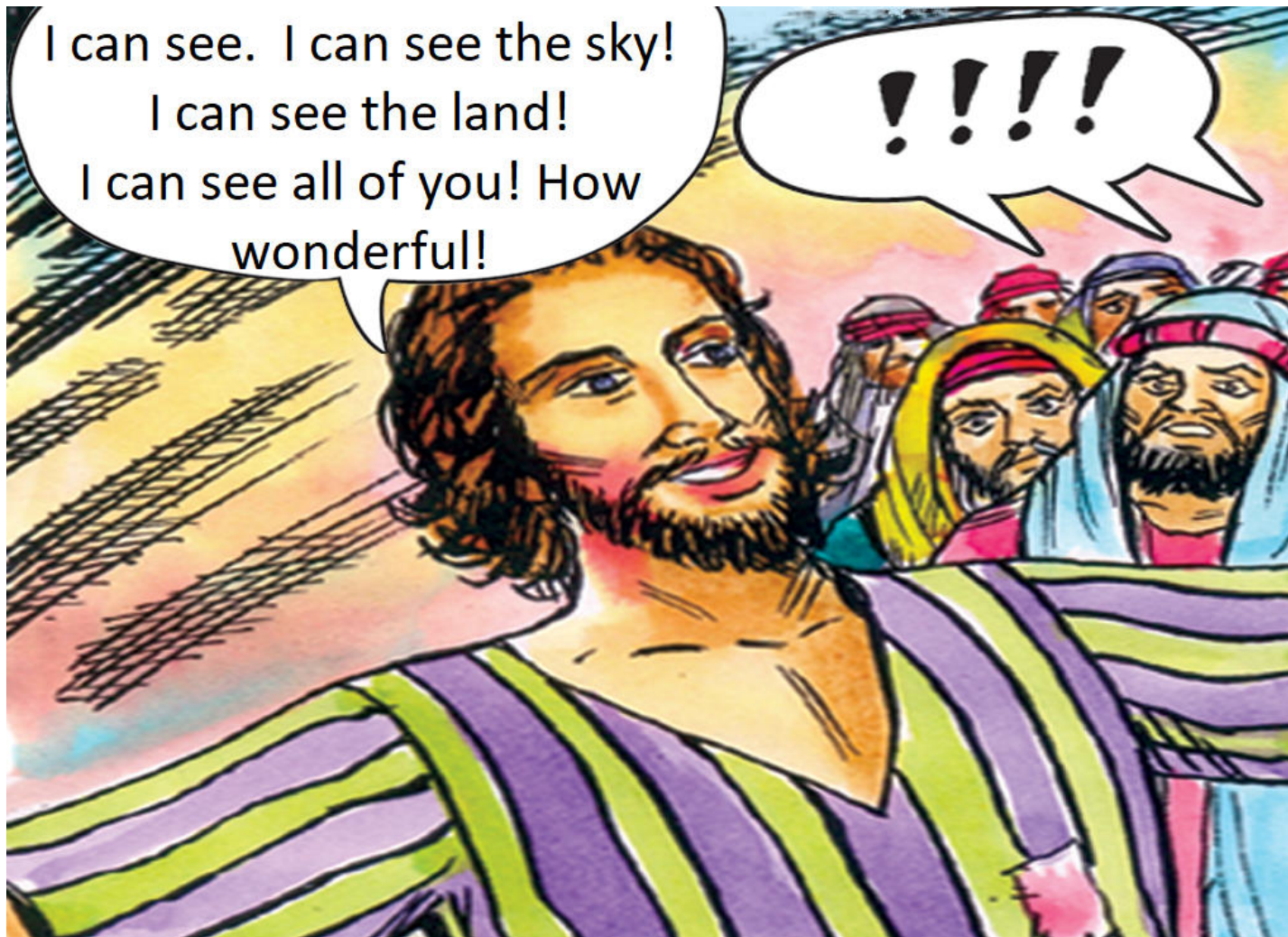






I can see. I can see the sky!  
I can see the land!  
I can see all of you! How  
wonderful!

!!!!

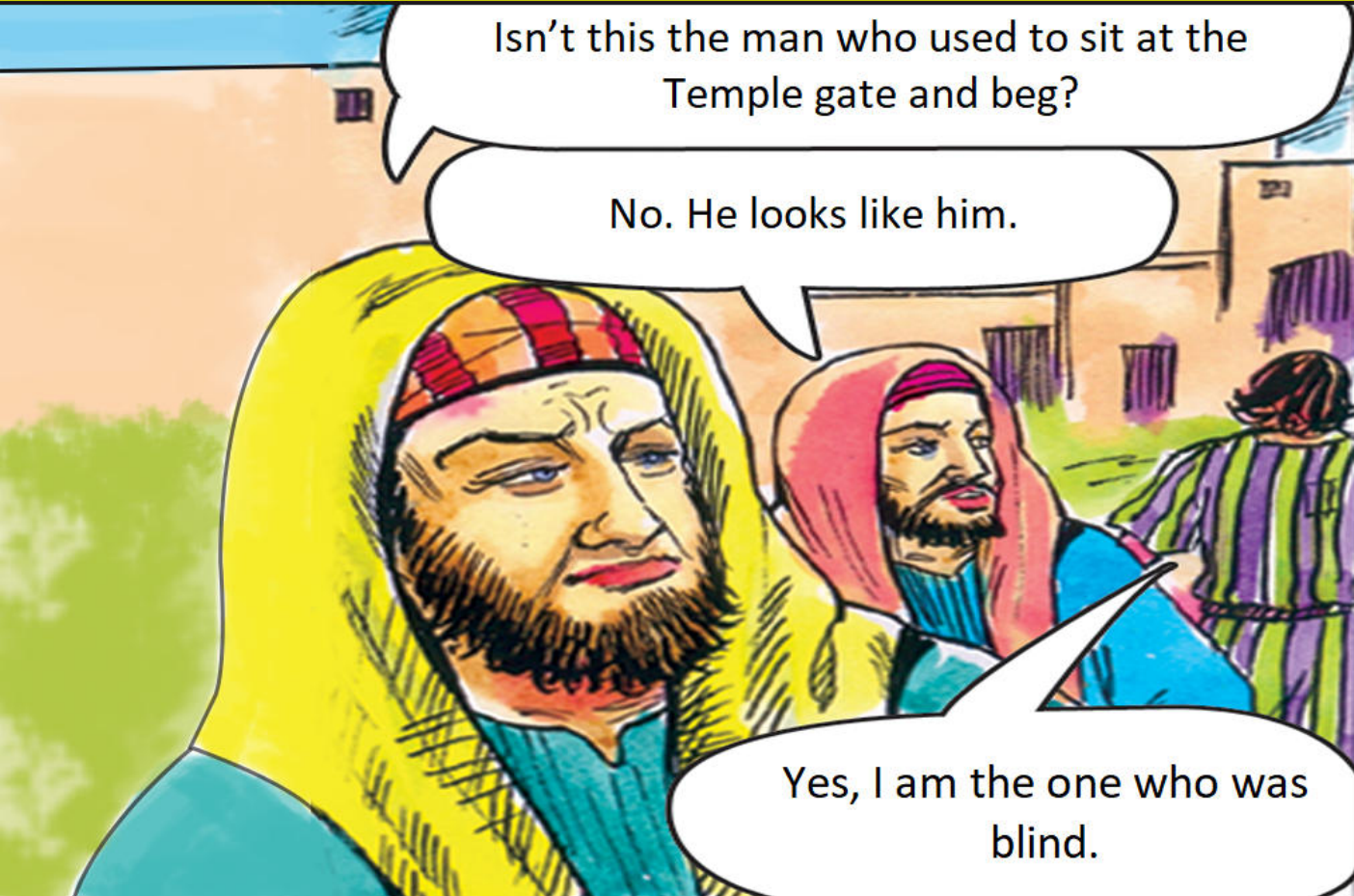


The man who was blind jumped up and down with joy and praised the Lord.

Isn't this the man who used to sit at the Temple gate and beg?

No. He looks like him.

Yes, I am the one who was blind.



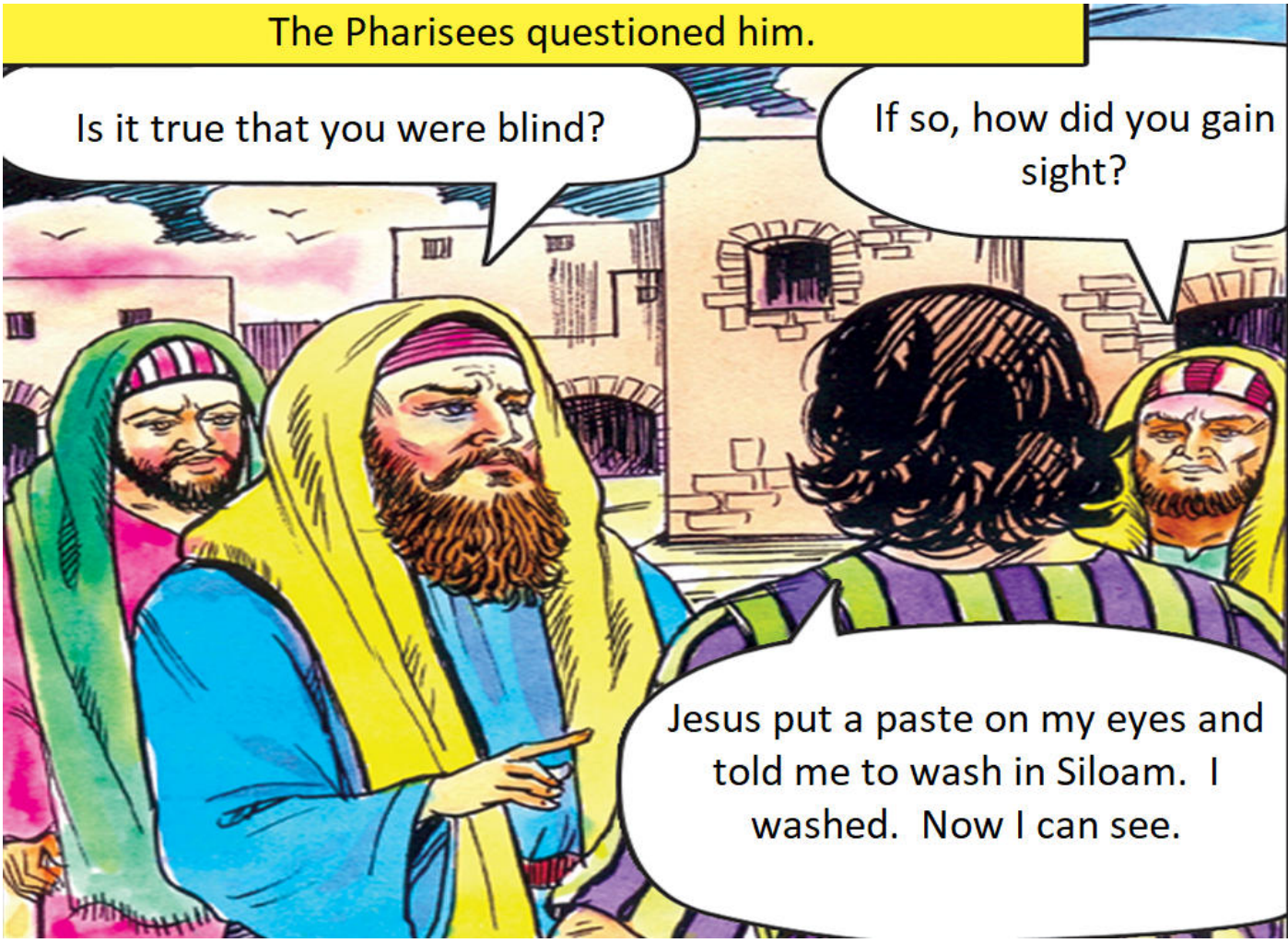



The Pharisees questioned him.

Is it true that you were blind?

If so, how did you gain sight?

Jesus put a paste on my eyes and told me to wash in Siloam. I washed. Now I can see.





What do you say about him?

He is a prophet.

?!!

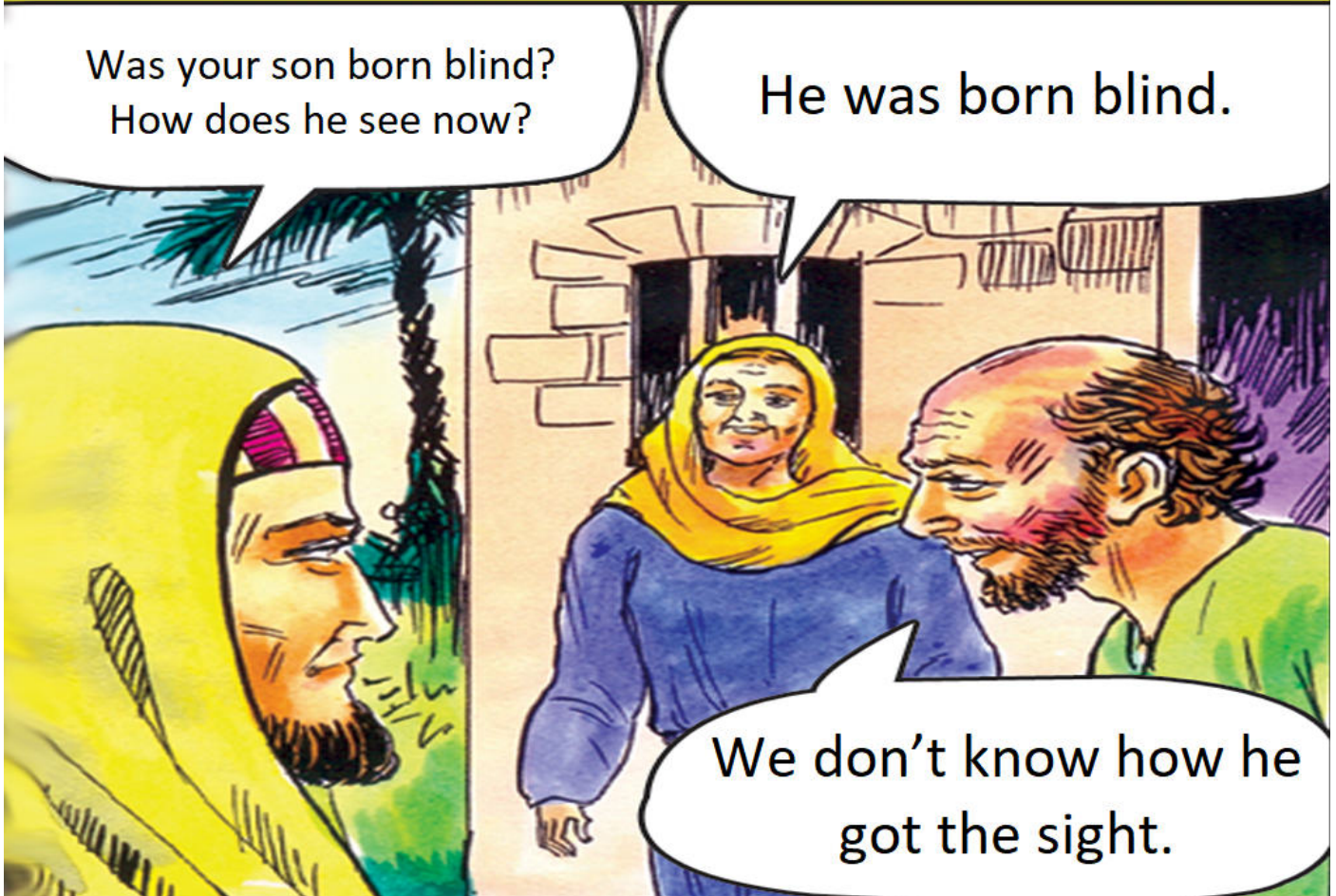


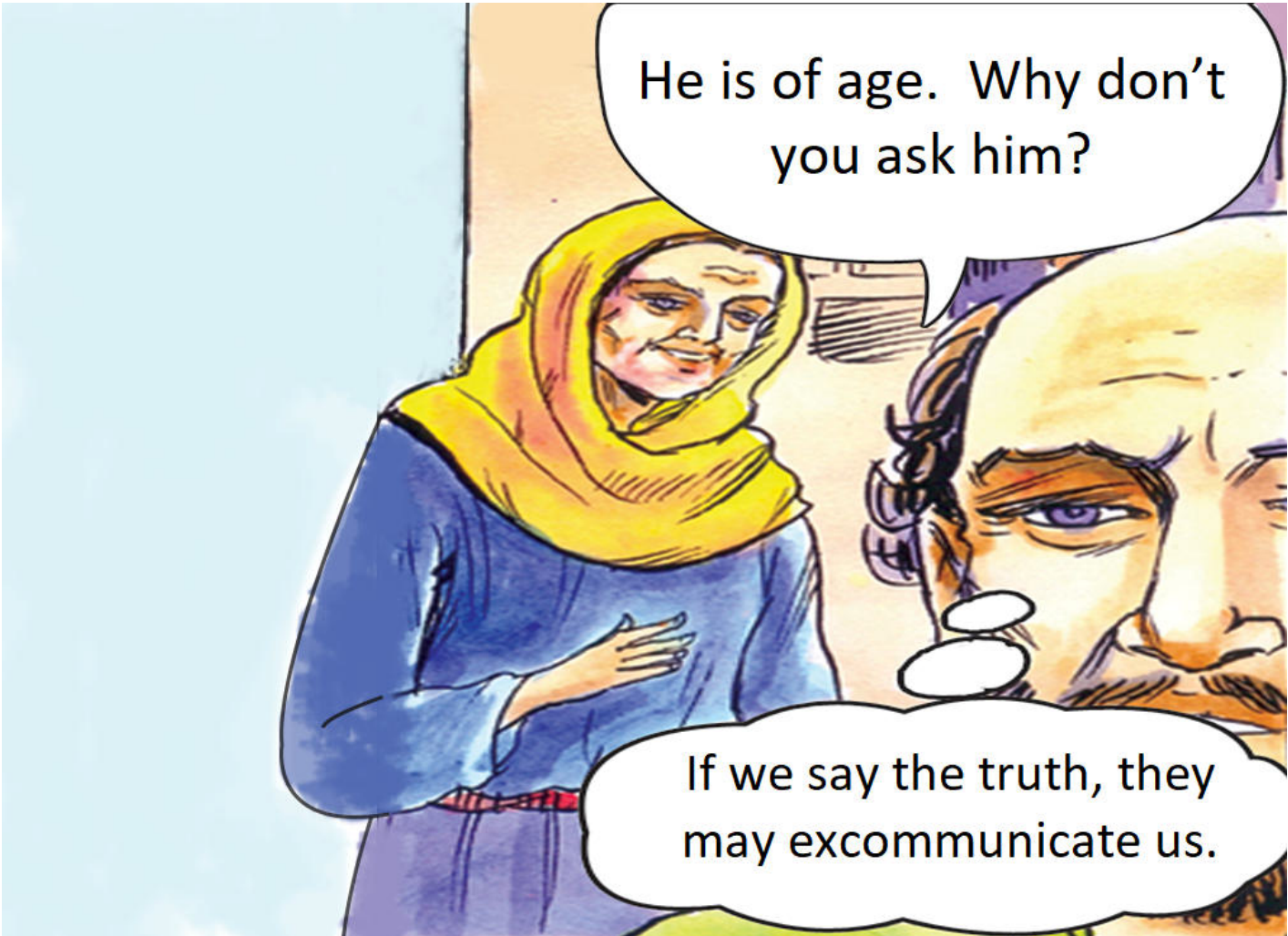
They questioned the blind man's parents.

Was your son born blind?  
How does he see now?

He was born blind.

We don't know how he  
got the sight.





He is of age. Why don't  
you ask him?

If we say the truth, they  
may excommunicate us.

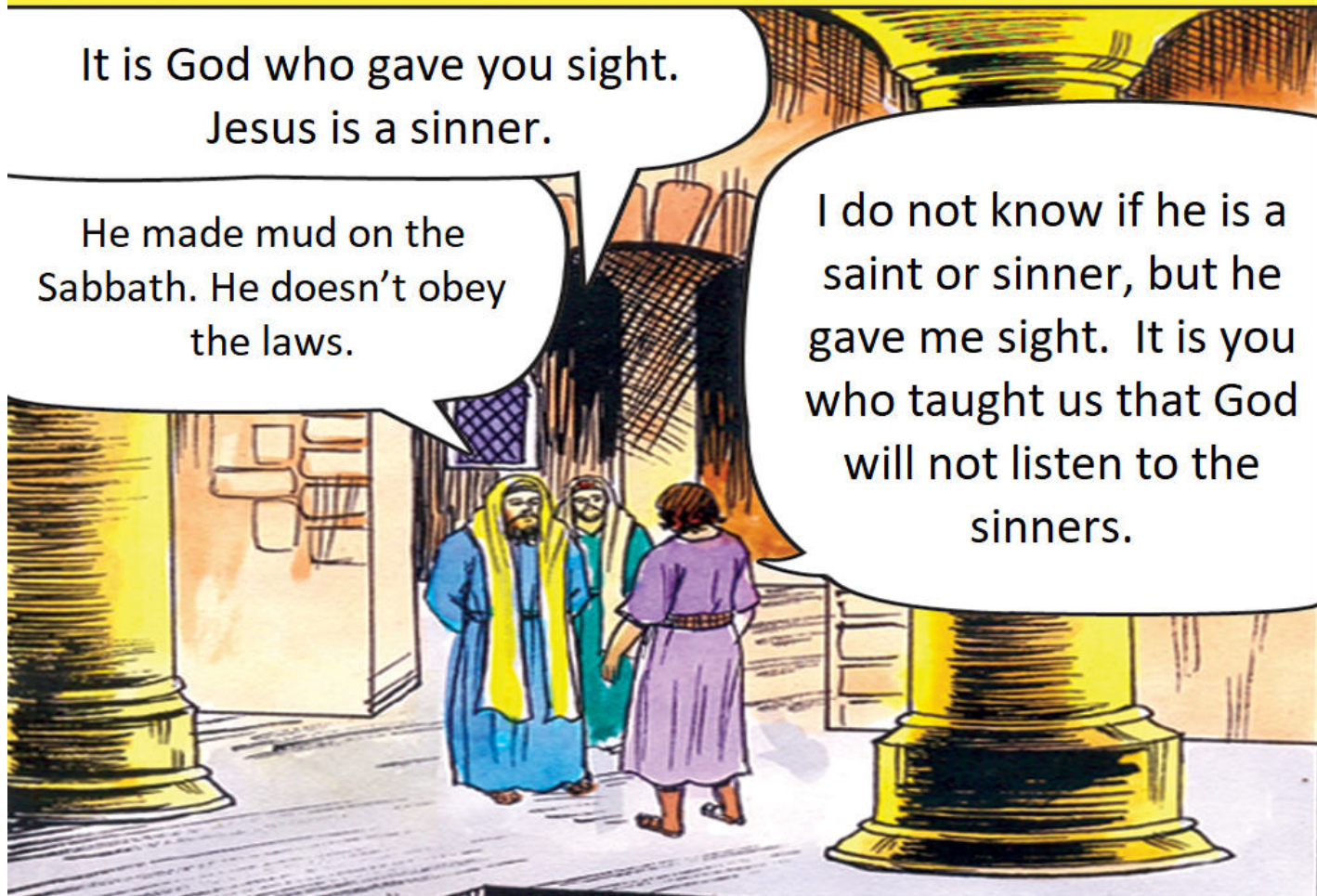


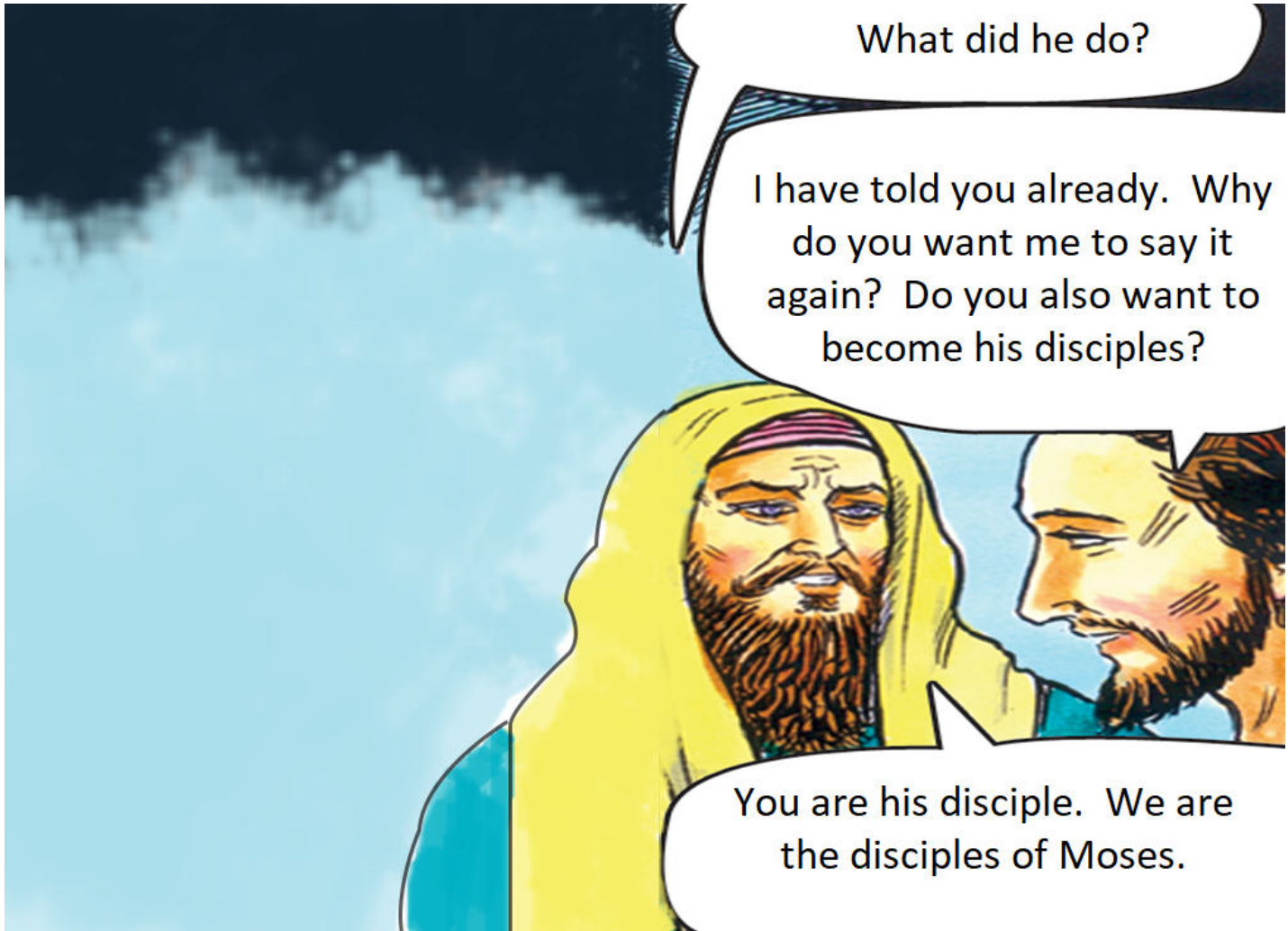
The Pharisees questioned the blind man again.

It is God who gave you sight.  
Jesus is a sinner.

He made mud on the  
Sabbath. He doesn't obey  
the laws.

I do not know if he is a  
saint or sinner, but he  
gave me sight. It is you  
who taught us that God  
will not listen to the  
sinners.





What did he do?

I have told you already. Why do you want me to say it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?

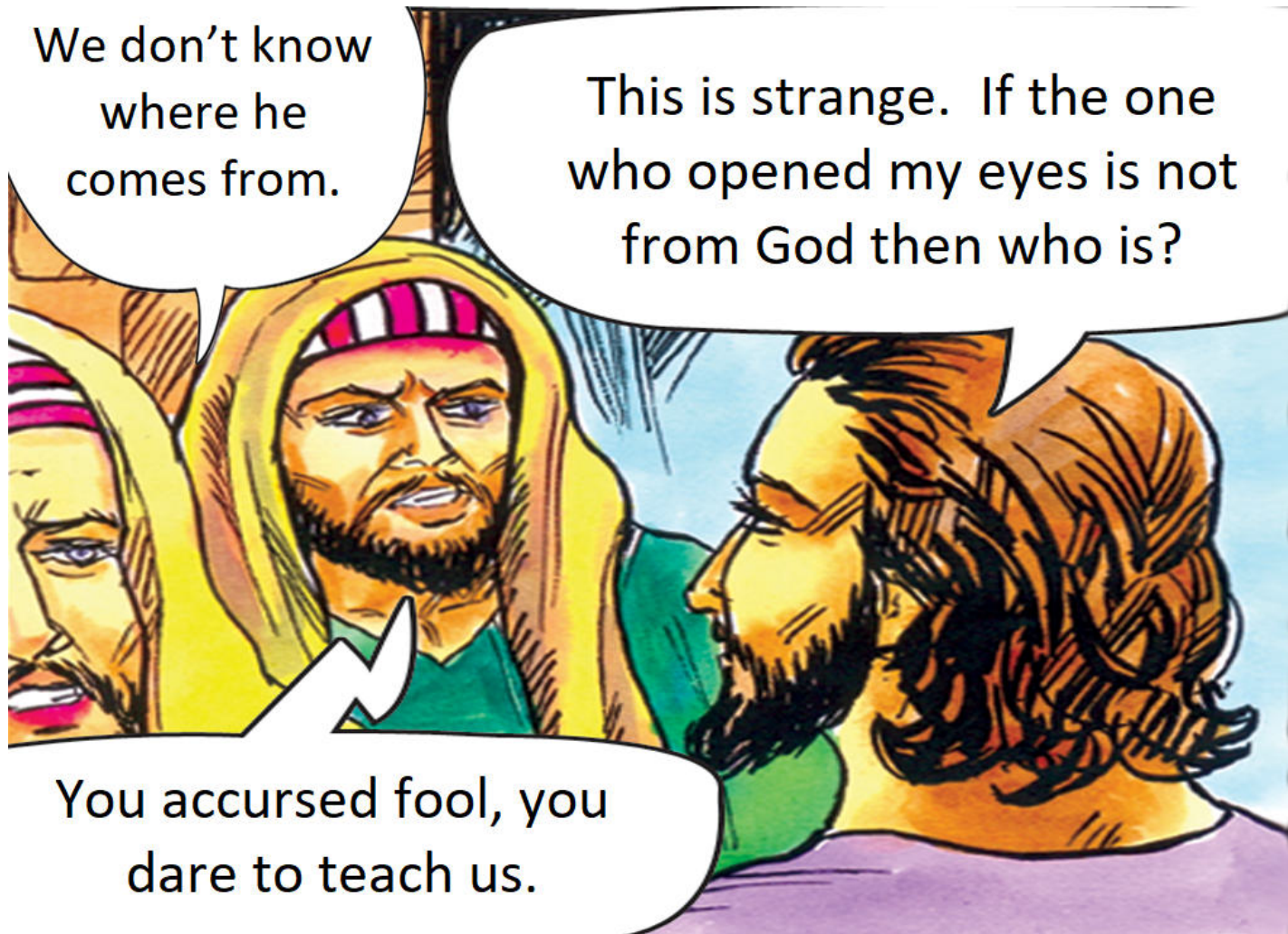
You are his disciple. We are the disciples of Moses.



We don't know  
where he  
comes from.

This is strange. If the one  
who opened my eyes is not  
from God then who is?

You accursed fool, you  
dare to teach us.



Get out; never enter  
the Temple or a  
Synagogue again.






Jesus heard that the blind man was cast out of the community.

Do you believe in the Son  
of Man?

Master, who is he?

!

You are looking at him.



Lord, I do believe.

I have come into this world  
so that the blind may have  
sight and those with sight  
may turn blind.

?!





The Pharisees who heard this asked.

Are you saying  
that we are  
blind?

If you were blind, you would  
not be guilty. But, since you  
pretend to have sight your  
guilt remains.

??



Jesus returned to Galilee.

Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.

My father died years ago. I worked hard to bring him up.



?!?

That doesn't mean that you won't have to give him his share.



Ever since I was a kid I  
worked like a slave.

He already got double  
his share. What I have, I  
made and is mine.



Beware of avarice; wealth doesn't give any lasting security. Once there was a rich farmer.





A good harvest! There is not  
enough room to store my  
crops.



Pull down the barns  
and build bigger  
ones.

Should we pull down  
what we have? Isn't it  
enough that we make  
a new one?





No, we need a good new barn.  
Start the work  
tomorrow itself.

I shall call more  
people to work.

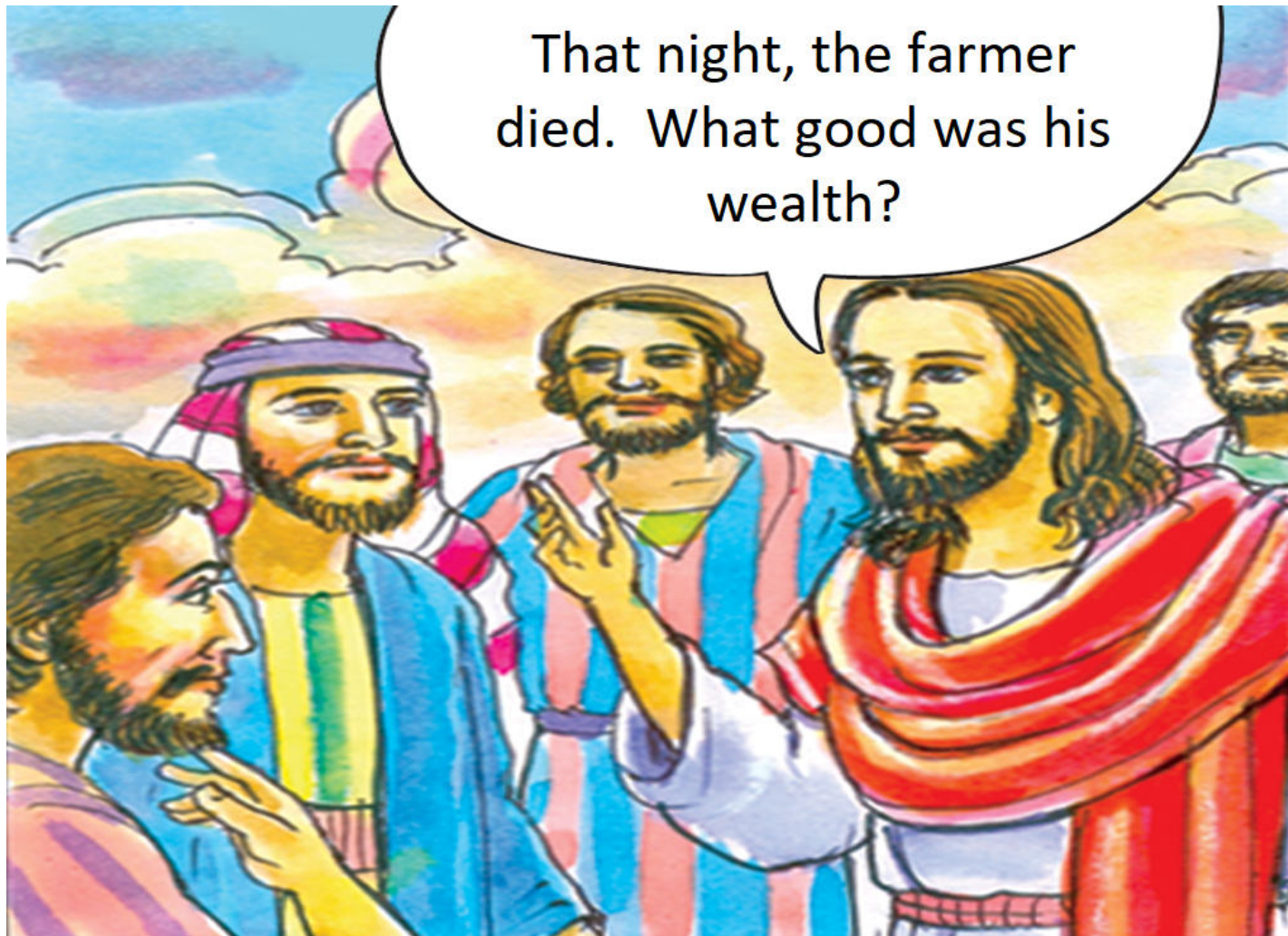


My soul, you have  
plenty of good  
things laid up for  
many years to  
come.





That night, the farmer  
died. What good was his  
wealth?

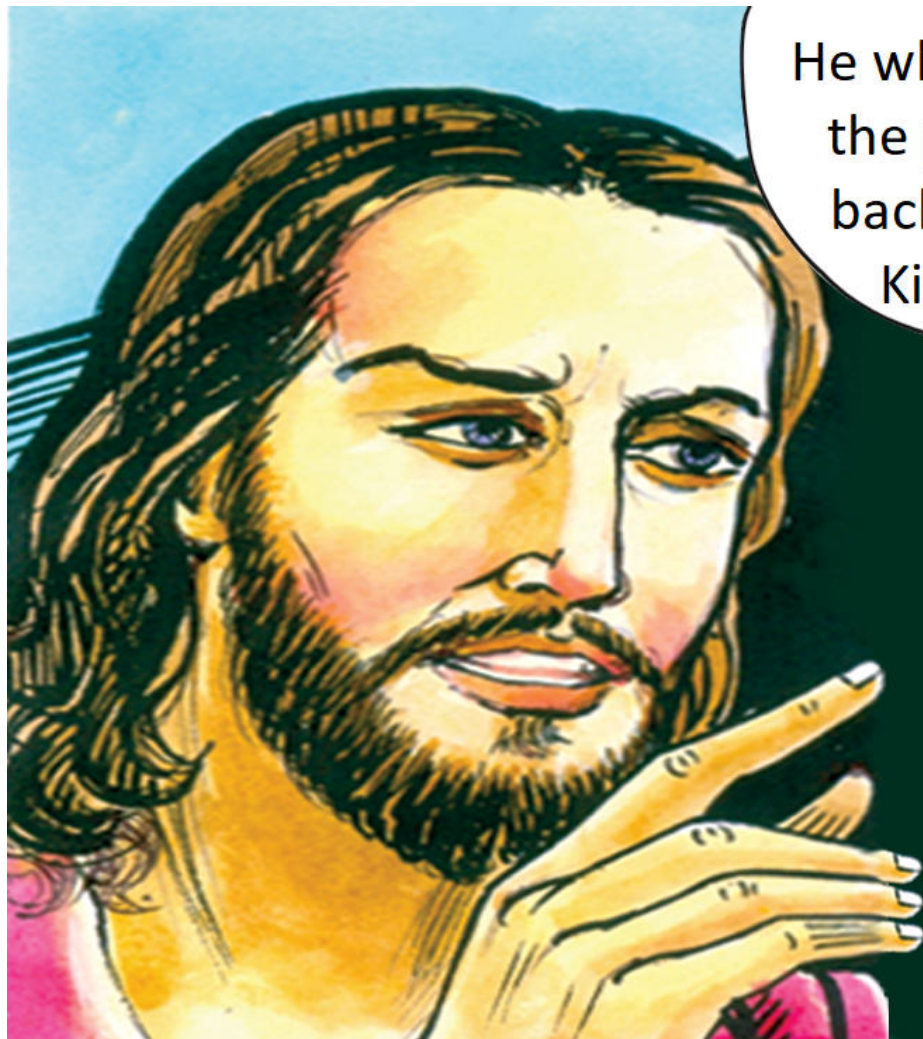


So it is with those  
who accumulate  
wealth and forget  
God.

Master, I don't want  
anything. Just allow me to  
come with you. But, first  
let me go and say good  
bye to my friends.

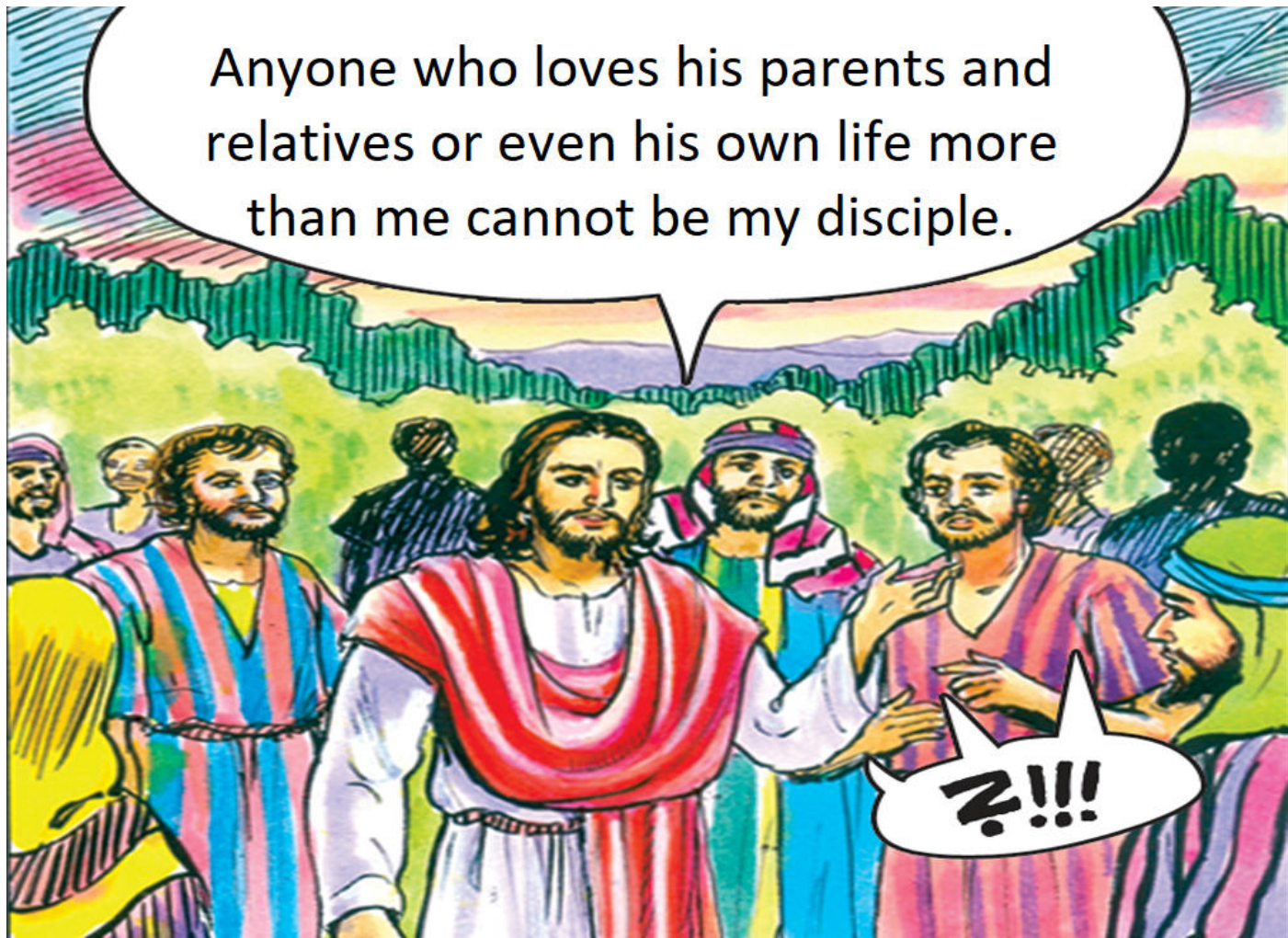






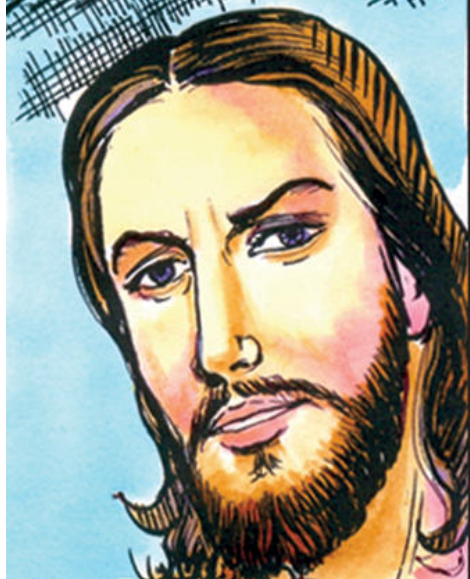
He who put his hand on  
the plough and turns  
back is not fit for the  
Kingdom of God.

Anyone who loves his parents and relatives or even his own life more than me cannot be my disciple.

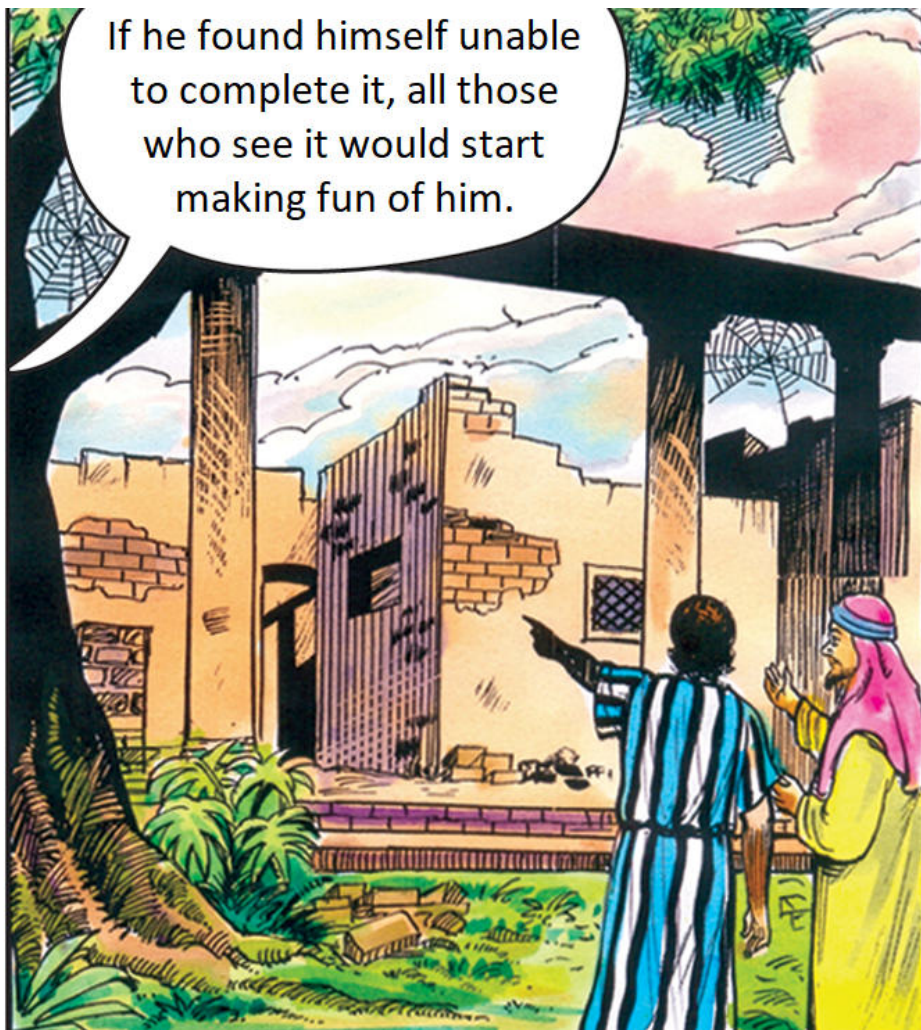




Is there anyone who would start building without first estimating if he has enough means to complete it?



If he found himself unable to complete it, all those who see it would start making fun of him.



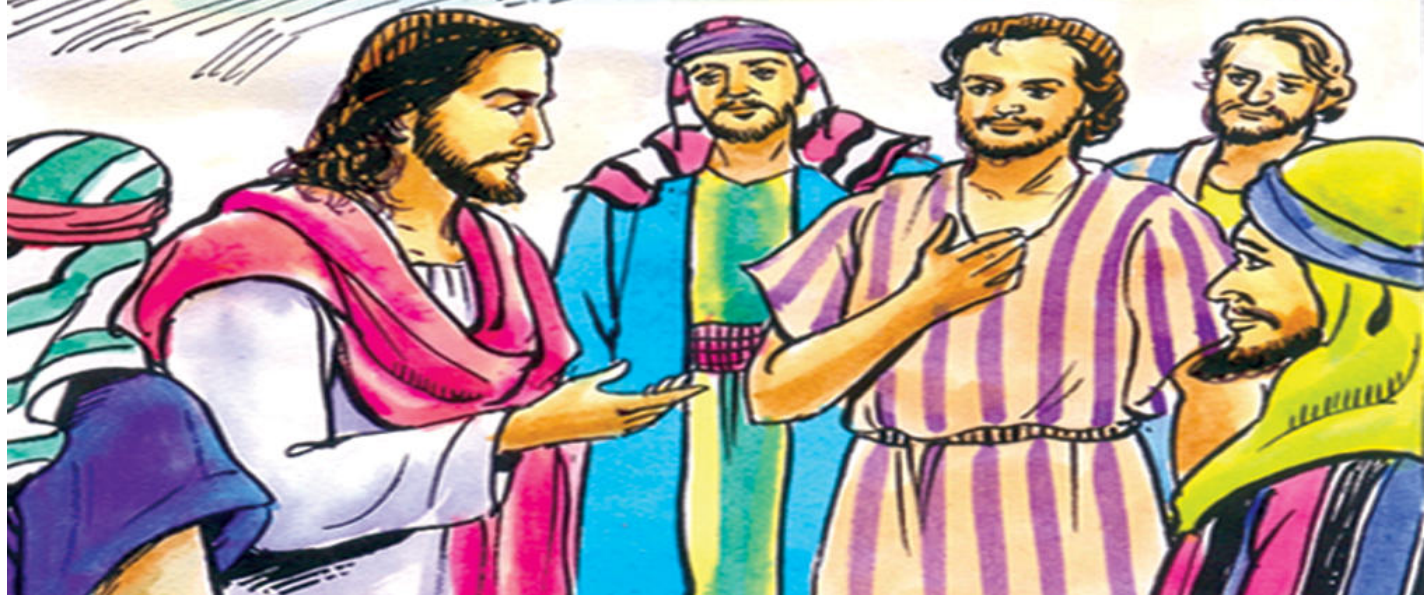


No servant is greater than his master. My disciples will not get a better reception than what I get.



Anyone who wants to follow  
me must carry his cross.  
Think and decide.

Master I am  
coming.  
Strengthen me.

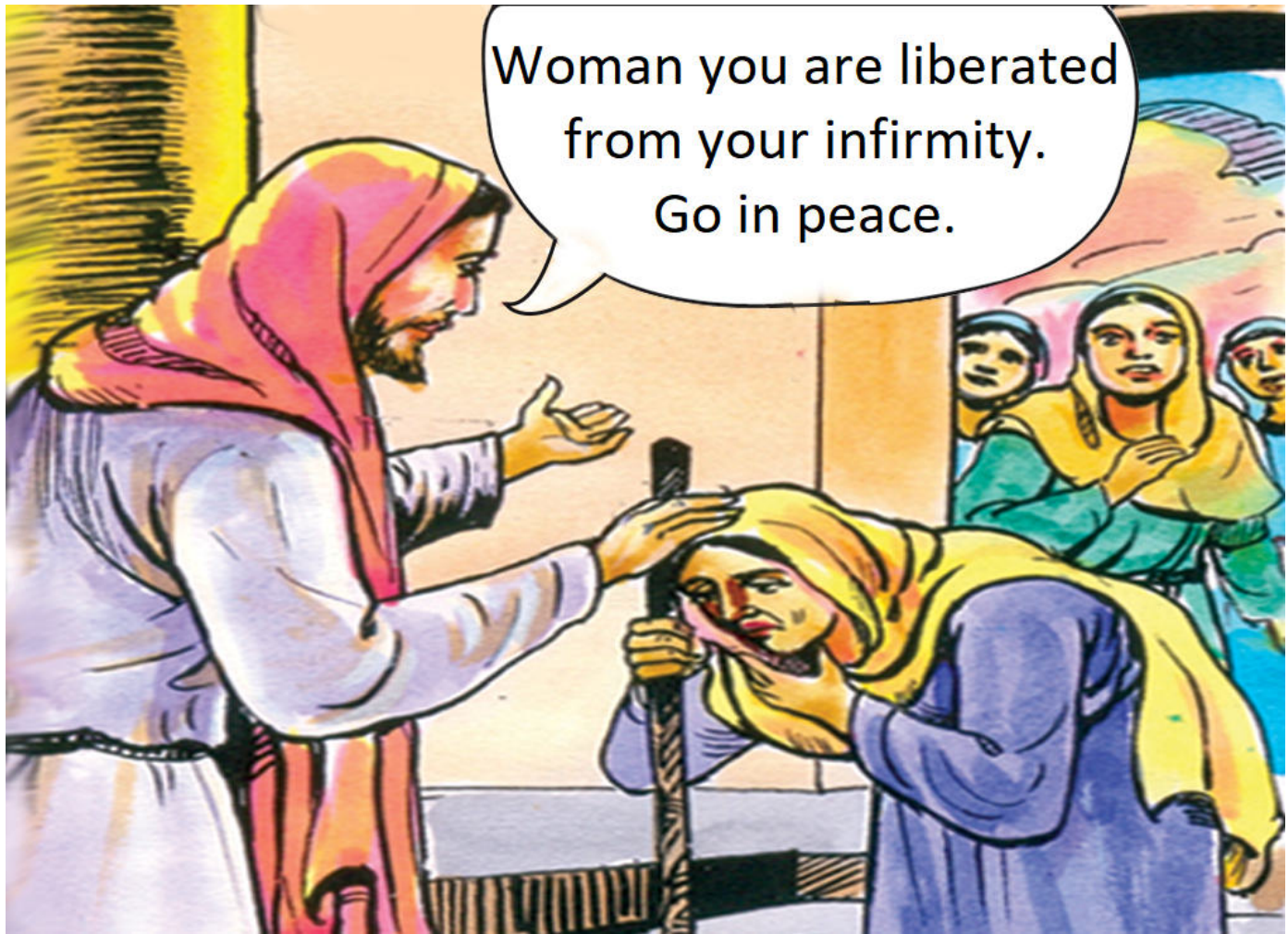


On a Sabbath day Jesus entered a Synagogue. There was a woman bent down.



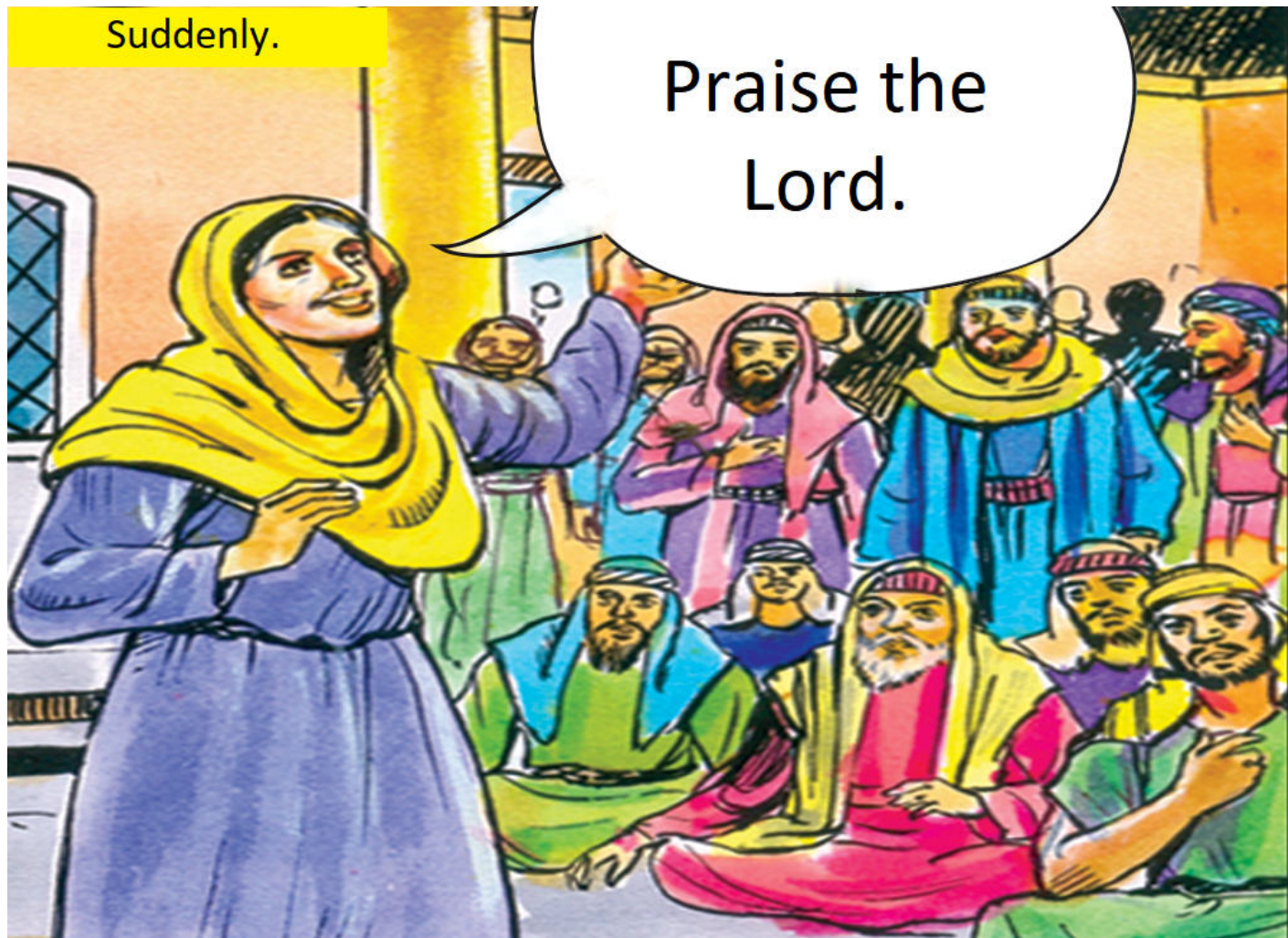


Woman you are liberated  
from your infirmity.  
Go in peace.



Suddenly.

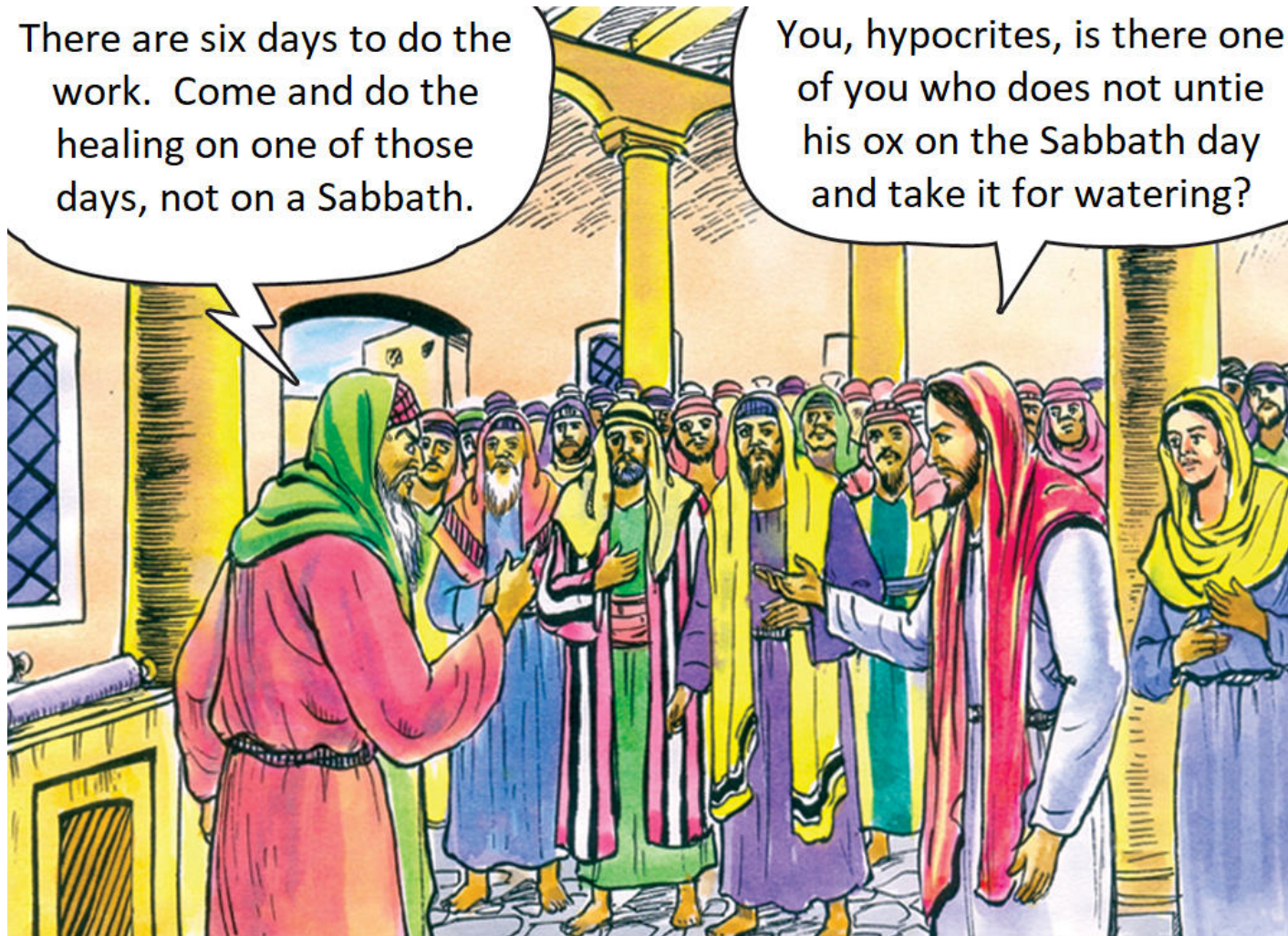
Praise the  
Lord.





There are six days to do the work. Come and do the healing on one of those days, not on a Sabbath.

You, hypocrites, is there one of you who does not untie his ox on the Sabbath day and take it for watering?





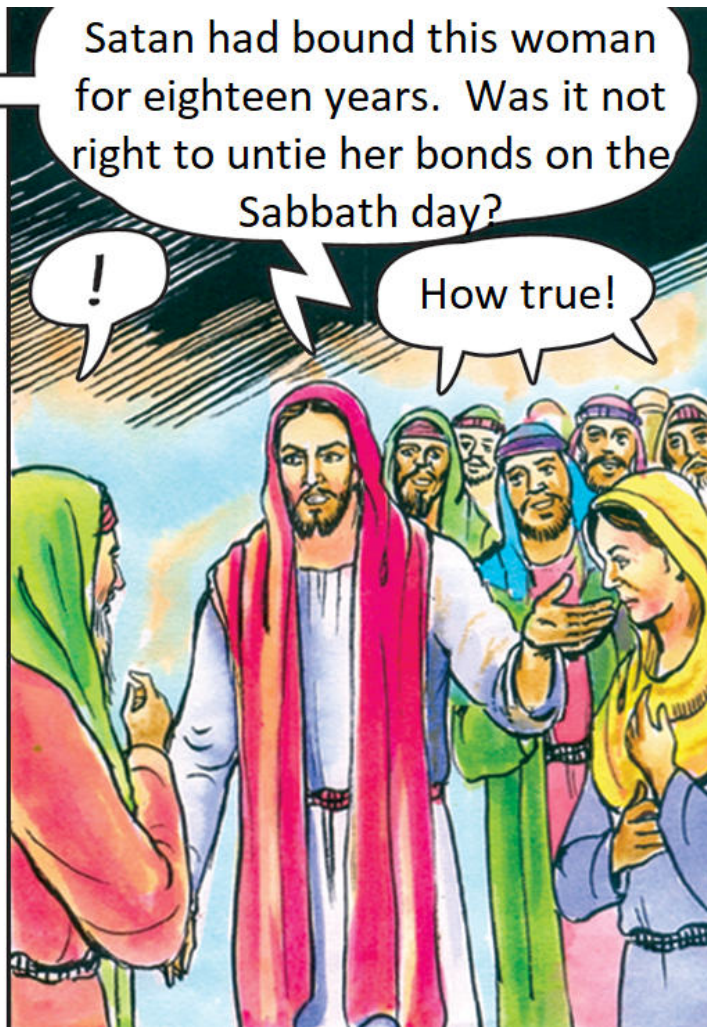
If one of your animals falls into a well, will you wait until the Sabbath is over to pull it out?



Satan had bound this woman for eighteen years. Was it not right to untie her bonds on the Sabbath day?

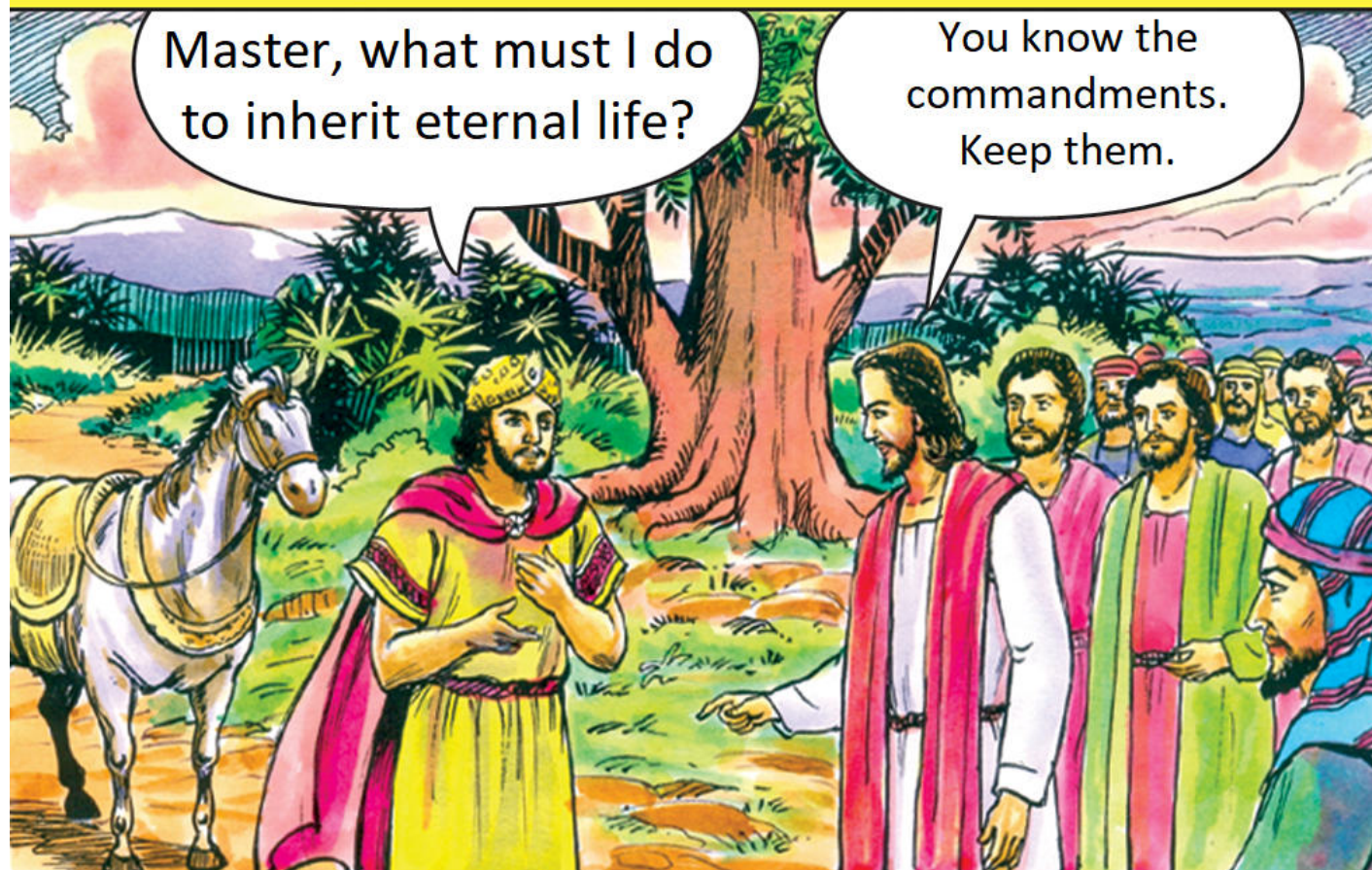
!

How true!





Hearing this, the people rejoiced. The enemies felt humiliated.



I have kept all of  
them since my  
childhood.

There is one thing you  
lack. Go and sell  
everything you own and  
give the money to the  
poor and you will have  
treasures in heaven.





Then come,  
follow me.

Everything my  
father and I  
made?

Everything.



The young man went away sad because he was very rich.







In that case, who  
can be saved?

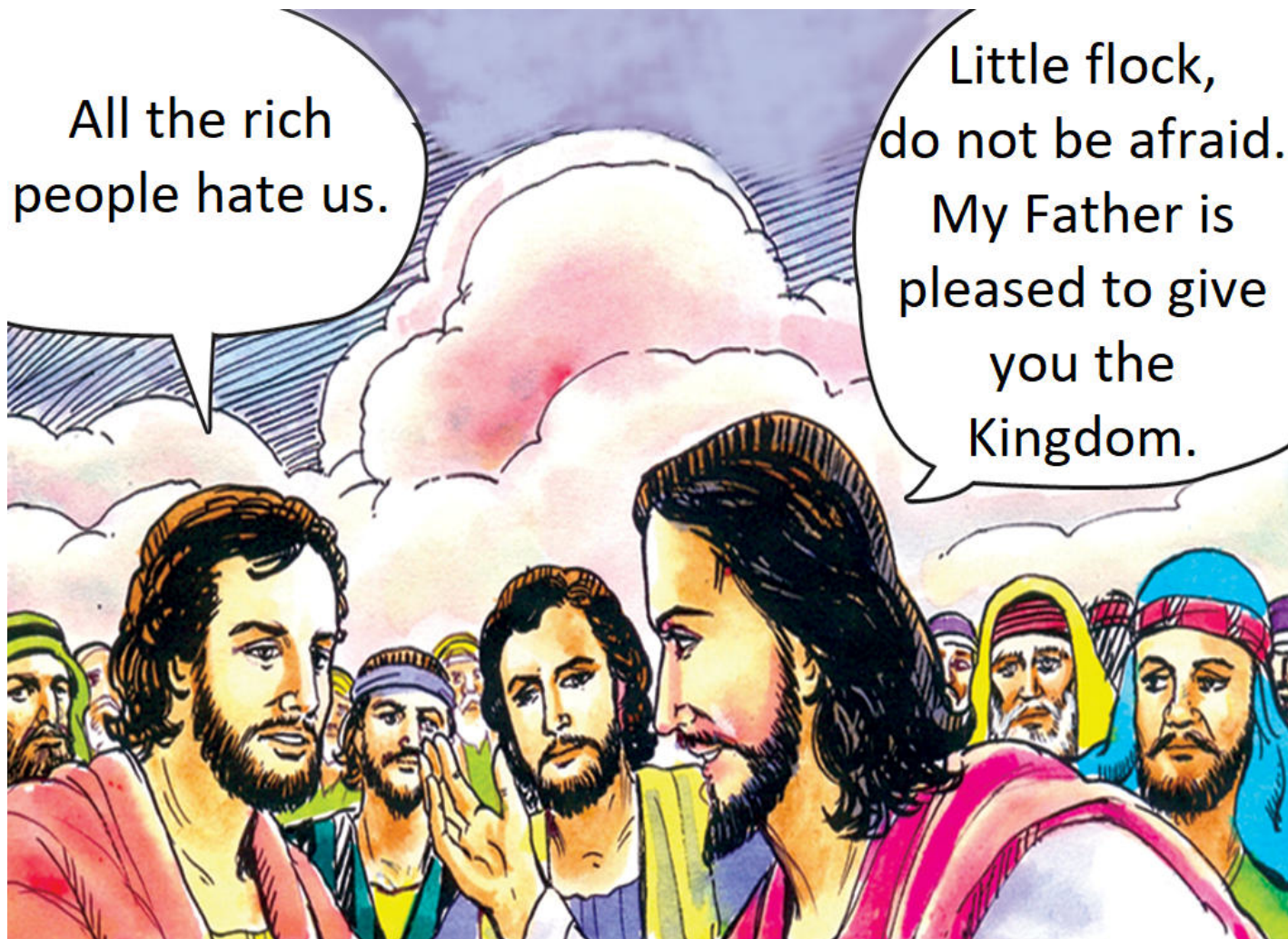
For man it is impossible  
but not for God.





All the rich  
people hate us.

Little flock,  
do not be afraid.  
My Father is  
pleased to give  
you the  
Kingdom.



Sell all that you have and give  
to the poor. You will have  
treasures in heaven.





Where your treasure is,  
there will your heart be  
also.



His own rejected Him.  
Disciples abandoned Him.  
The rich hated Him.  
The leaders plotted against Him.

Next Story:

# The Way



# Questions

1. Why did the Jewish leaders oppose Jesus?
2. Why did Jesus say that he was not going to Jerusalem for the feast?
3. What do you learn from the example of Martha and Mary?
4. What is the significance of the feast of the booths?
5. What does the good shepherd do for the sheep?
6. The soldiers did not arrest Jesus. Why?
7. What happened to the woman caught in adultery?
8. How was God glorified in the man born blind?
9. Tell the story of the rich fool in your own words.
10. The rich young man went away sad. Why?

Memorize: ***“Man’s life is not made secure by what he owns”*** (Luke 12, 15)

# 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