

Bible Comics - 44
Jesus Christ - 14
The Redeemer



THE REDEEMER

The present story depicts the suffering and death of Jesus. Crucifixion was the Roman form of punishment meted out to run-away slaves and to rebels. Why was Jesus who was neither a slave nor a criminal condemned to such a punishment? It would seem that the jealousy of the Jewish leaders and the cowardice of the Roman procurator were responsible for his condemnation. However, these were not the only reasons and not the major reasons for Jesus 'crucifixion'.

Seen from the part of the religious leaders and the Roman procurator, they both had sufficient reasons to condemn Jesus. Before the Sanhedrin, he declared, leaving no room for doubt, that he was the Son of God, the Christ, and thus claimed equality with God. The Jewish leaders saw this as blasphemy deserving capital punishment. Before Pilate Jesus declared that he was king. The Roman official considered it as treason because he could not conceive of a king or kingdom other than that of this world. We can give such explanations to all other human agents

whom we hold responsible for Jesus, death. Searching beyond the natural explanations, we can see that the death of Jesus was not caused by any particular individual or community. It was caused by the sins of the entire human race that rejected God.

Humanity is saved from the dominion of sin by God's love. The divine love for the sinful humanity was manifested through the Incarnation and death of the Son of God. "God loved the world so much that he gave his only son" (John 3:16). According to the teaching of

the bible, death is the fruit of sin. The death of Jesus on the cross reveals the gravity of sin on the one hand and the depth of God's love on the other.

By dying on the cross, Jesus expressed his absolute obedience to the will of the Father and his infinite love for us, sinful people. "The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them" (John 15:13). Sin entered the world through the disobedience of the first man, Adam, and every human being adds his own share by disobeying God's

commandments. Jesus, the perfect man, the new Adam, redeemed us from the sin by surrendering himself to God's will. Thus, the death of Jesus on the cross is his victory over sin and death. Jesus transformed the cross that was a symbol of the most shameful punishment into the instrument of redemption.

The few words Jesus spoke from the cross present the gospel in a nutshell. He prayed for those who rejected and ridiculed him. His promise to the thief is addressed to all the repentant sinners. By entrusting his mother to

his beloved disciple, Jesus instituted a new family, the church. His thirst for redeeming the whole world continues to the end of time. Every believer can die as Jesus died by commending his spirit in the hands of the Father. Death in the Lord Jesus is the beginning of eternal life.

Bible Comics – 44

Jesus Christ – 14

The Redeemer

Script:

Rev. Dr. Michale Karimattam

Illustration:

Devassy & Benny

After the Passover, Jesus with his disciples went to the garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives.

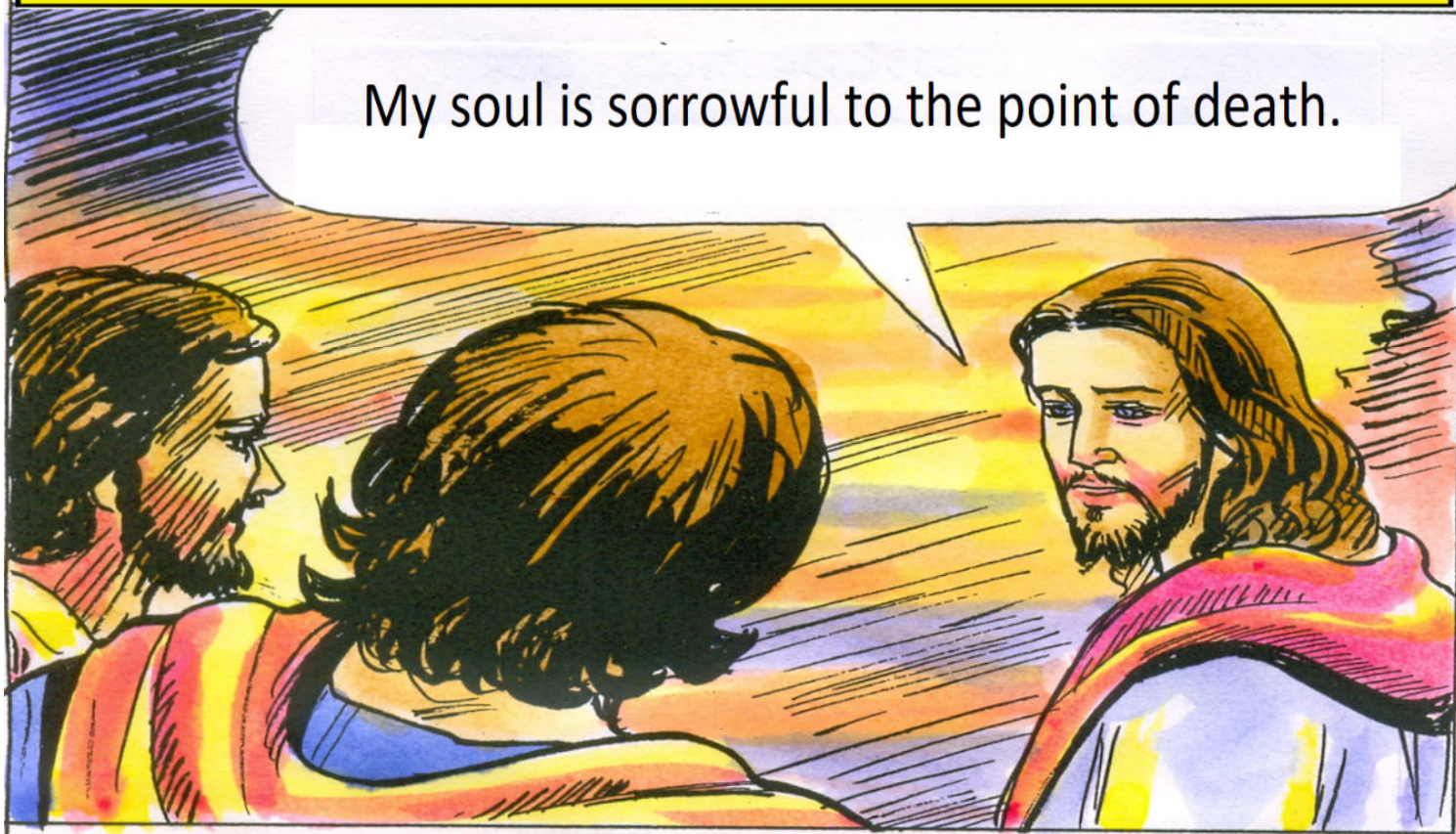
I am going to pray. Stay awake and pray that you will not fall into temptation.

!!!?



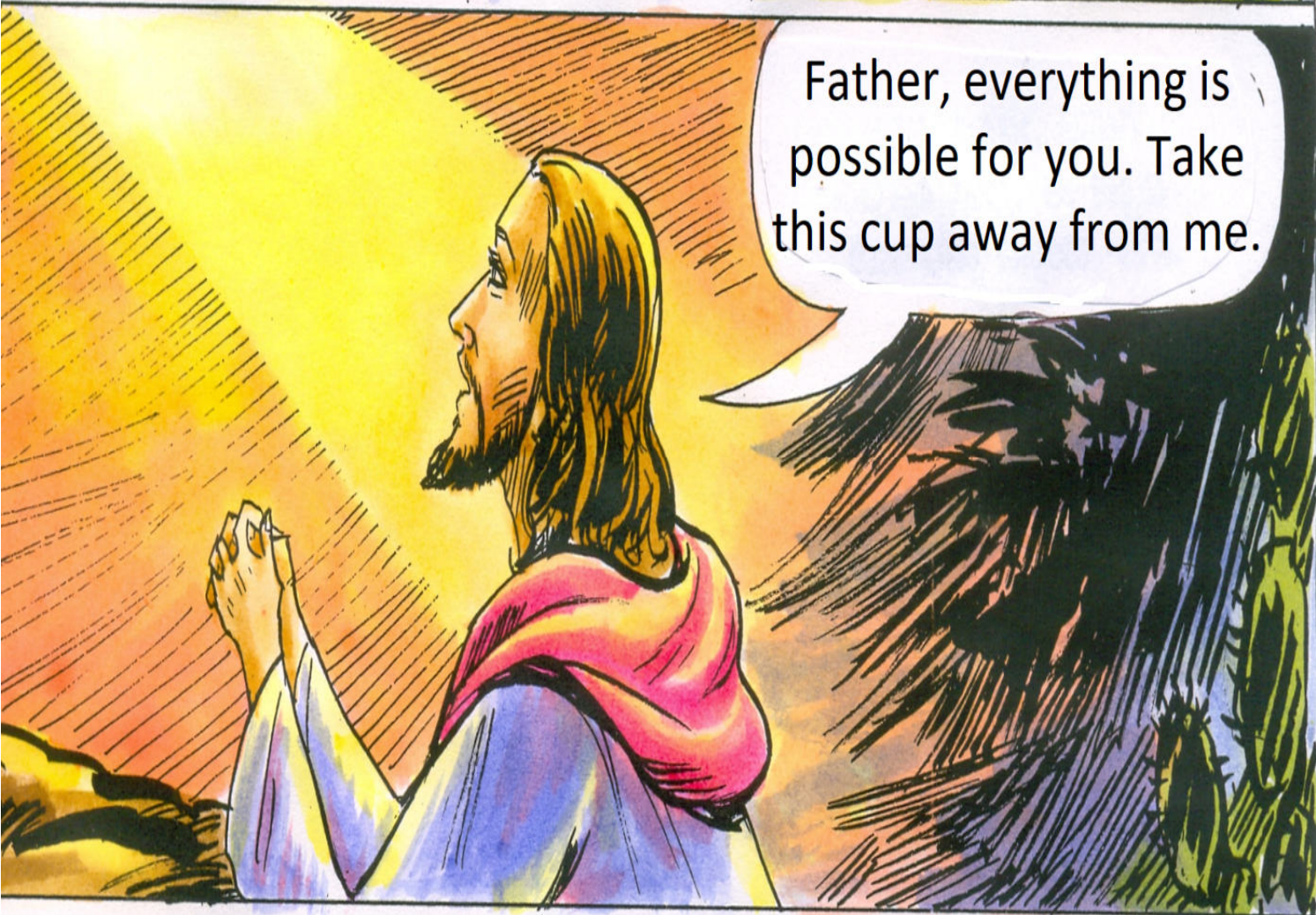
He took Peter, James, and John and went a little further.

My soul is sorrowful to the point of death.



He went a little distance away.



A comic book illustration of Jesus in profile, facing left. He has long brown hair and a beard, and is wearing a blue robe with a pinkish-red sash. His hands are clasped in prayer. The background is a bright yellow and orange sky with radiating lines, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. To the right, there is a dark, rocky landscape with some green foliage. A speech bubble is positioned above Jesus's head, containing the text: "Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup away from me."

Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup away from me.

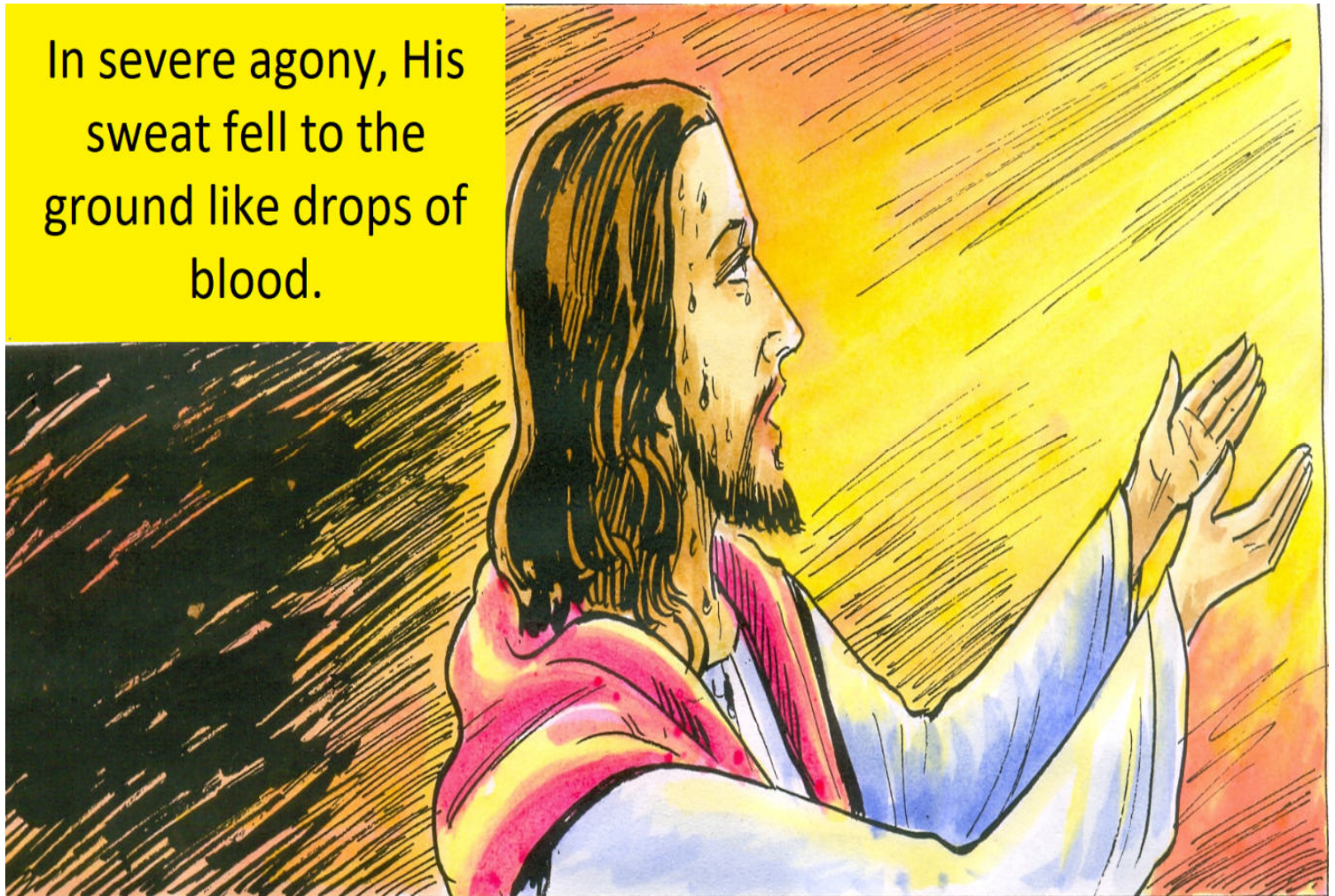
But, let it be as you, not I, would have it.



In great anguish, he prayed even more fervently.




In severe agony, His
sweat fell to the
ground like drops of
blood.



How is it that you were
unable to stay awake with
me for an hour?





Get up, let us go. My
betrayer is close at hand.

?!?



Master.

???

My friend, with this
kiss you betray
your Master.

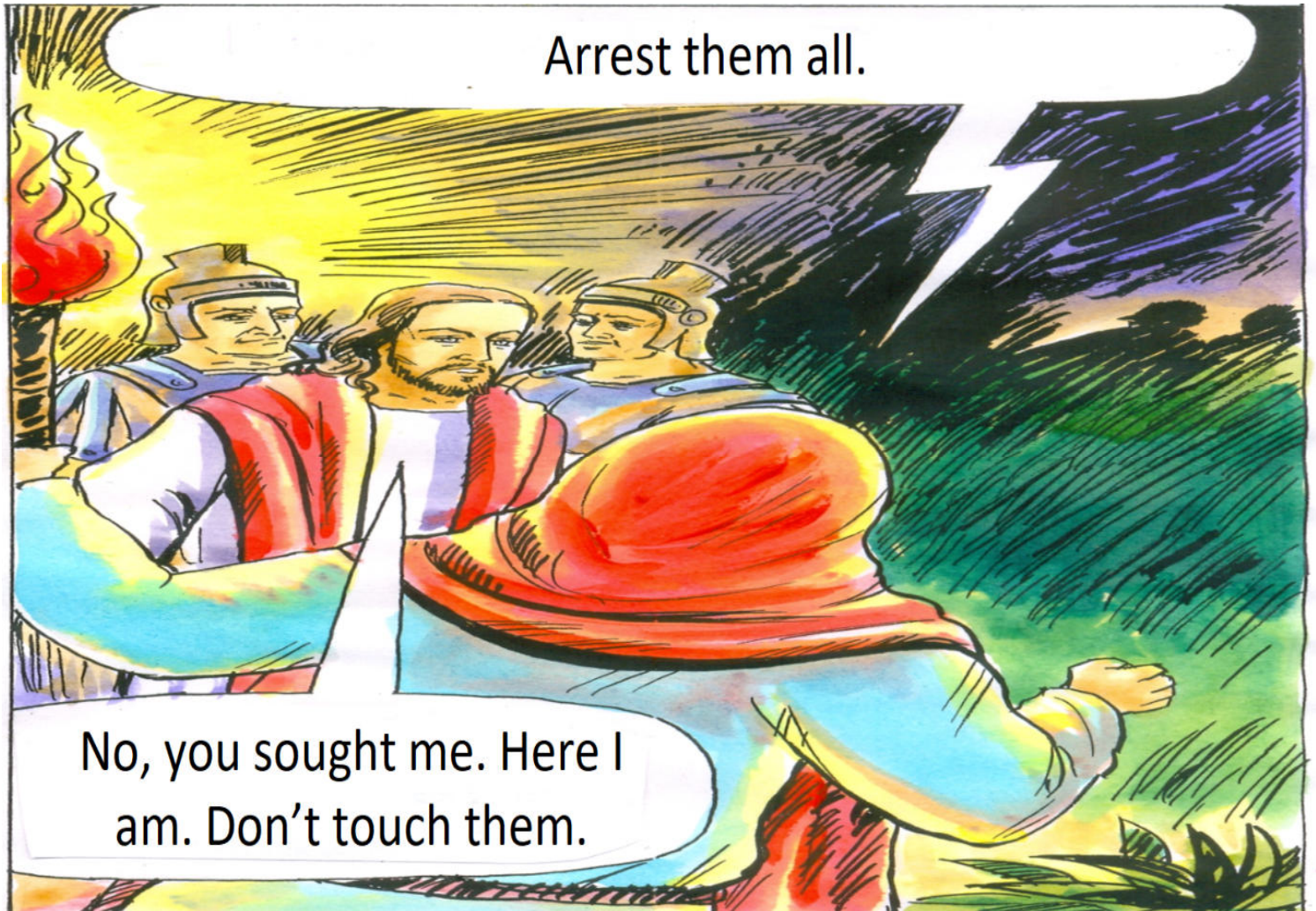
That is Jesus.
Arrest him.

Master, shall we use our sword?

Put your swords back. All who draw the sword
will die by the sword.



Arrest them all.



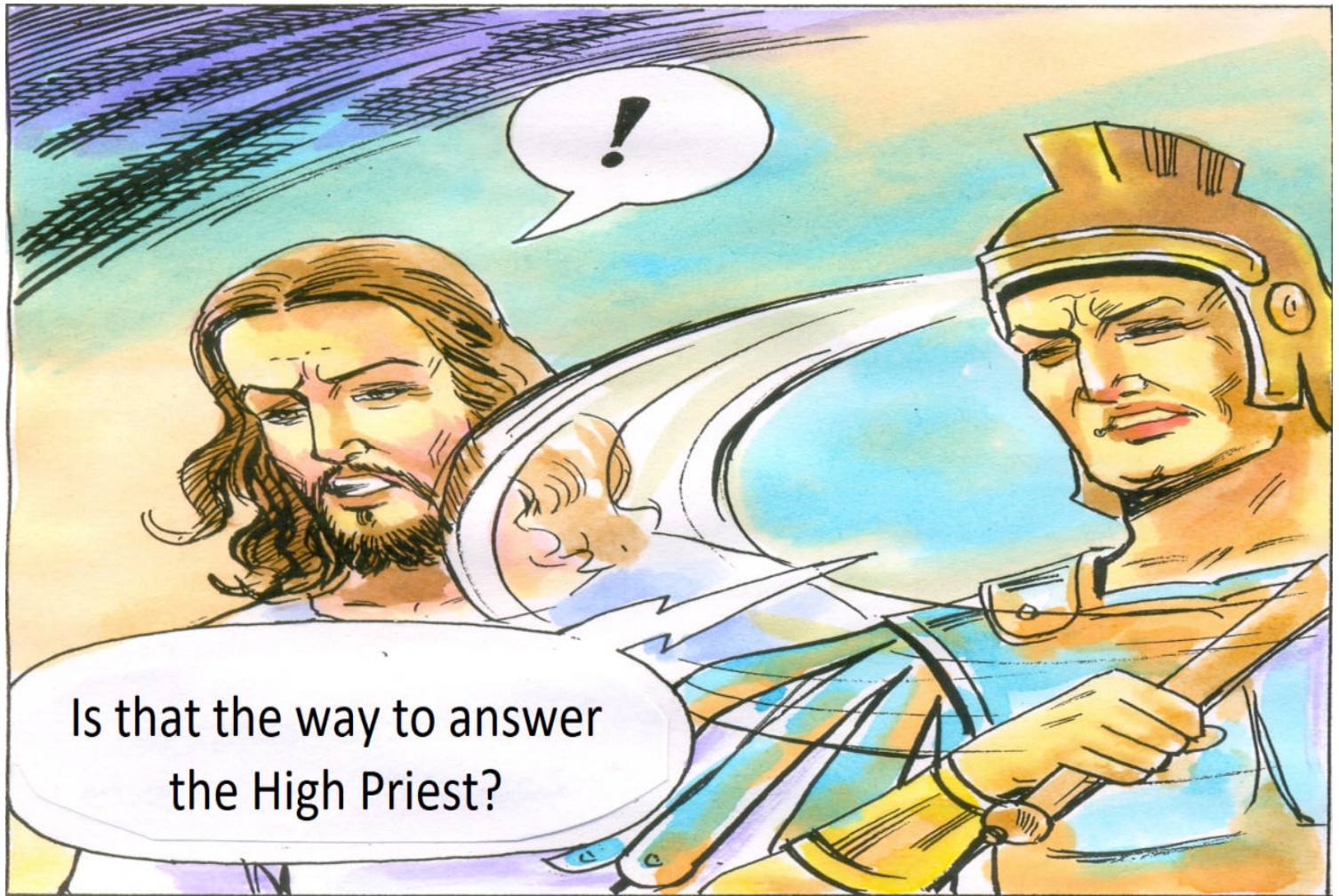
No, you sought me. Here I am. Don't touch them.

The disciples ran away. The soldiers took Jesus to
Annas, the father in law of the High Priest, Caiphas.

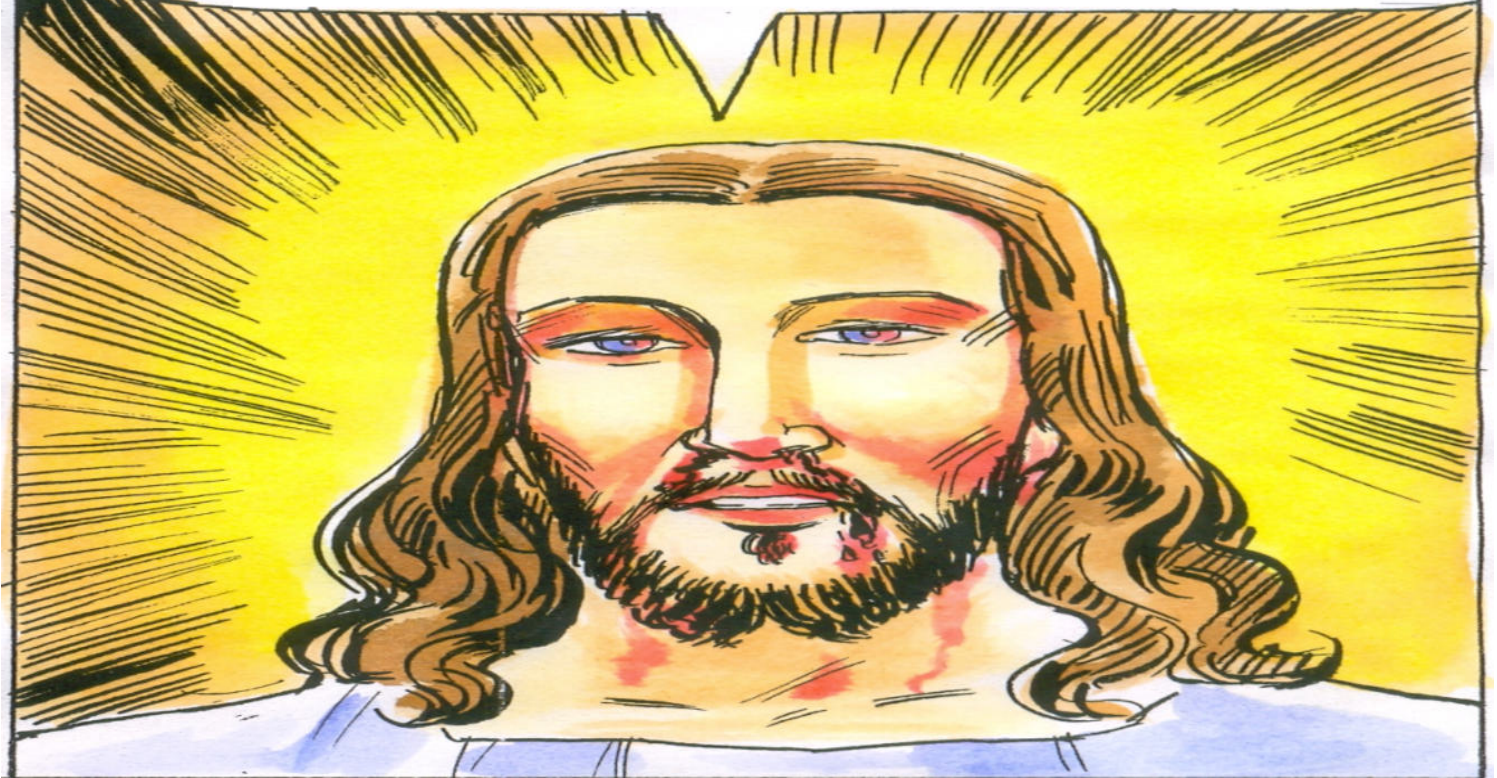
What are your teachings?
Who are your companions?

I have spoken openly for all the
world to hear. Why ask me? Ask
those who heard me, they are
my witnesses.





If I said something wrong, point it out to me.
If not, why do you strike me?



Peter followed Jesus at a distance and entered the courtyard. He sat at the fireside.



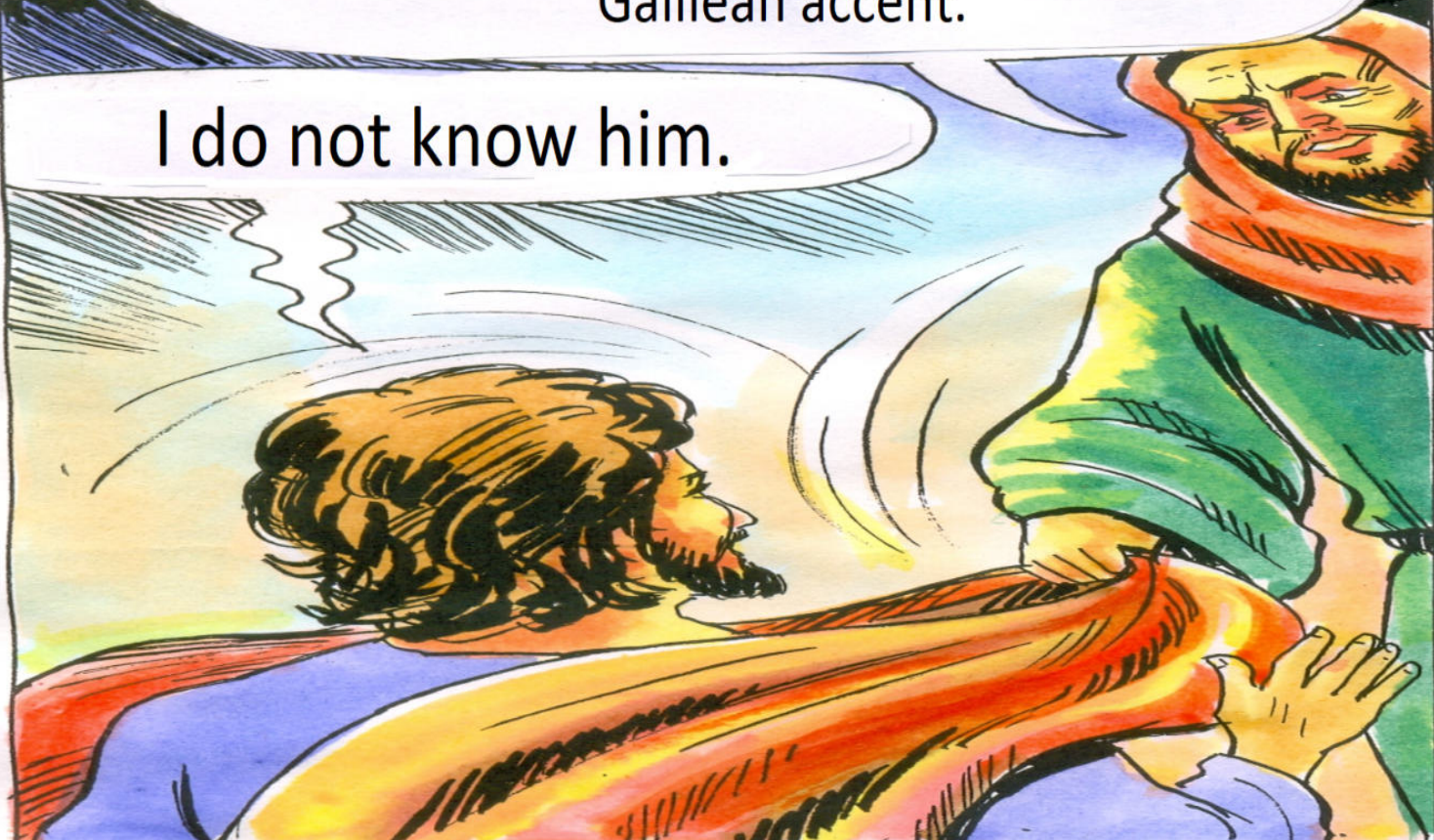
Aren't you a companion of that Galilean?

!?

No, you must be mistaken.

This fellow was certainly with him. Listen to that Galilean accent.

I do not know him.

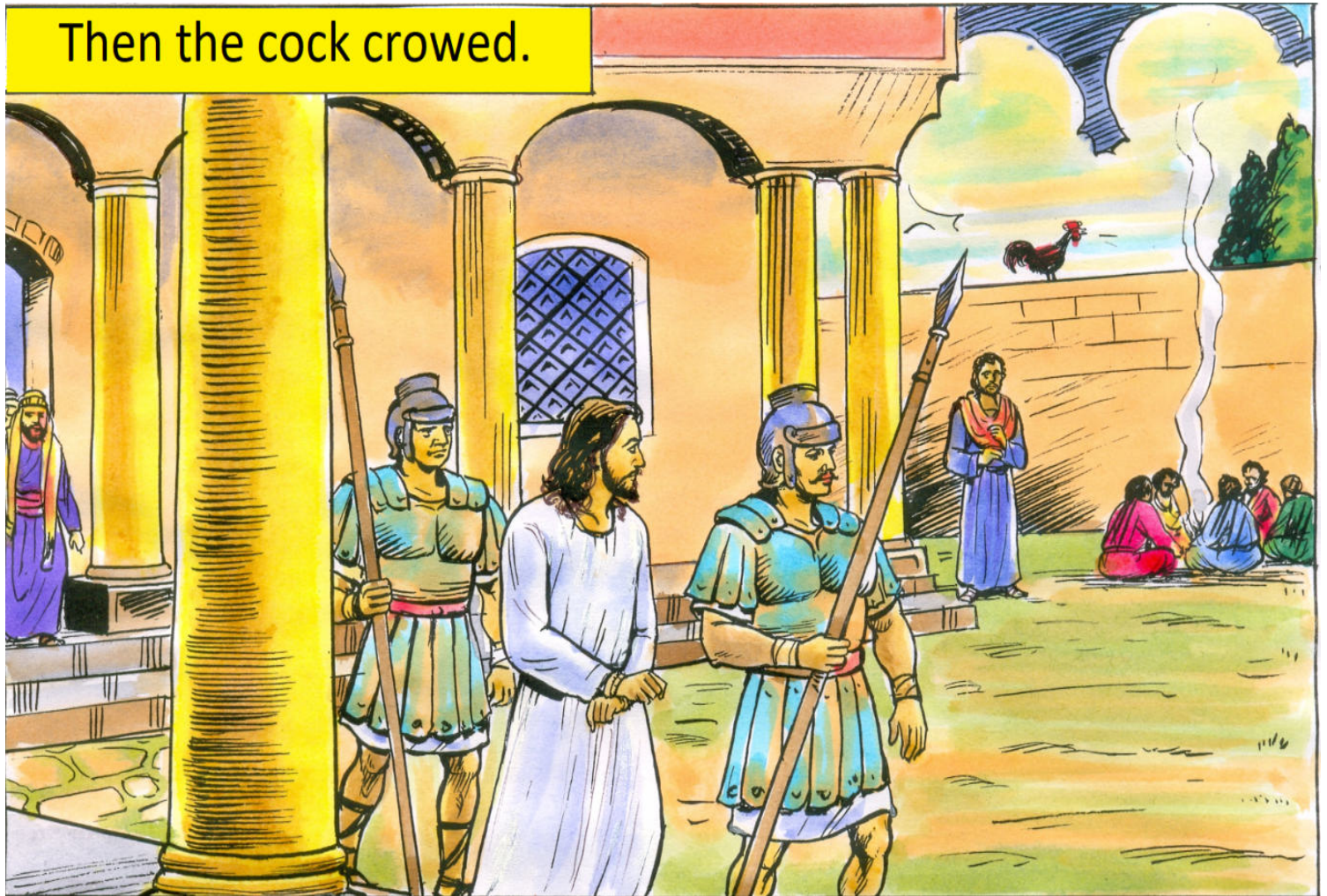


Didn't I see you in the garden? Weren't you the one who drew the sword?



I swear, I do not know that man.

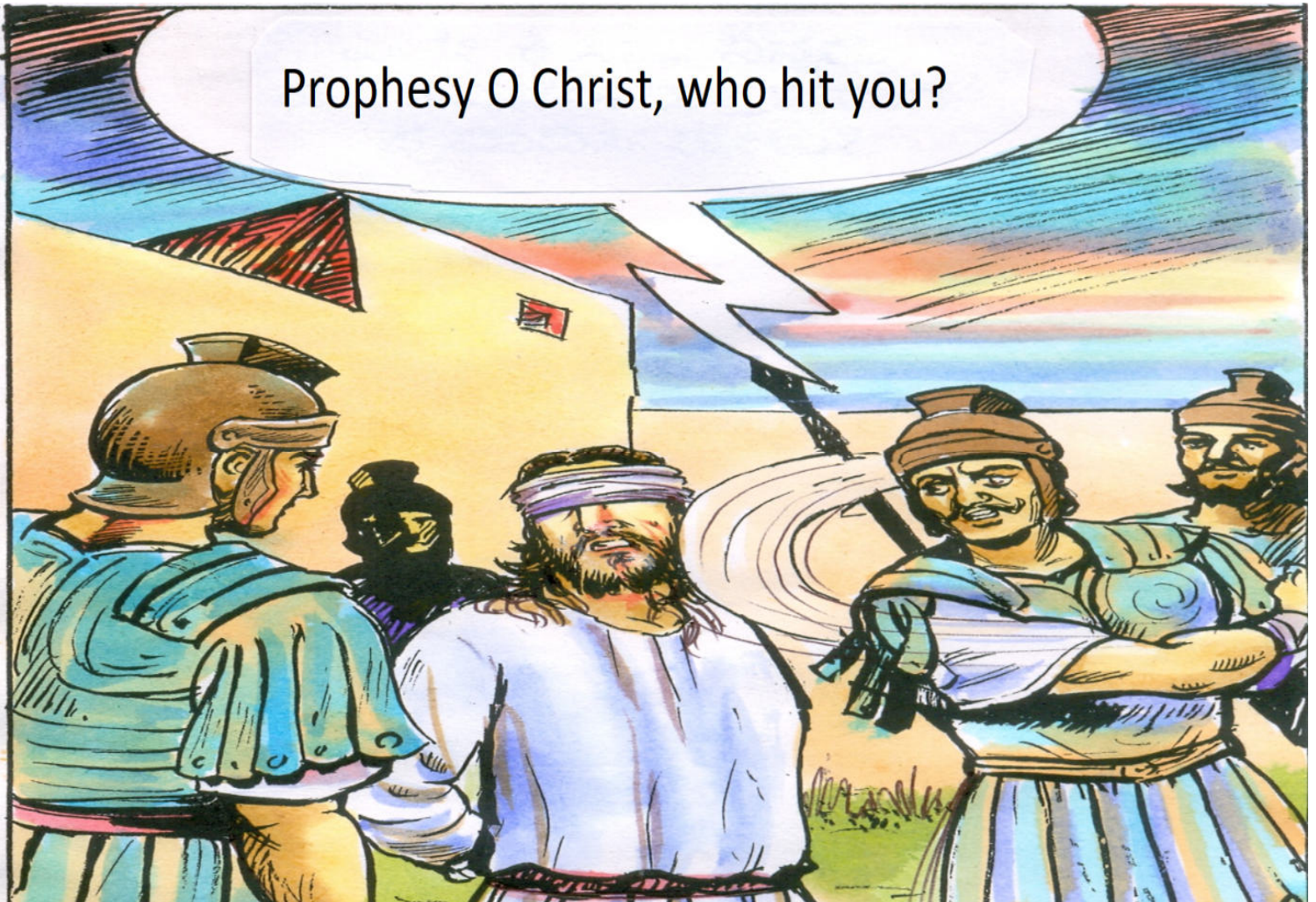
Then the cock crowed.



Peter remembered what the Lord had said to him. He went out and wept bitterly.



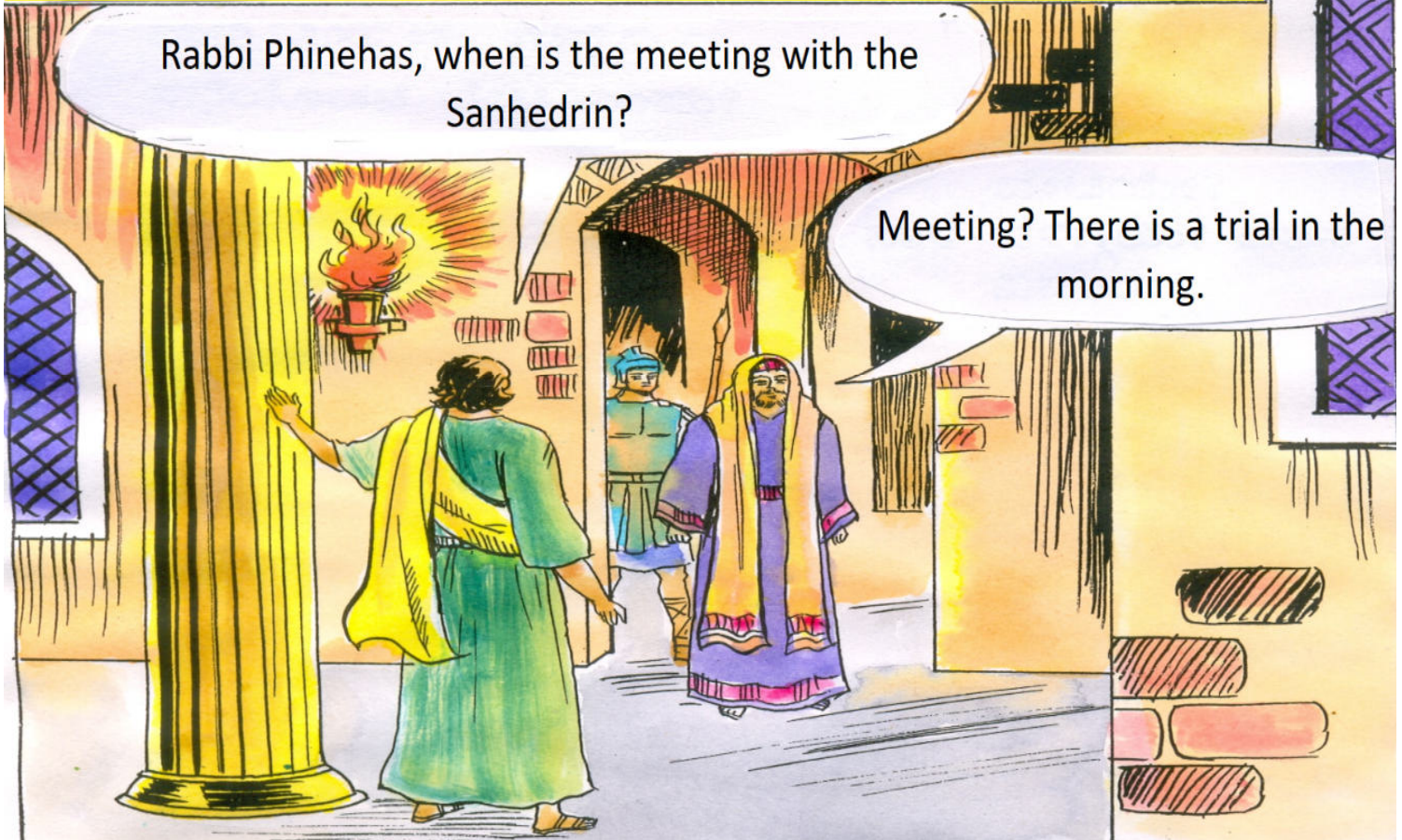
Prophecy O Christ, who hit you?



Judas realized that things were not moving the way he had expected.

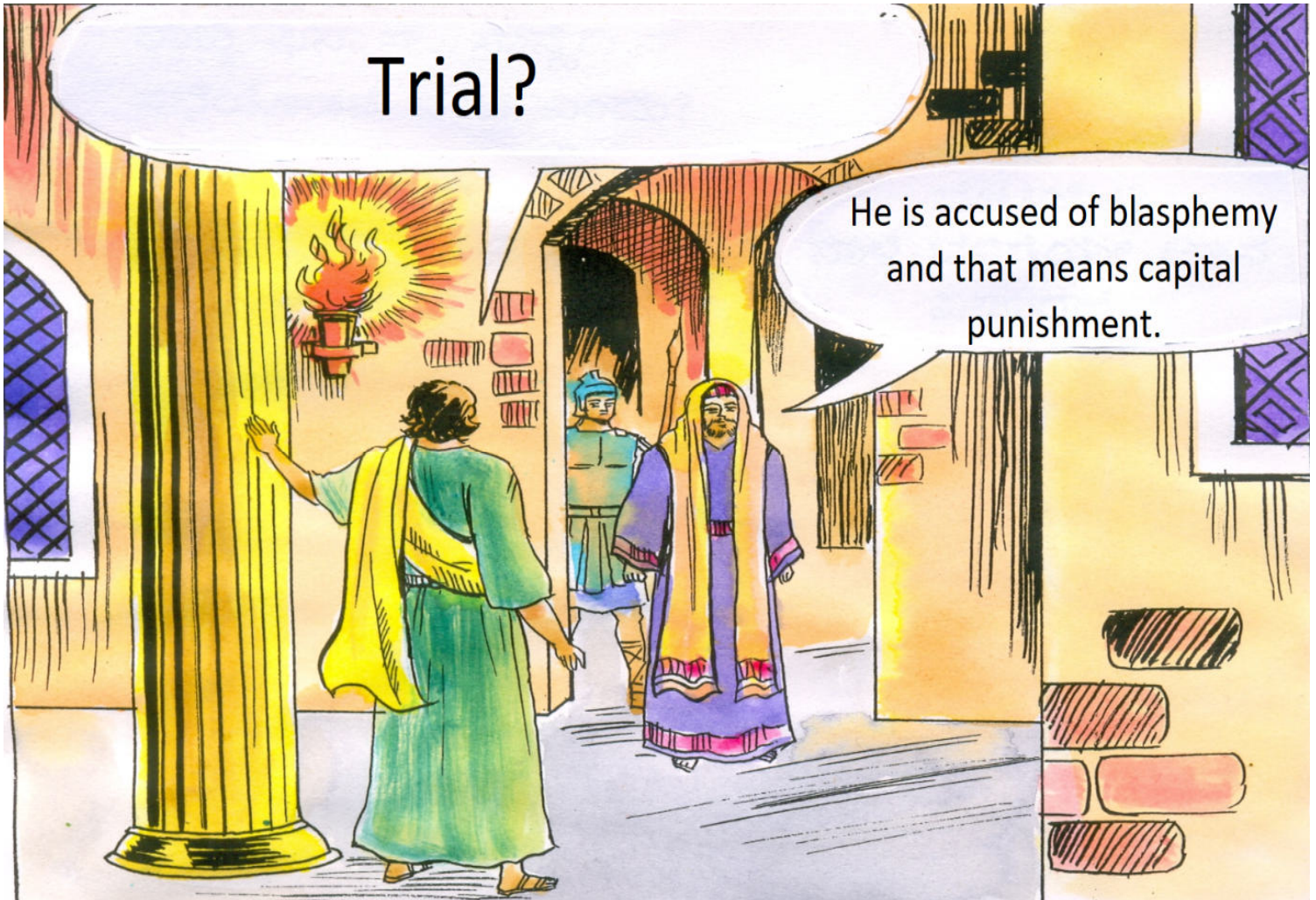
Rabbi Phinehas, when is the meeting with the Sanhedrin?

Meeting? There is a trial in the morning.



Trial?

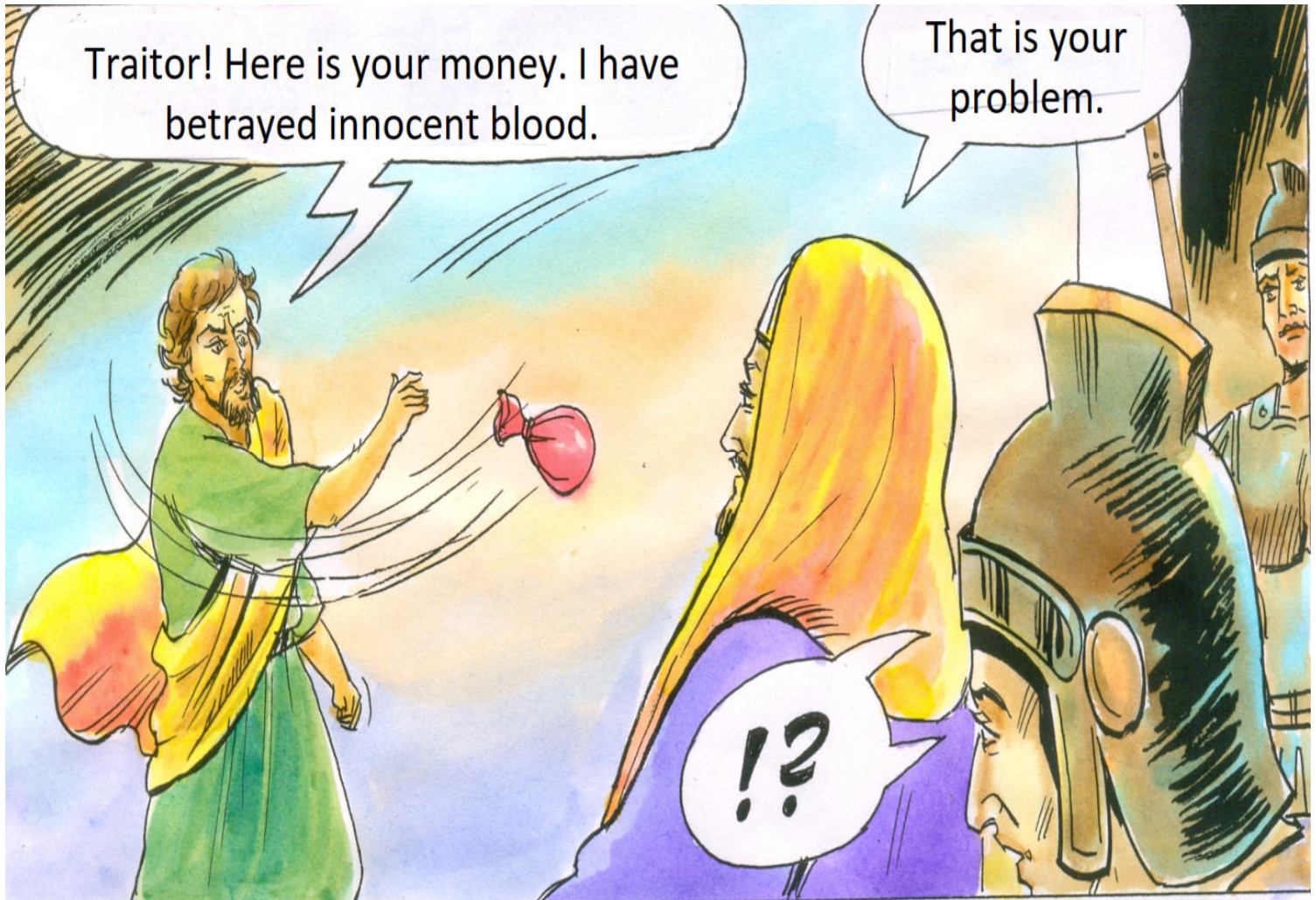
He is accused of blasphemy
and that means capital
punishment.



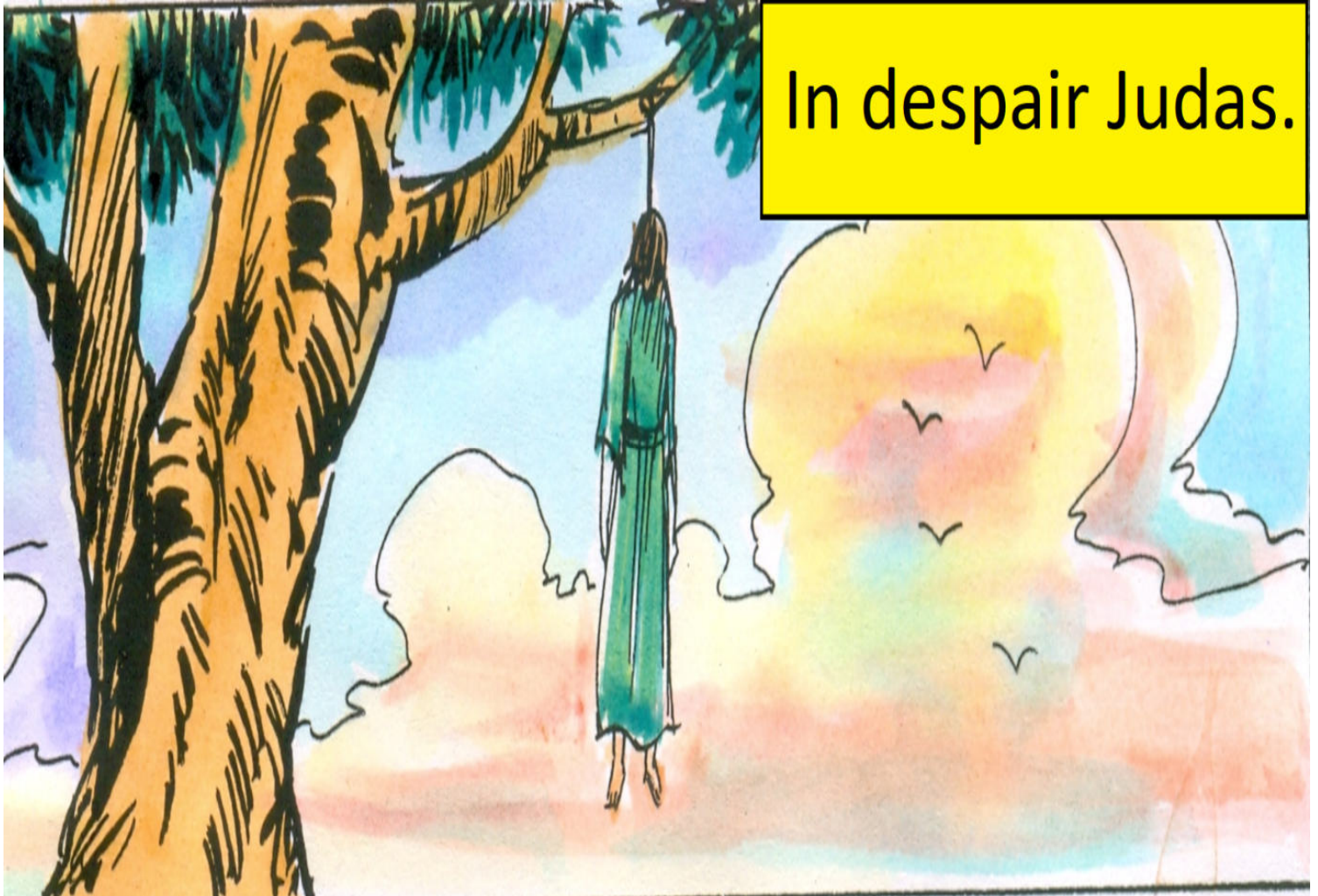
Traitor! Here is your money. I have betrayed innocent blood.

That is your problem.

!?



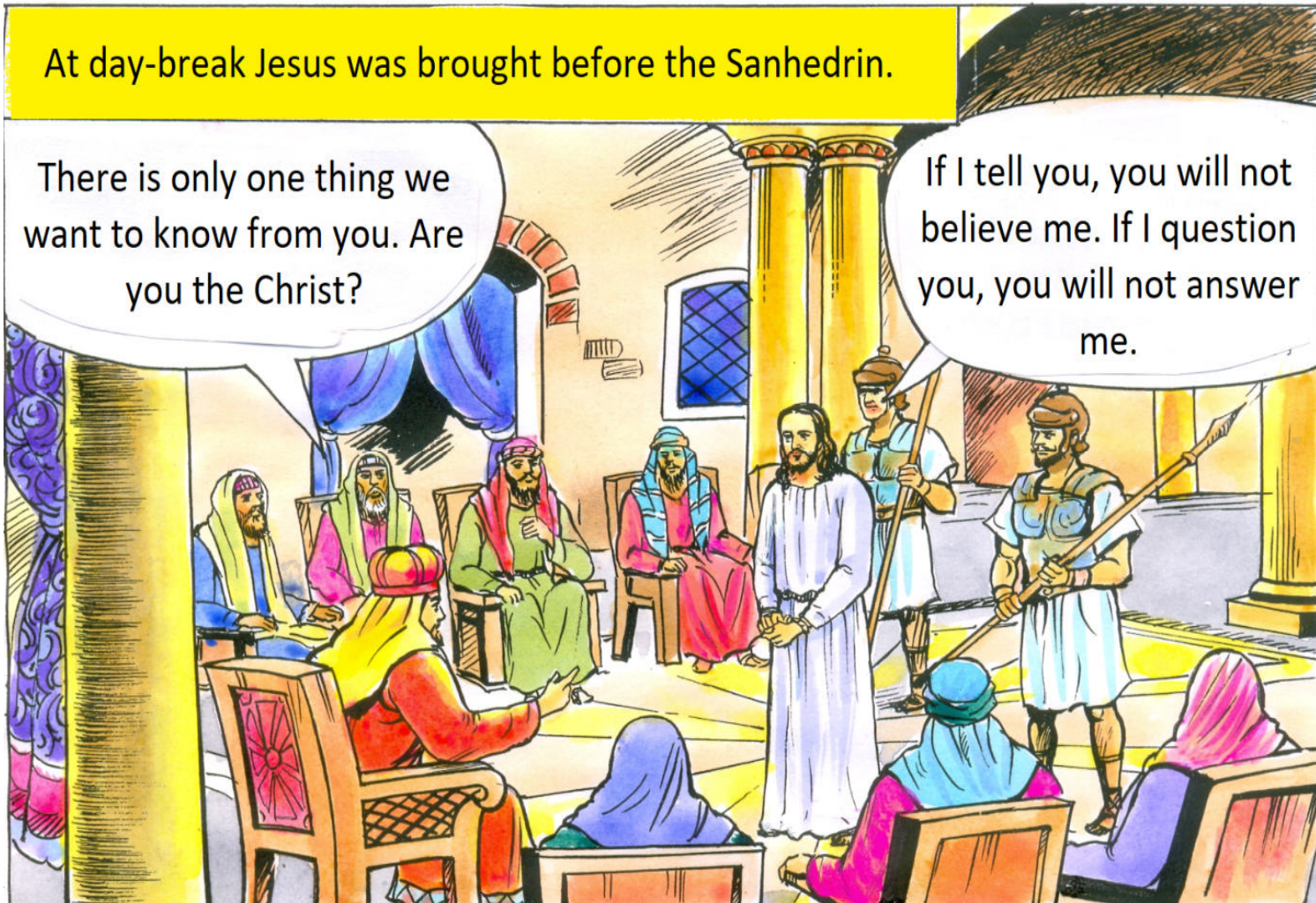
In despair Judas.



At day-break Jesus was brought before the Sanhedrin.

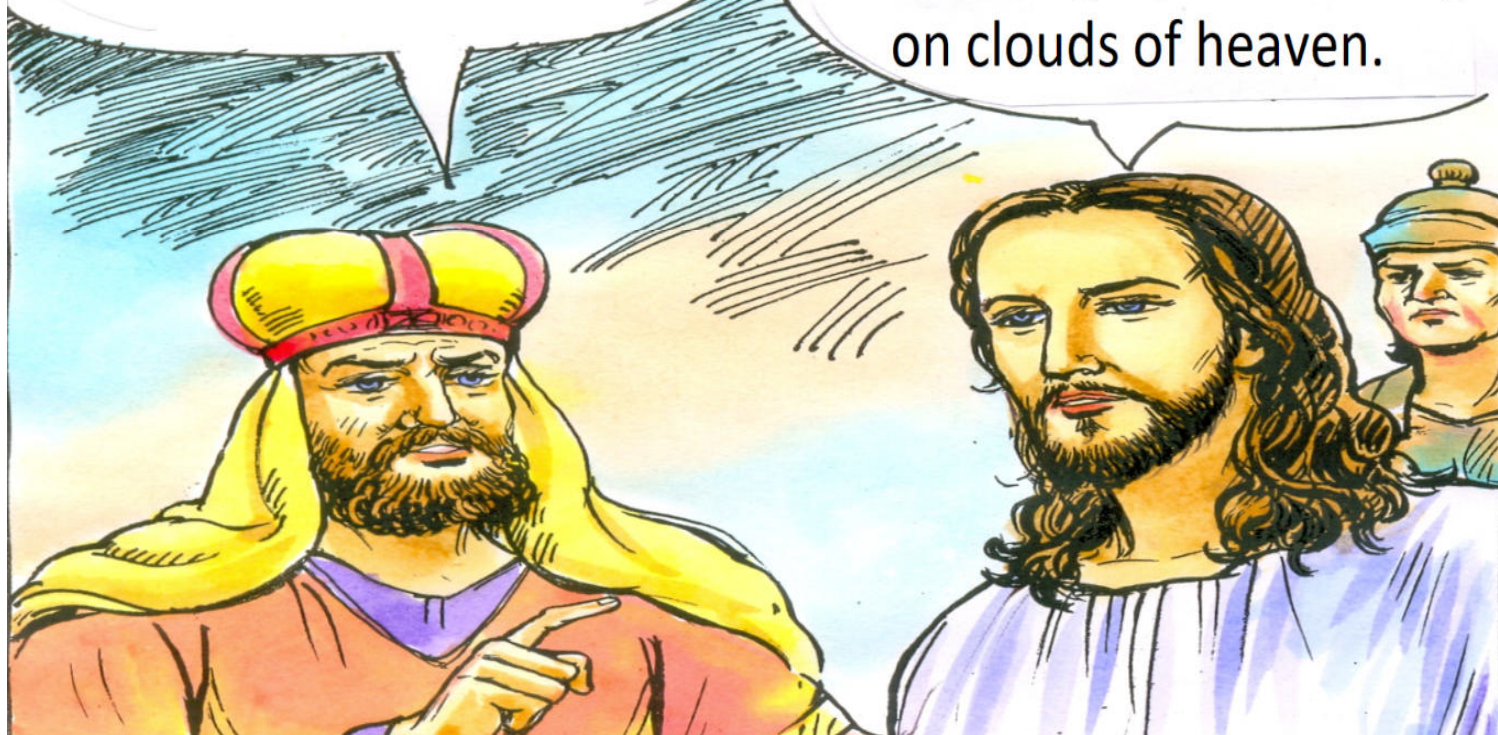
There is only one thing we want to know from you. Are you the Christ?

If I tell you, you will not believe me. If I question you, you will not answer me.



In the name of the eternal...
I ask you, are you the
Messiah, the Son of God?

I am. You will see the Son of
Man seated at the right hand
of the Almighty and coming
on clouds of heaven.

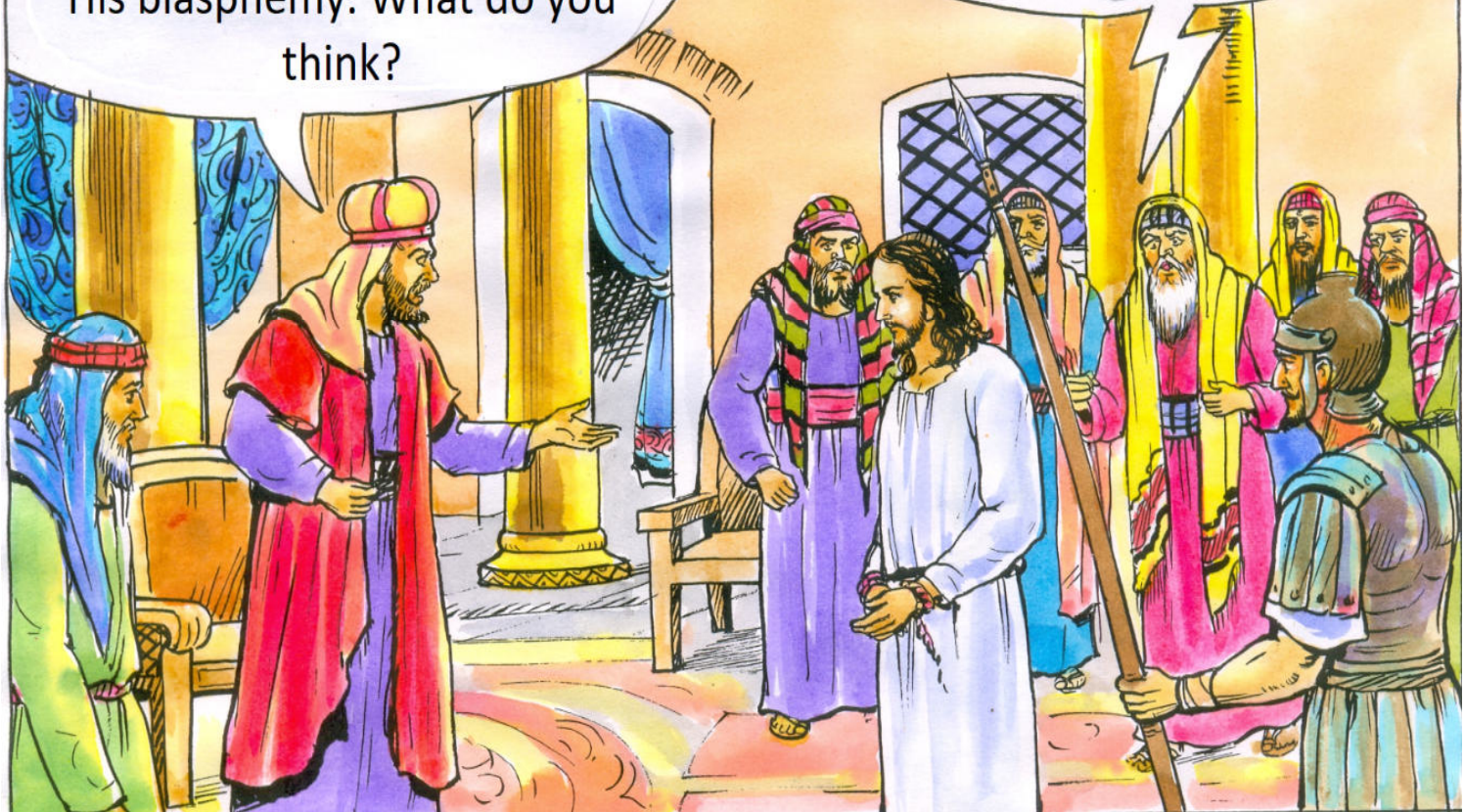


Hear o Israel, the Lord our God is one!



We do not need any more witnesses. You have just heard His blasphemy. What do you think?

He is guilty and must die.



The final authority for trial and judgment lies with the Romans. Let him be taken to the Pilate.



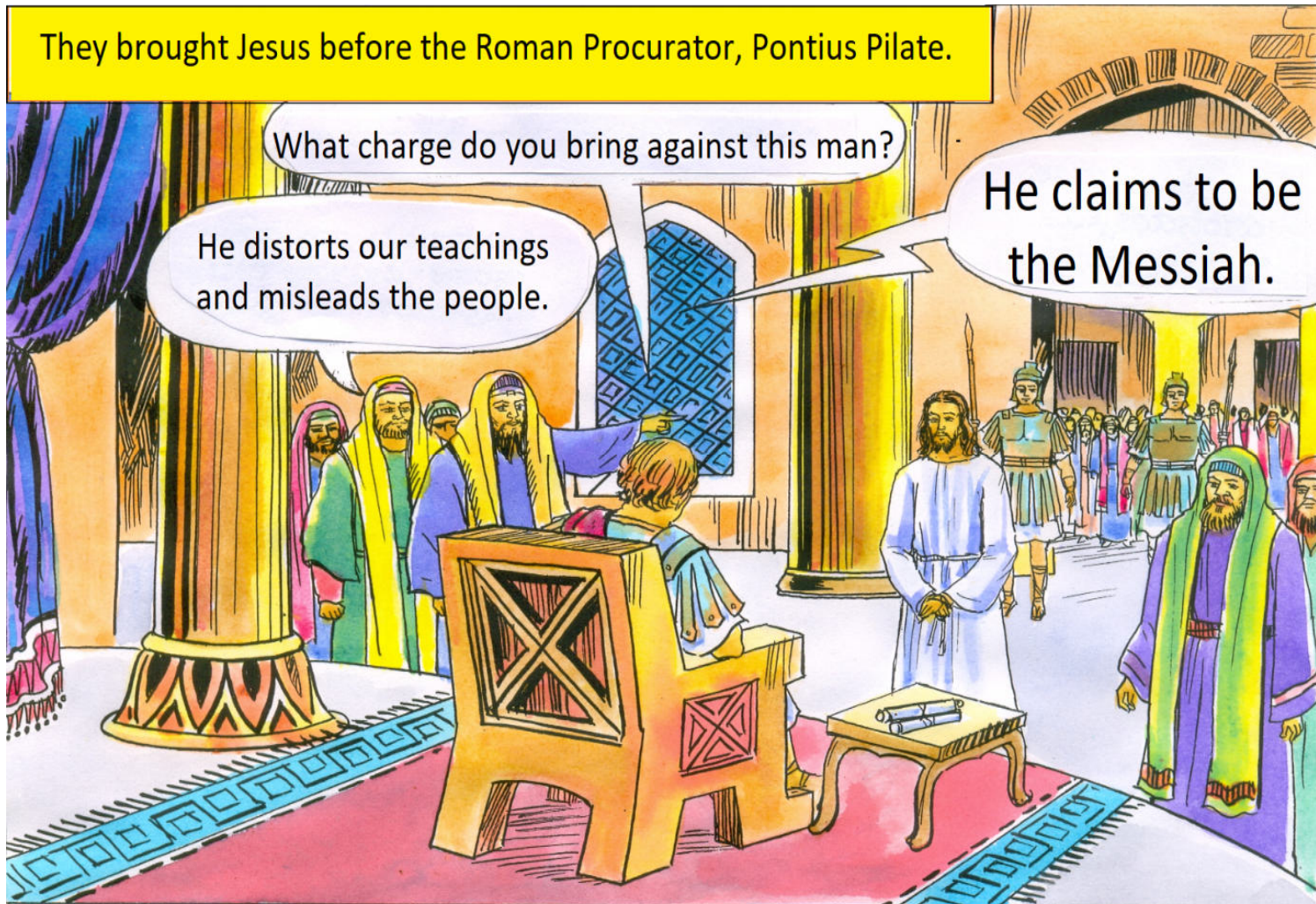


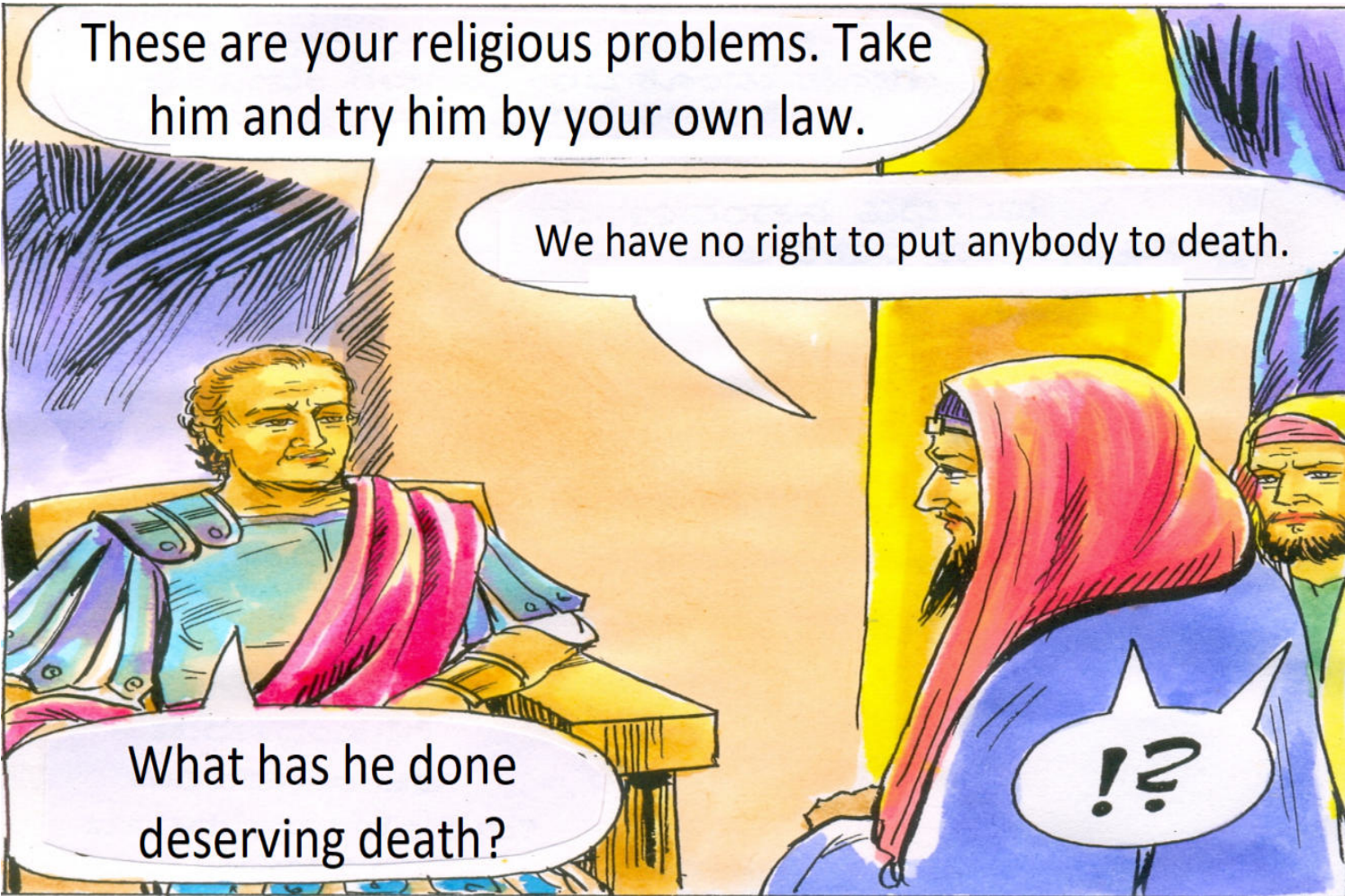
They brought Jesus before the Roman Procurator, Pontius Pilate.

What charge do you bring against this man?

He distorts our teachings
and misleads the people.

He claims to be
the Messiah.





These are your religious problems. Take him and try him by your own law.

We have no right to put anybody to death.

What has he done deserving death?

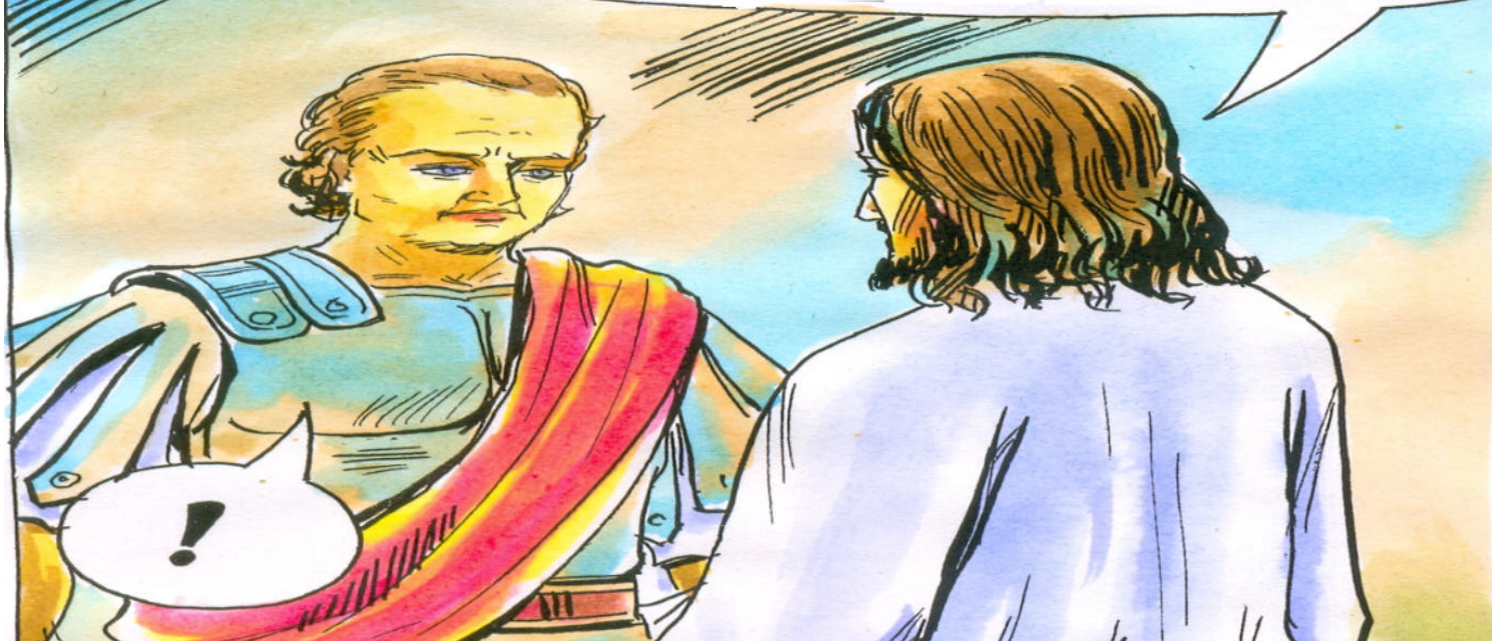
!?

He claims to be the king of the
Jews. That is high treason.



Are you the king of the Jews?

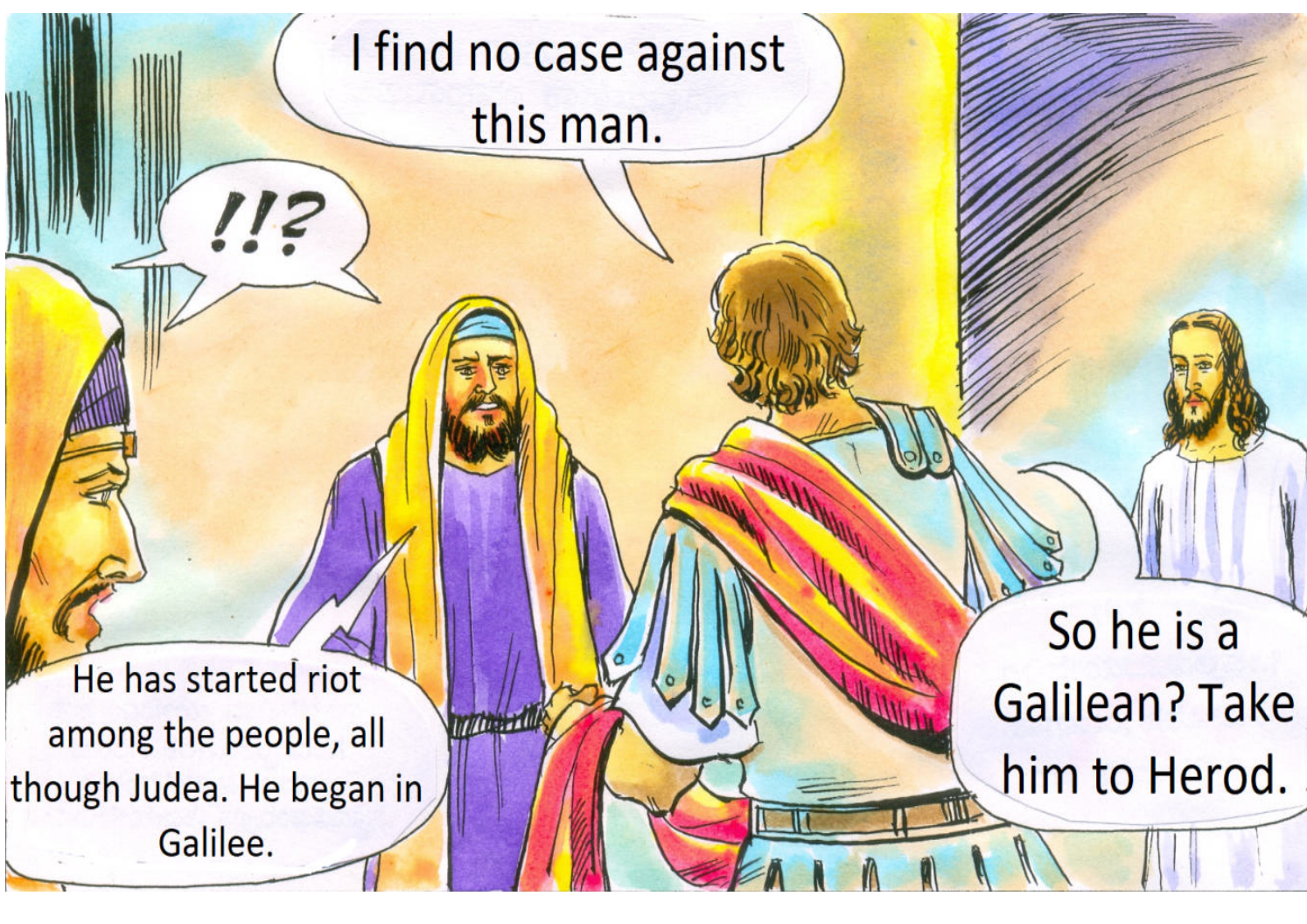
It is you who say it. My kingdom
does not belong to this world.



I came into the world to bear witness to the Truth.
Whoever belongs to the Truth listens to me.

What is truth?





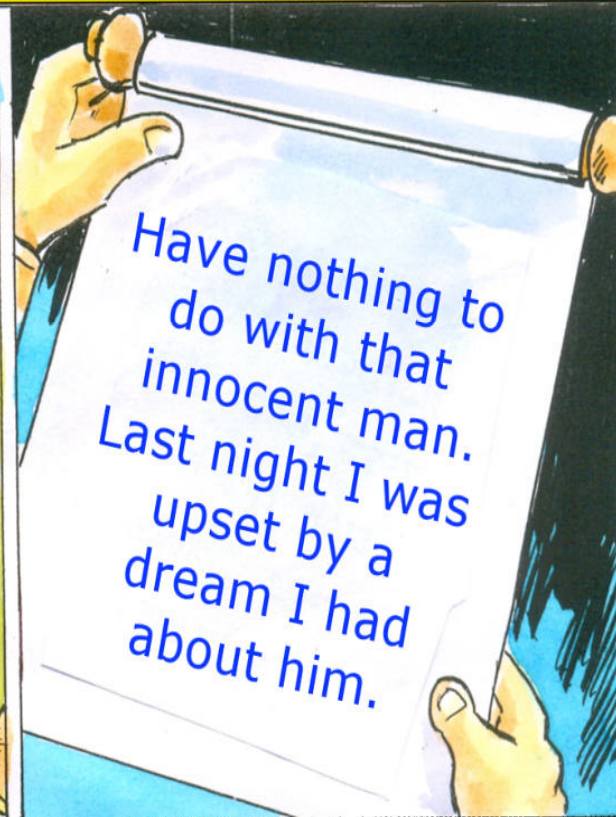
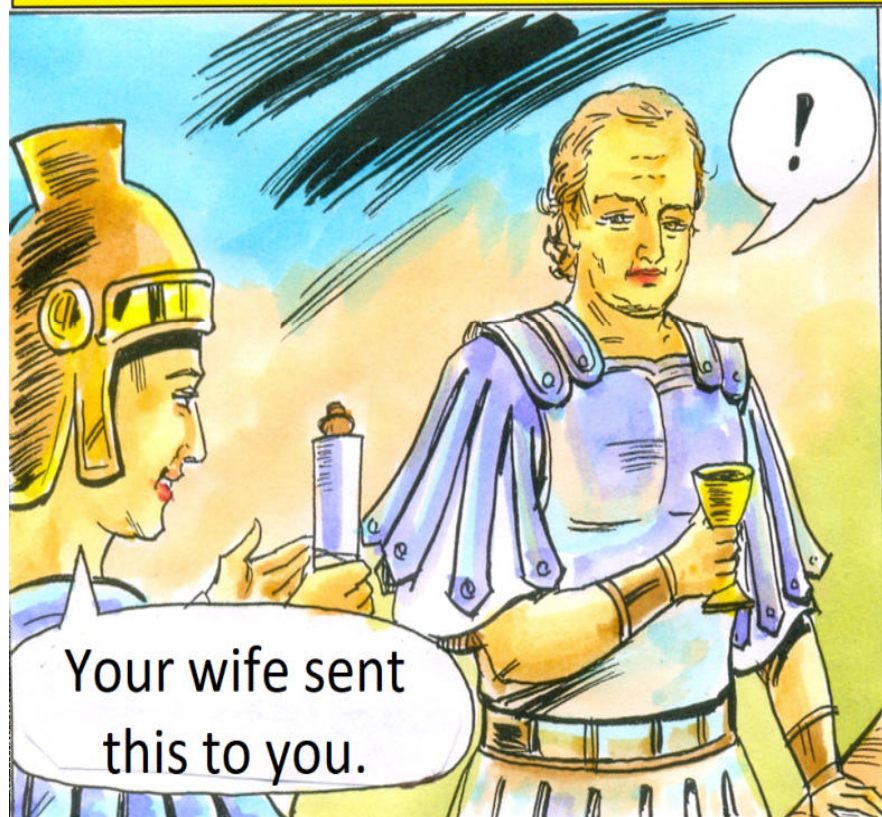
I find no case against
this man.

!!?

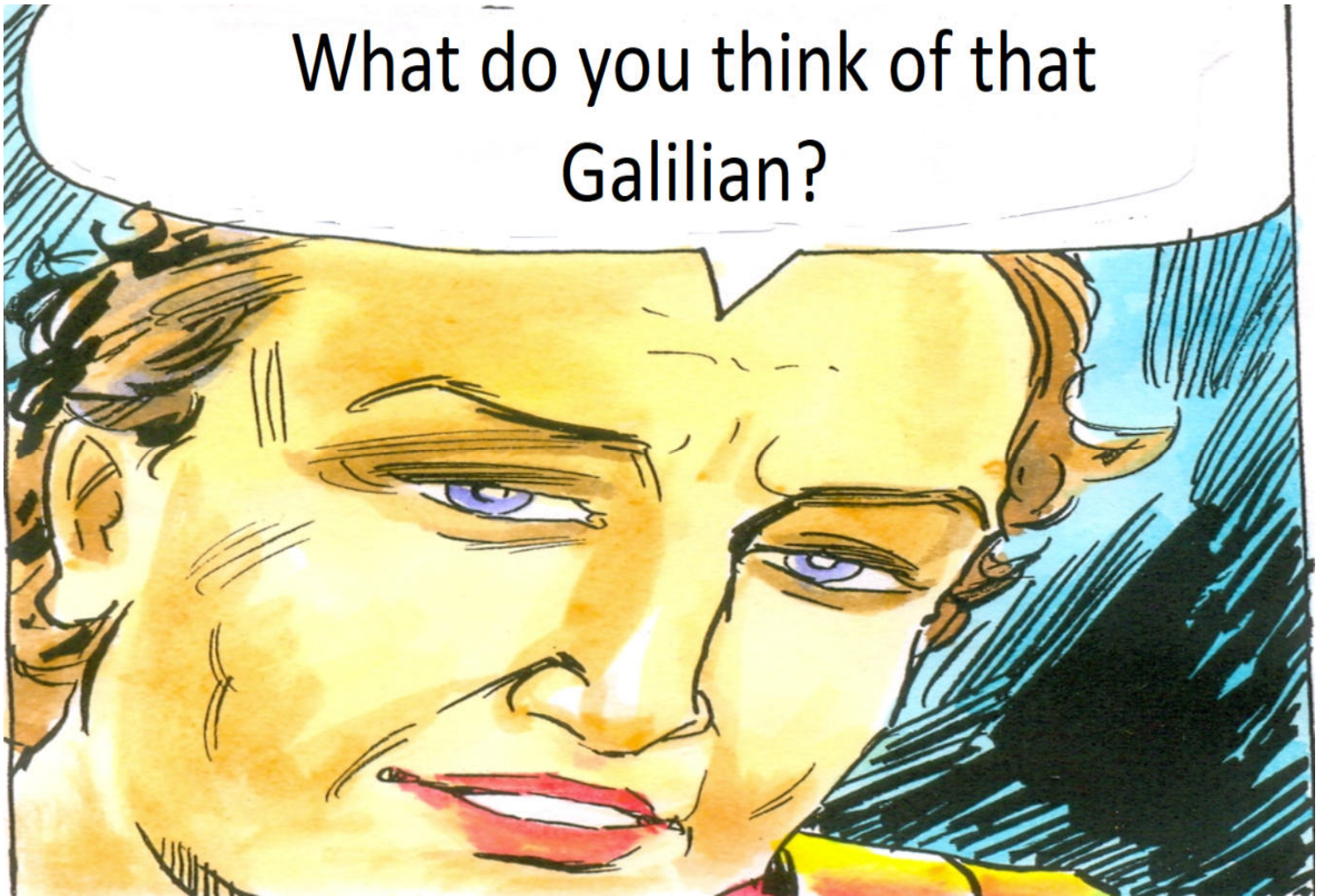
He has started riot
among the people, all
though Judea. He began in
Galilee.

So he is a
Galilean? Take
him to Herod.

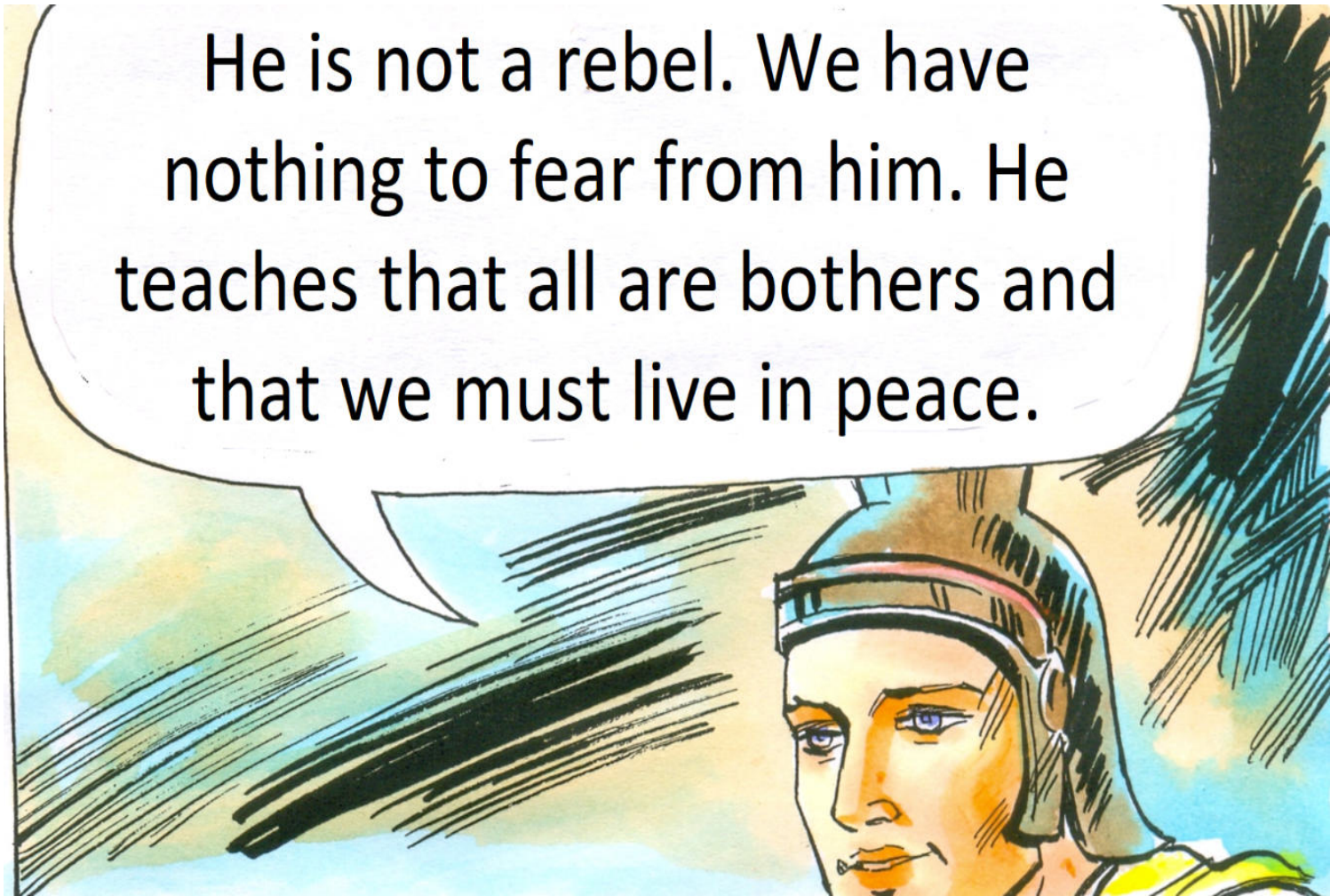
Herod had come to Jerusalem for the Passover. They took Jesus to Herod. At the same time in Pilate's Palace.



What do you think of that
Galilian?

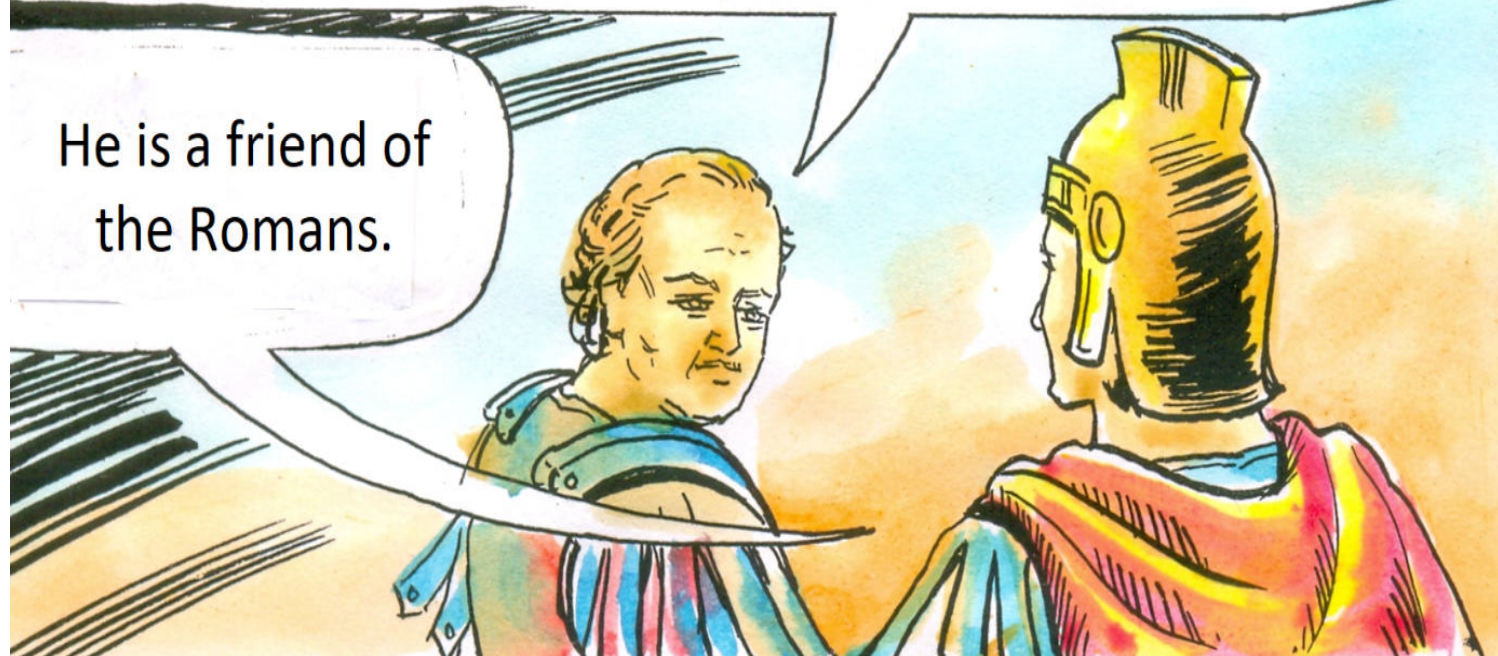


He is not a rebel. We have
nothing to fear from him. He
teaches that all are bothers and
that we must live in peace.



Universal brotherhood! What can be more dangerous? If all are equal and brothers where then is the authority?

He is a friend of the Romans.



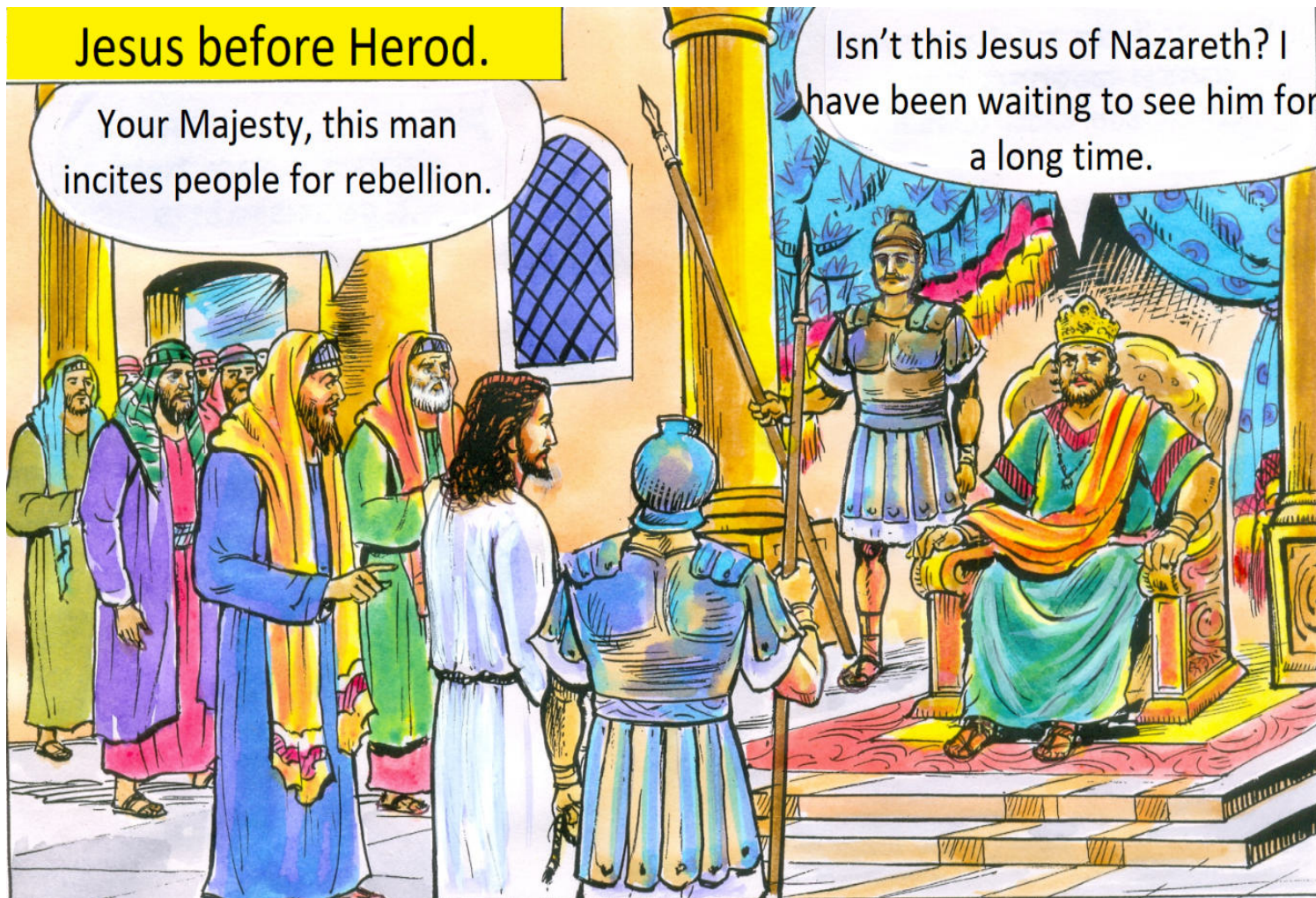
We can crush the ones who take up arms. But this new idea will shake the foundation of the Empire.



Jesus before Herod.

Your Majesty, this man incites people for rebellion.

Isn't this Jesus of Nazareth? I have been waiting to see him for a long time.



You prophet, let us see one of your miracles.



Can't you talk? So you are a king!
Guards, dress him up as a king.



Very becoming for this fool. Take him
back to Pilate.





At the same time the Zealots gathered in front of the Pilate's Palace.

Set free
Barabbas!

Free all the
political prisoners.

Who is this
Barabbas?

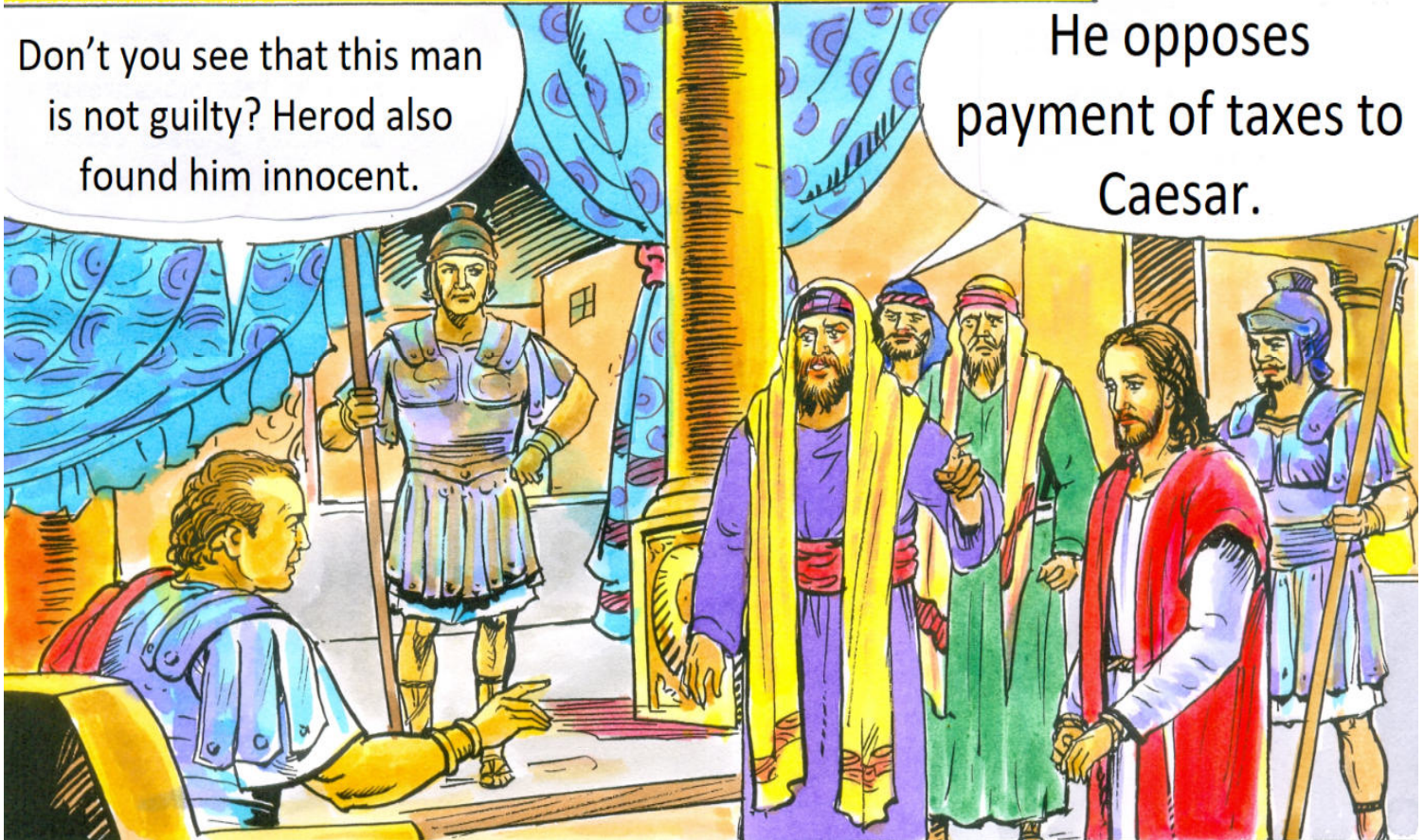
A Zealot. He killed two
Roman soldiers the
other day.



They brought back Jesus to the Pilate.

Don't you see that this man is not guilty? Herod also found him innocent.

He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar.



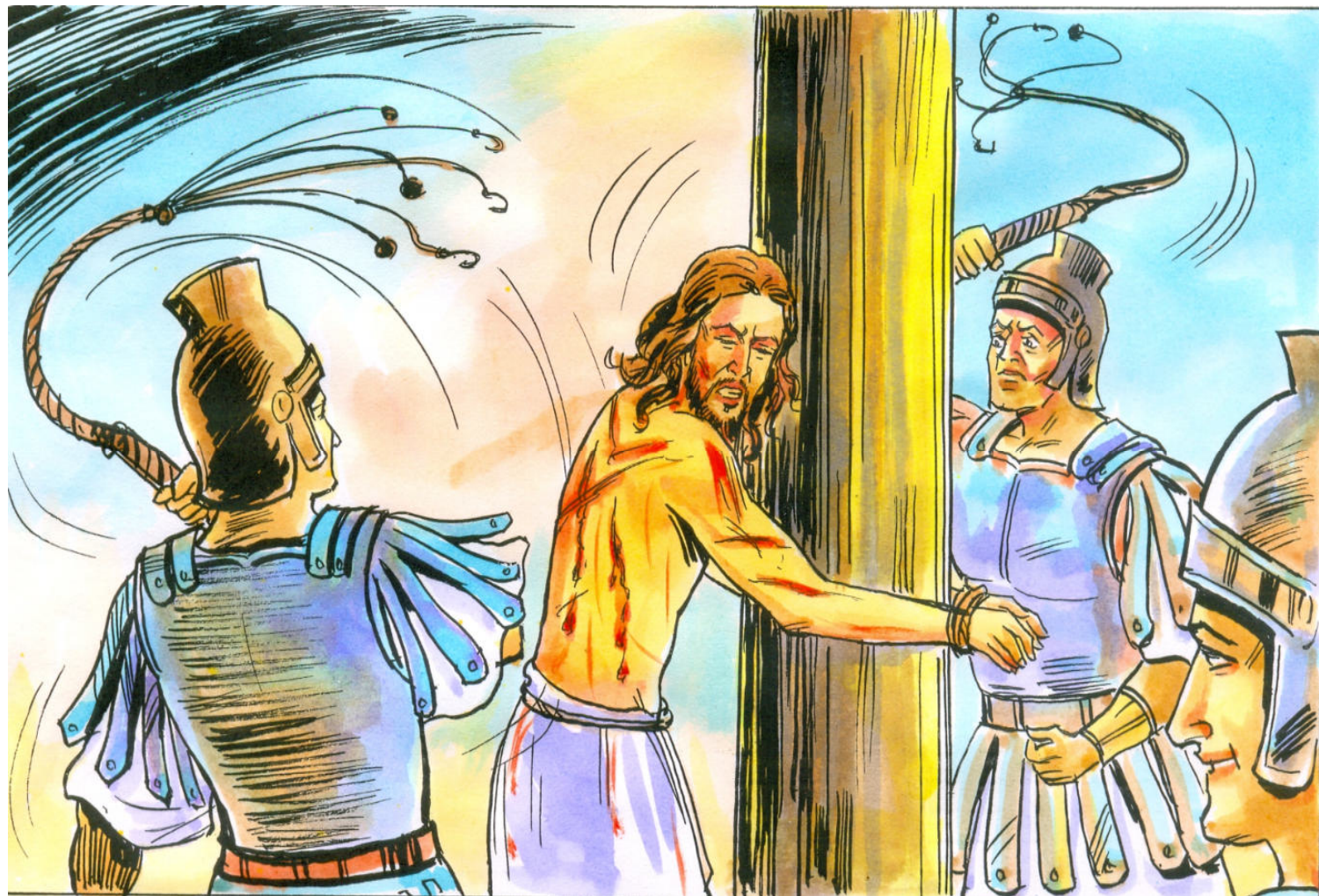
There is no proof of that. So I shall have him flogged and then let him go.

It is dangerous to let him free.

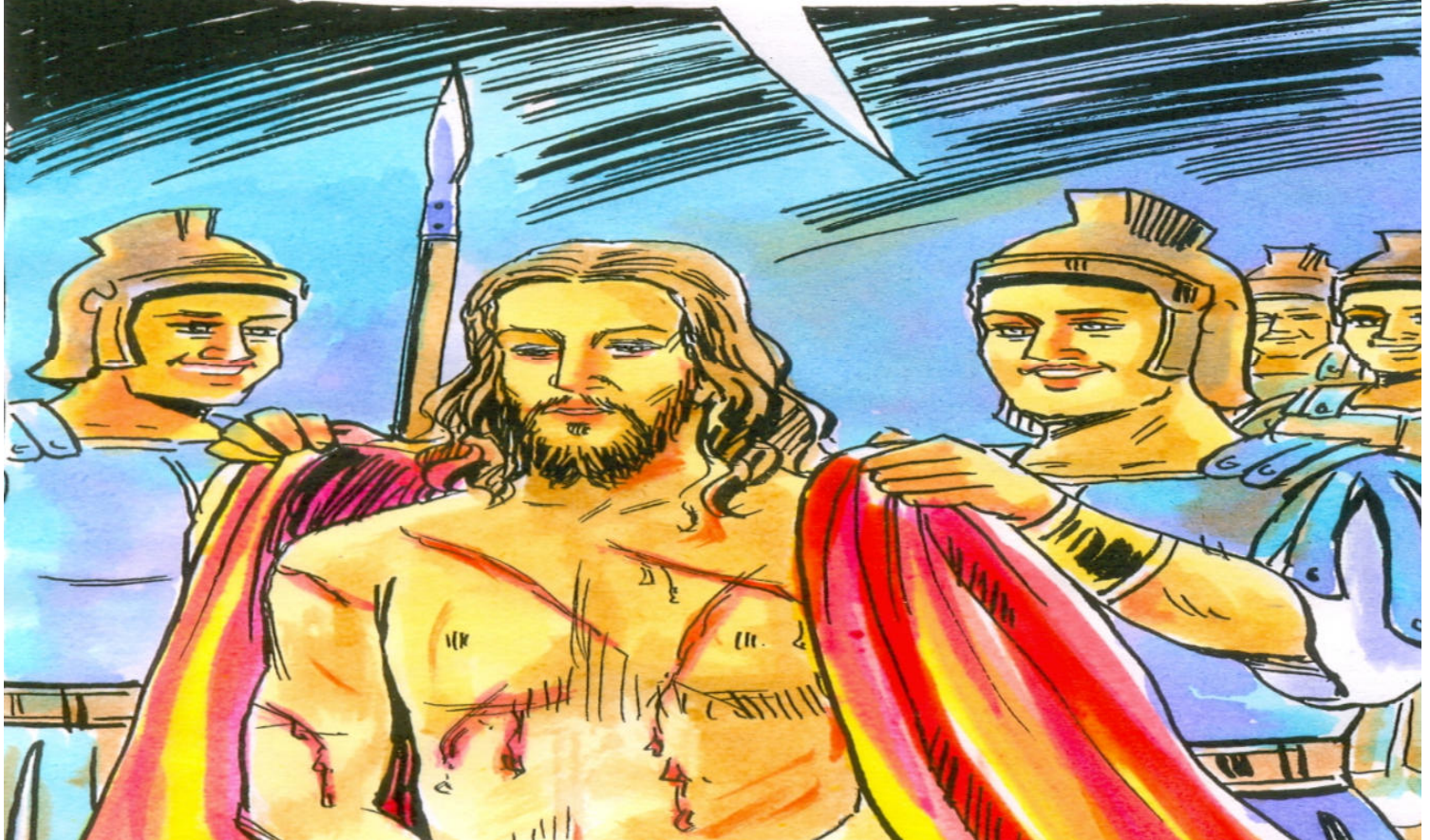


Guards! Take him and give him a
taste of Roman Justice.





A red robe for the king.



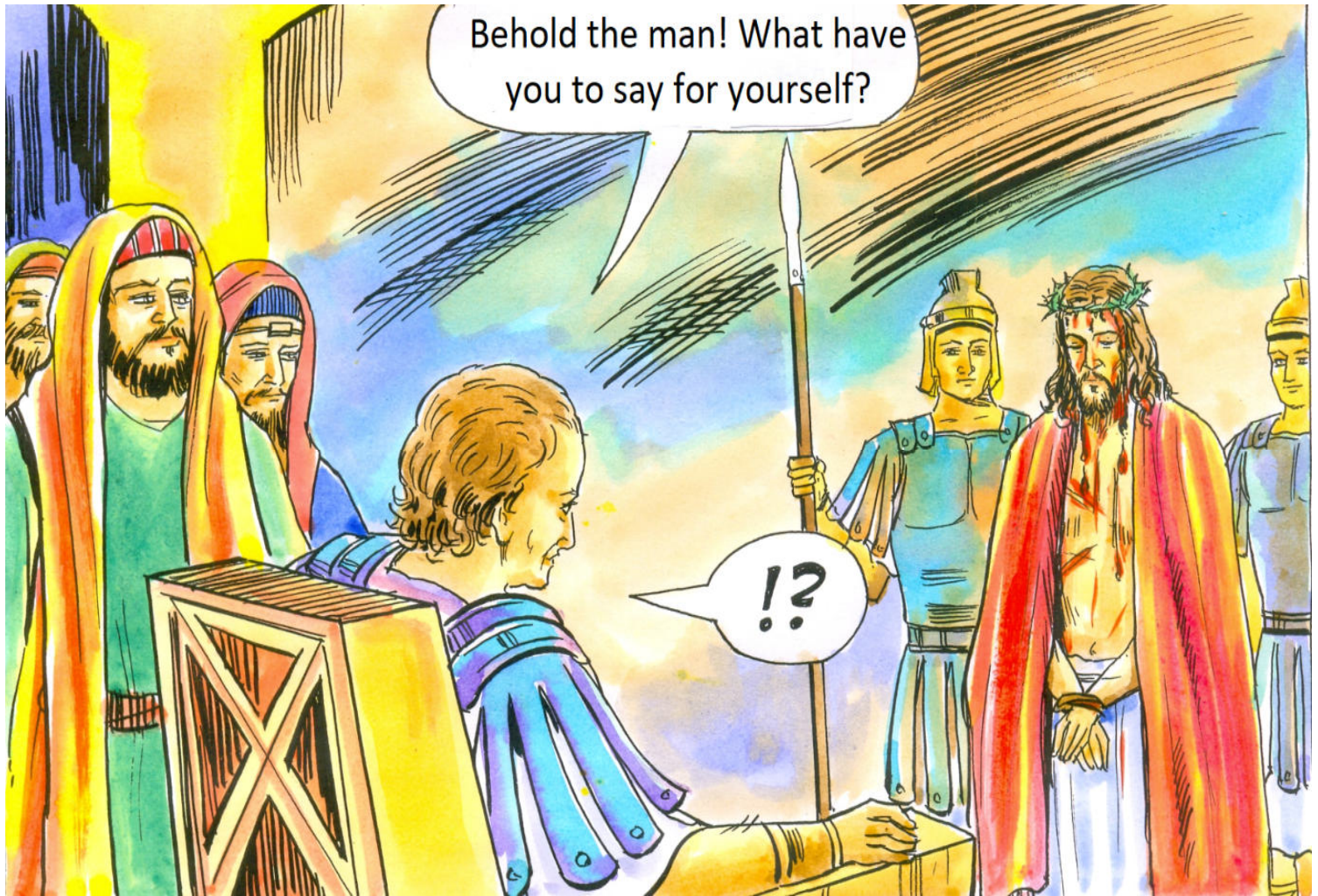
A king needs a crown.

Hail, king of the Jews.



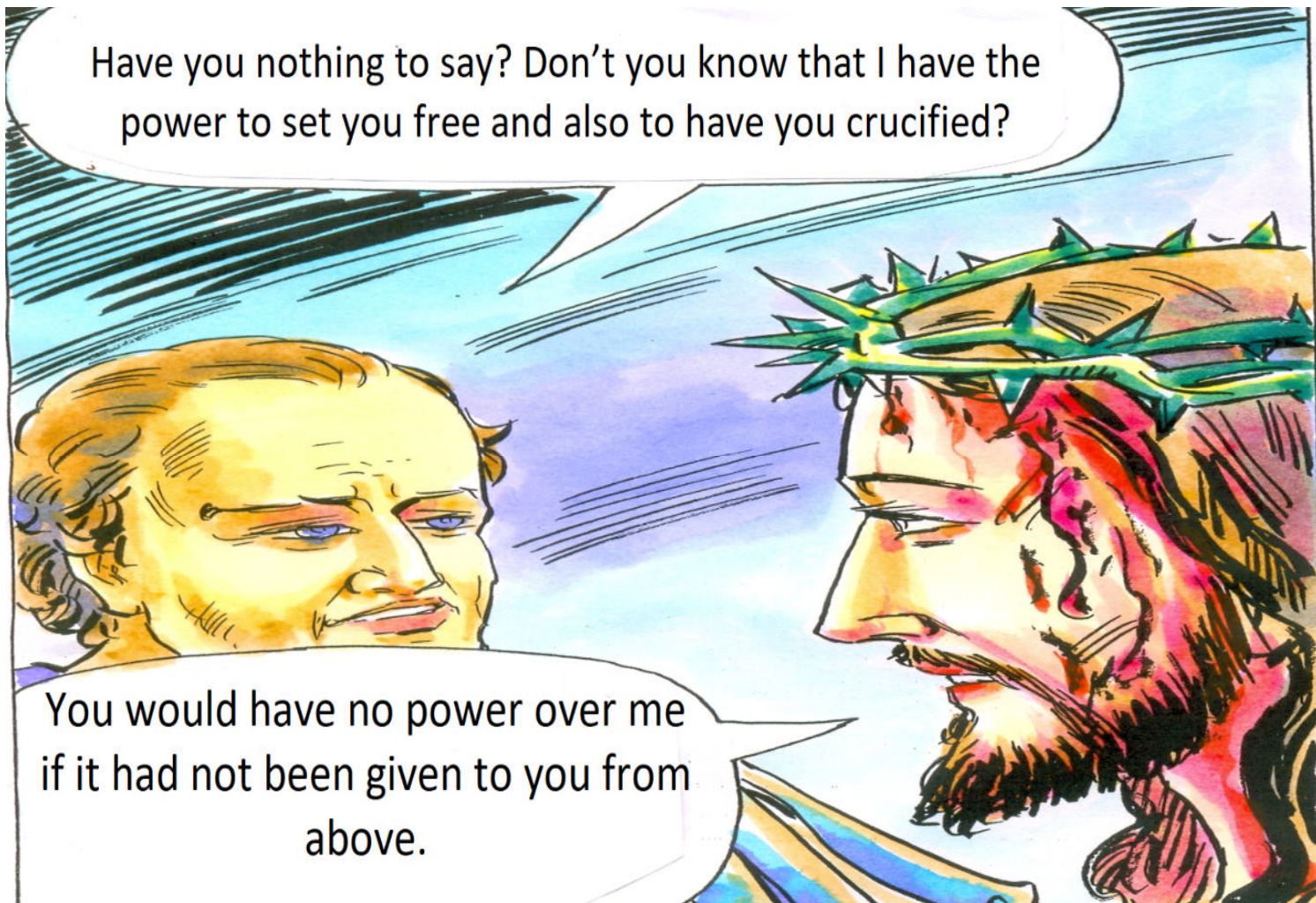
Behold the man! What have
you to say for yourself?

!?



Have you nothing to say? Don't you know that I have the power to set you free and also to have you crucified?

You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from above.

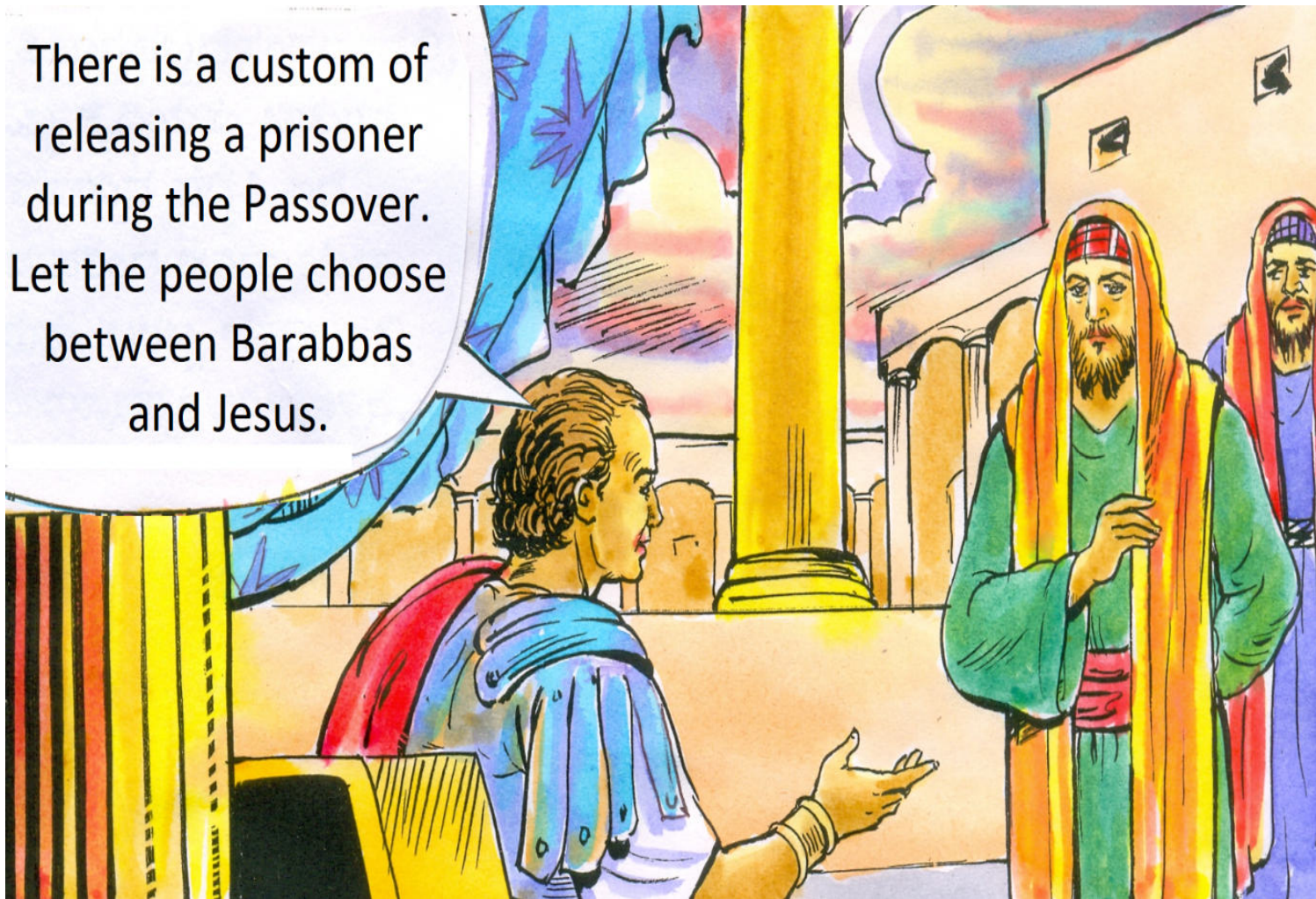


This man is innocent. I will set him free.

If you set him free you are an enemy of Caesar. Proclaiming himself king, he has rebelled against Caesar.



There is a custom of releasing a prisoner during the Passover. Let the people choose between Barabbas and Jesus.



Two kinds of campaigns
took place among the
people.

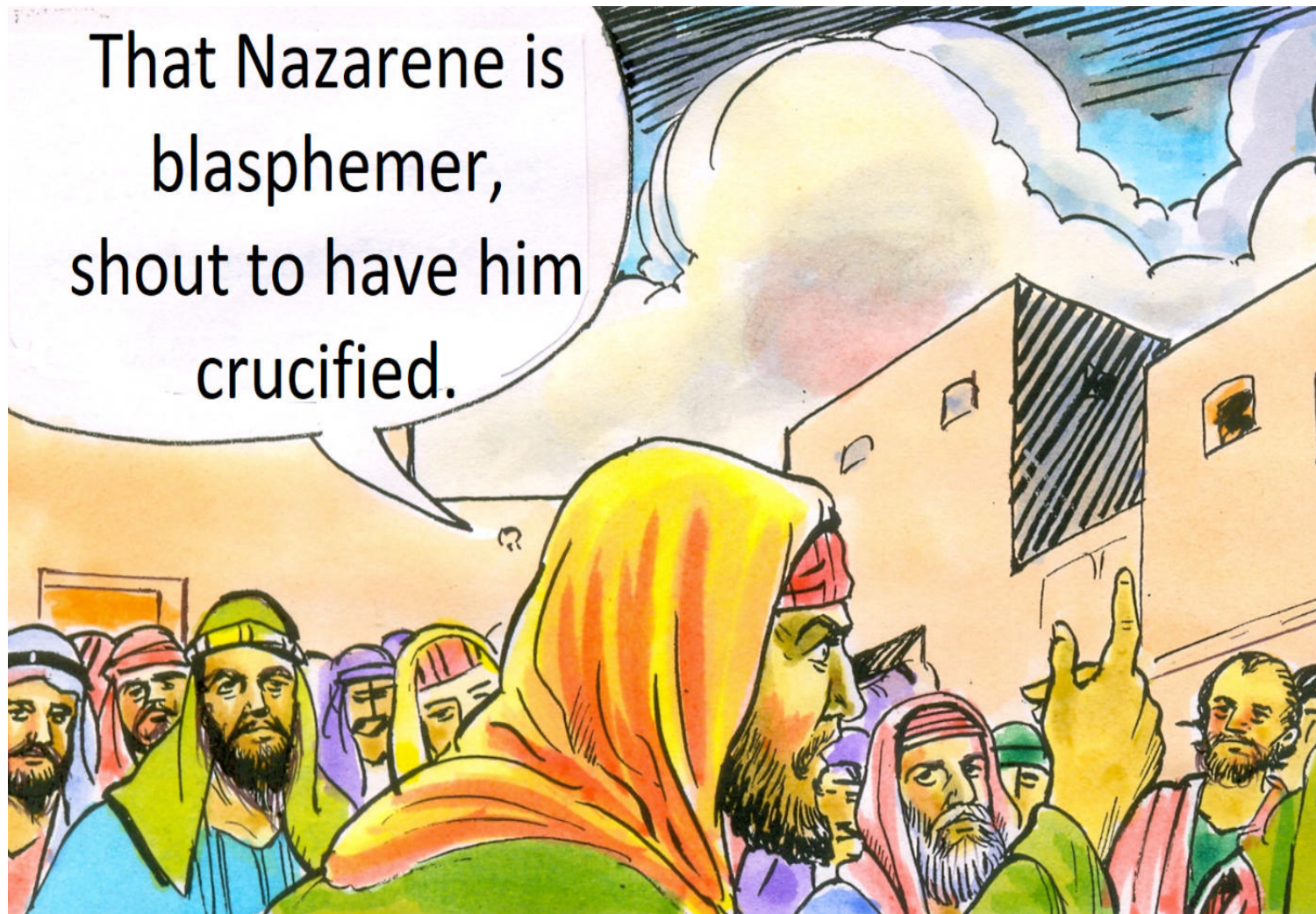
Barabbas is our leader.
We must ask for him.



Sure, we shall all shout
"Barabbas".



That Nazarene is
blasphemer,
shout to have him
crucified.



Whom do you want to release,
Barabbas or Jesus?

Barabbas...
Barabbas..

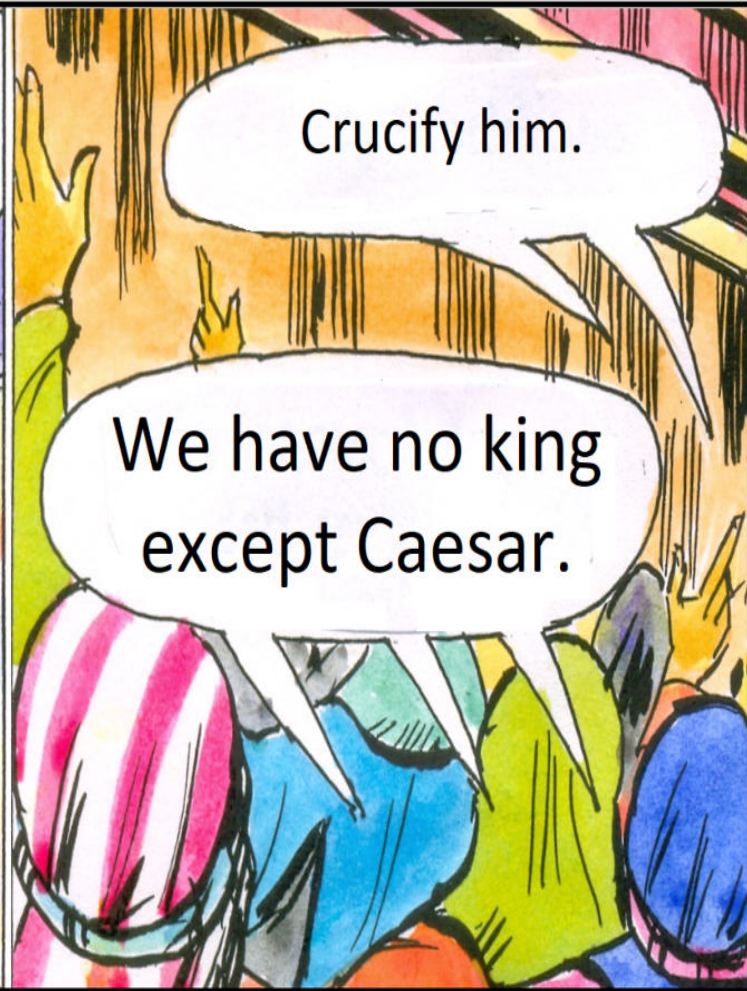


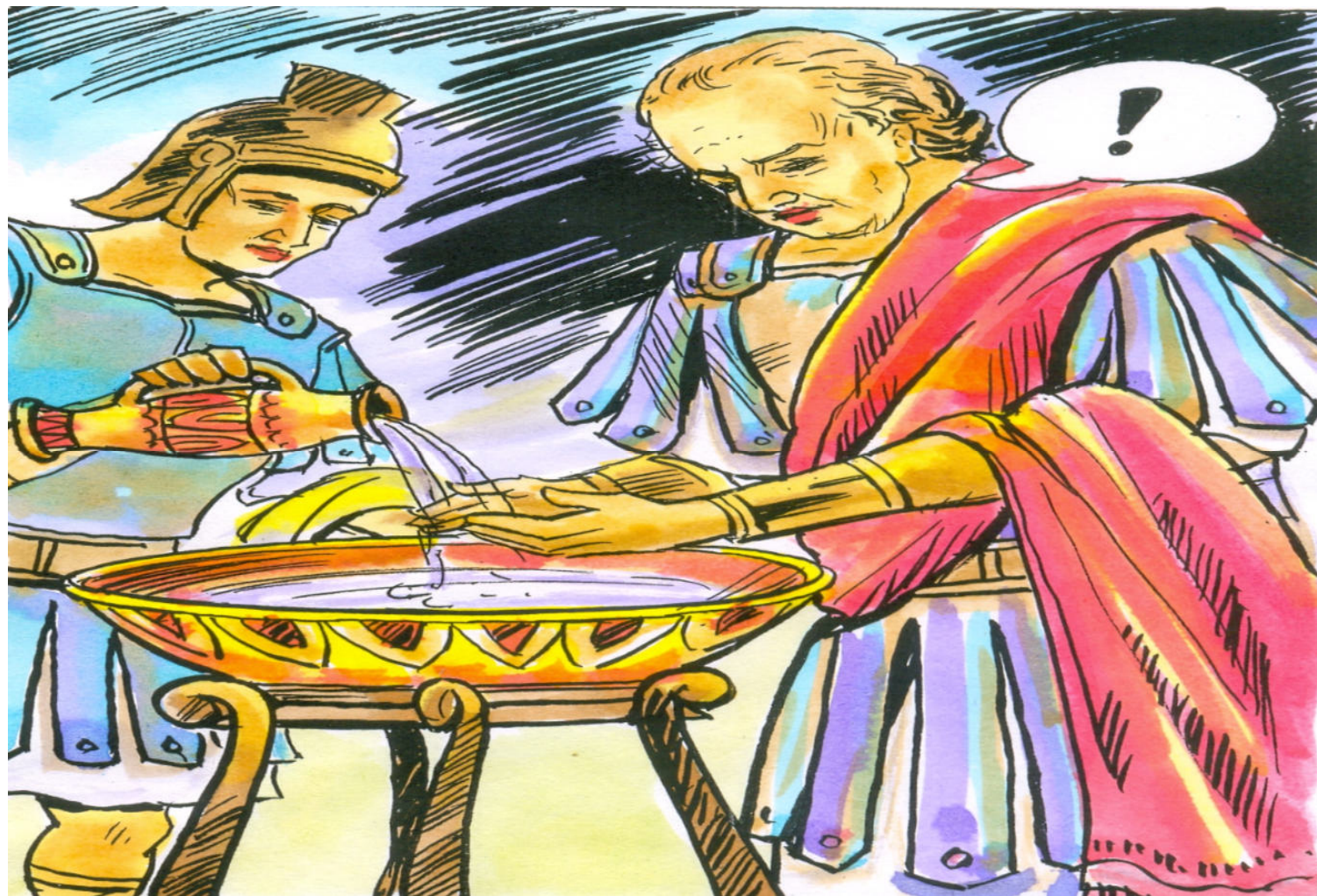
What shall I do with Jesus,
the king of the Jews?



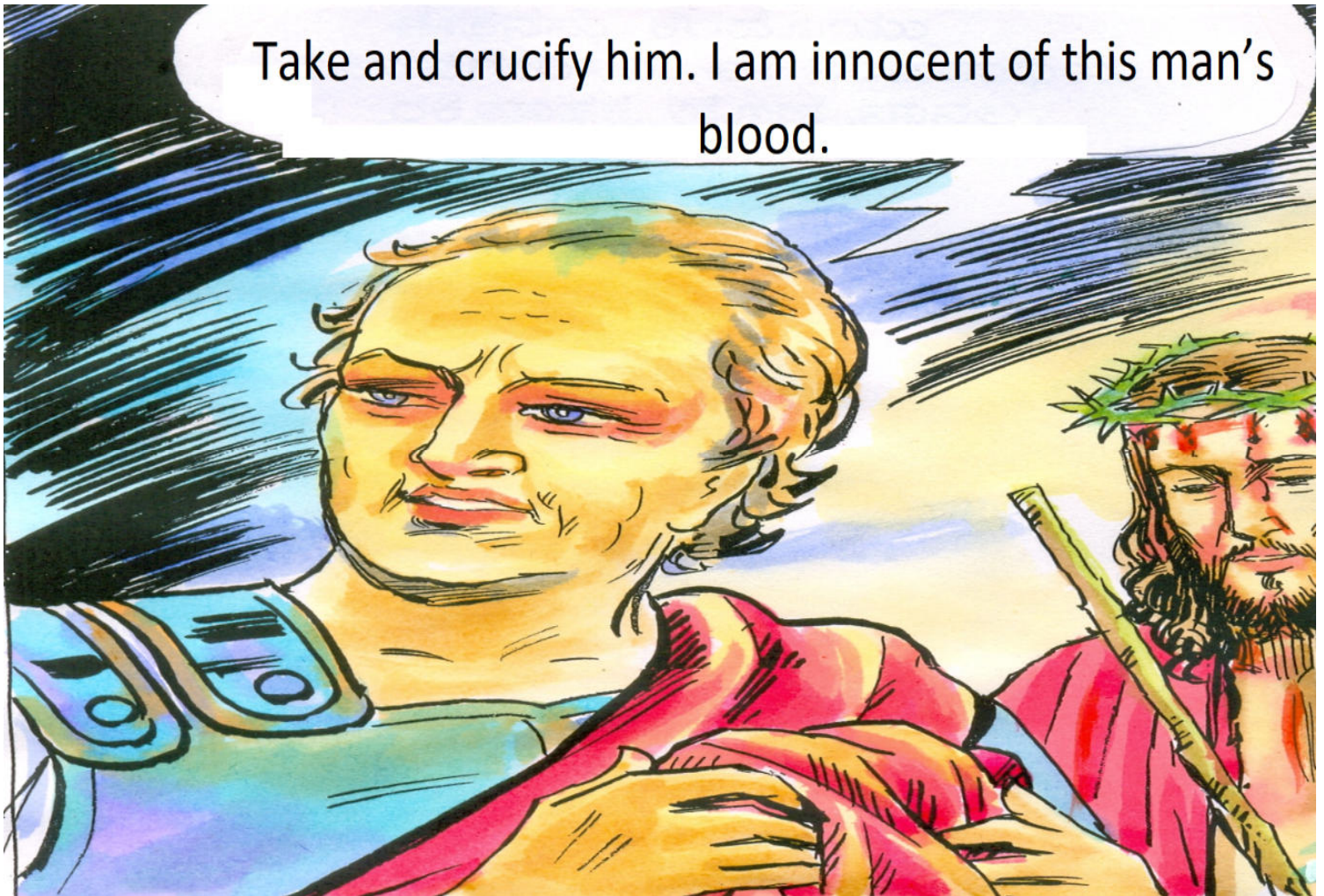
Crucify him.

We have no king
except Caesar.



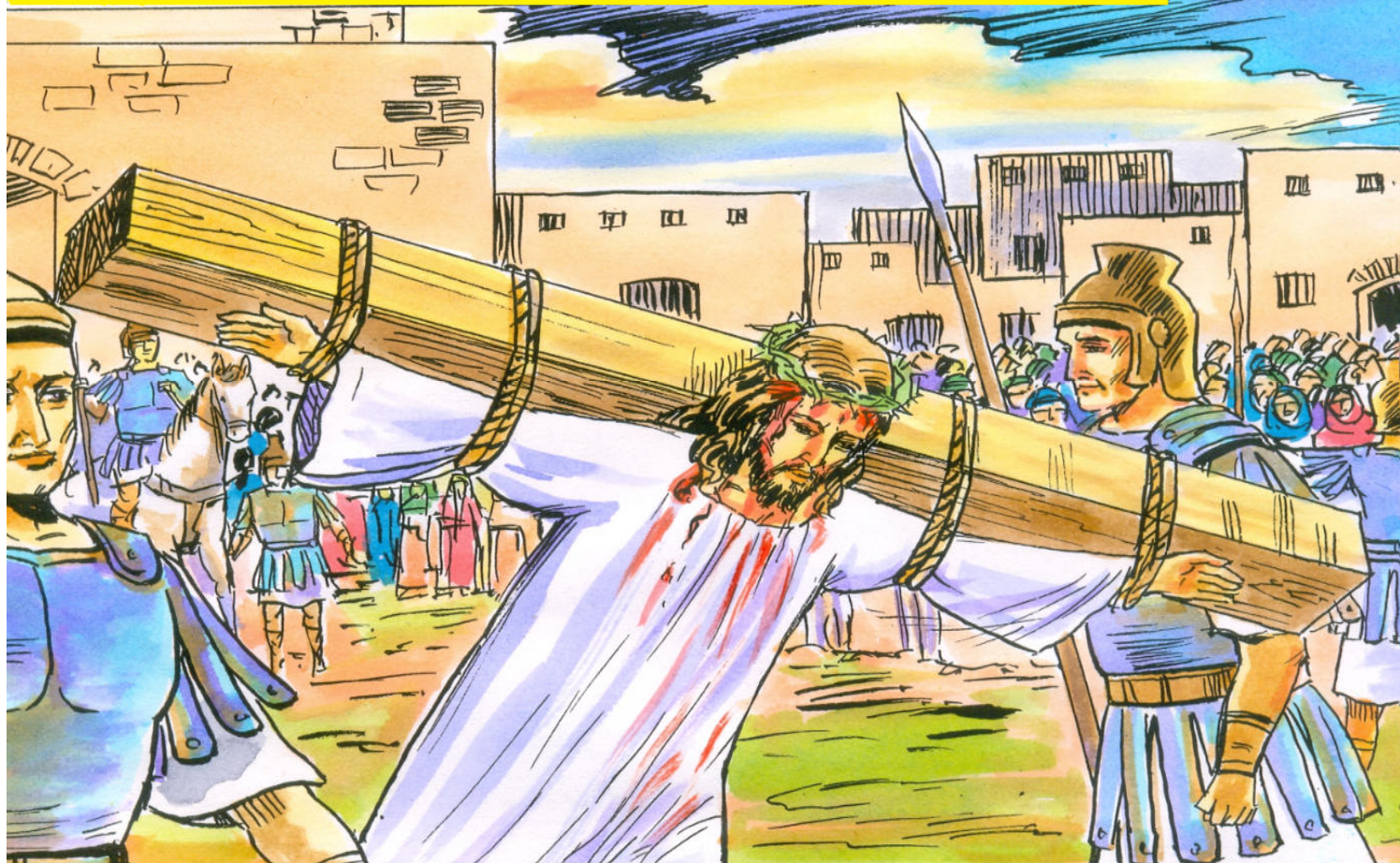


Take and crucify him. I am innocent of this man's blood.

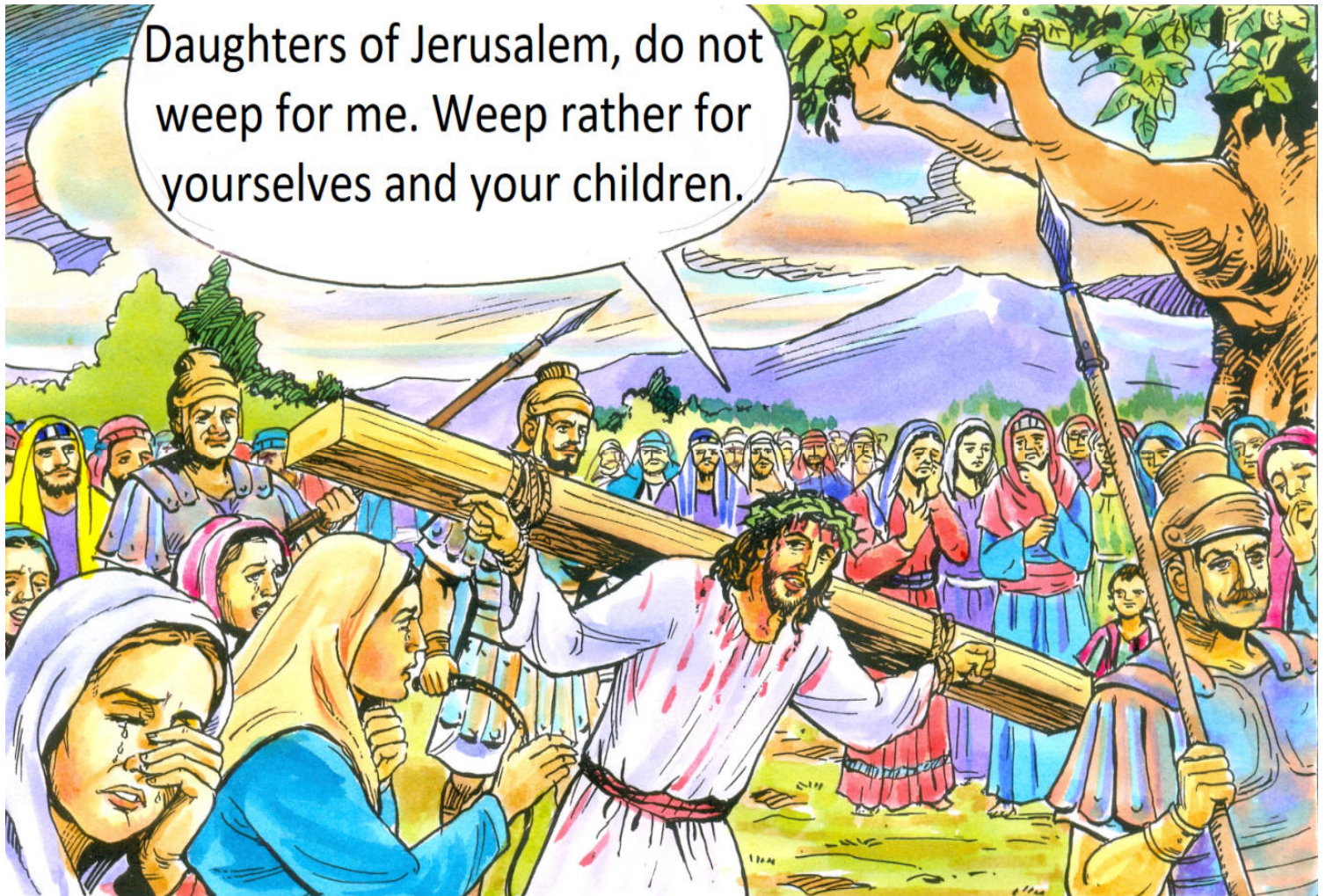




They led Jesus to Golgotha, outside the city, to be crucified.



Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me. Weep rather for yourselves and your children.



If they do this when the wood is green,
what will happen when it is dry!

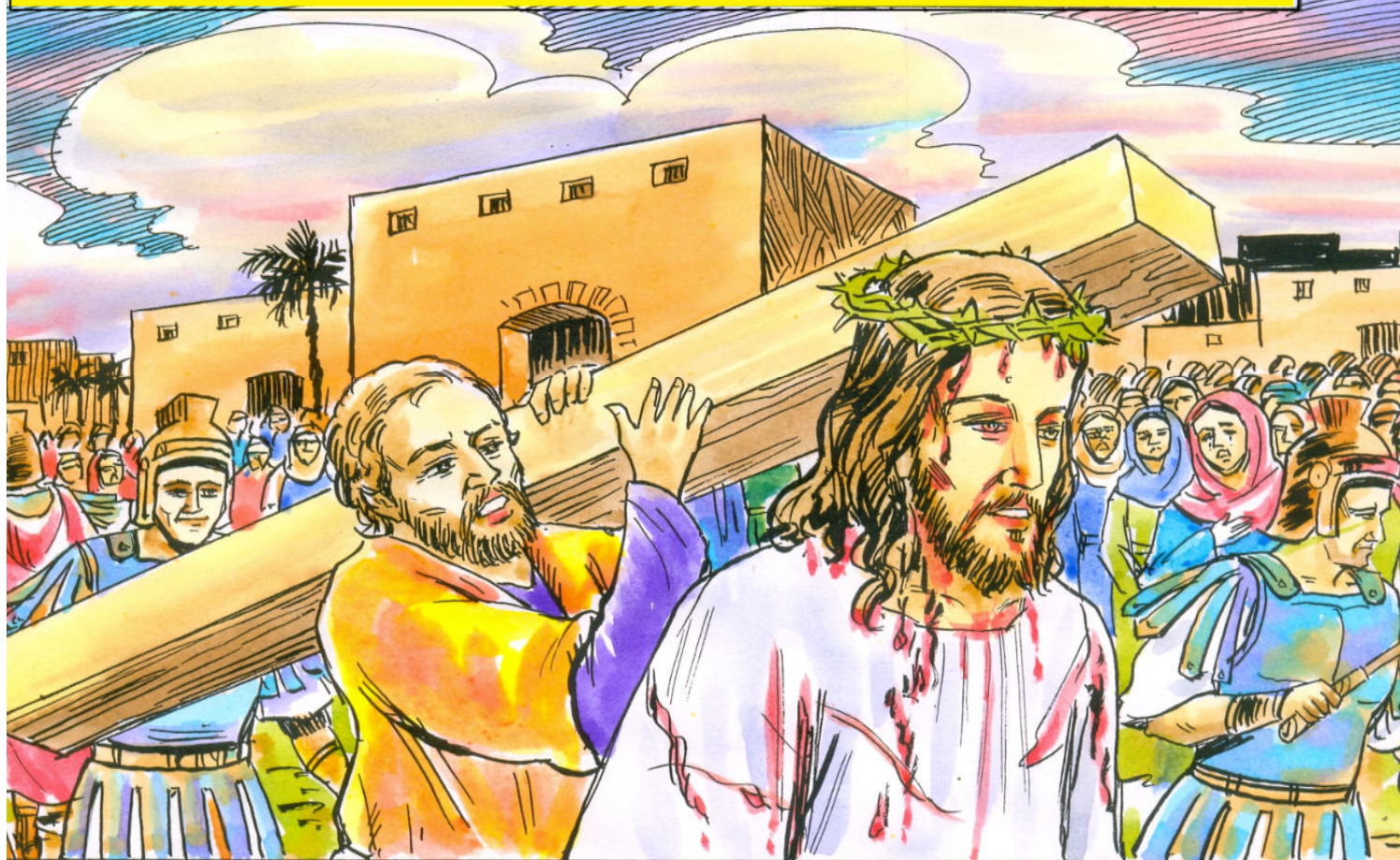


I am afraid that he will
die on the way.

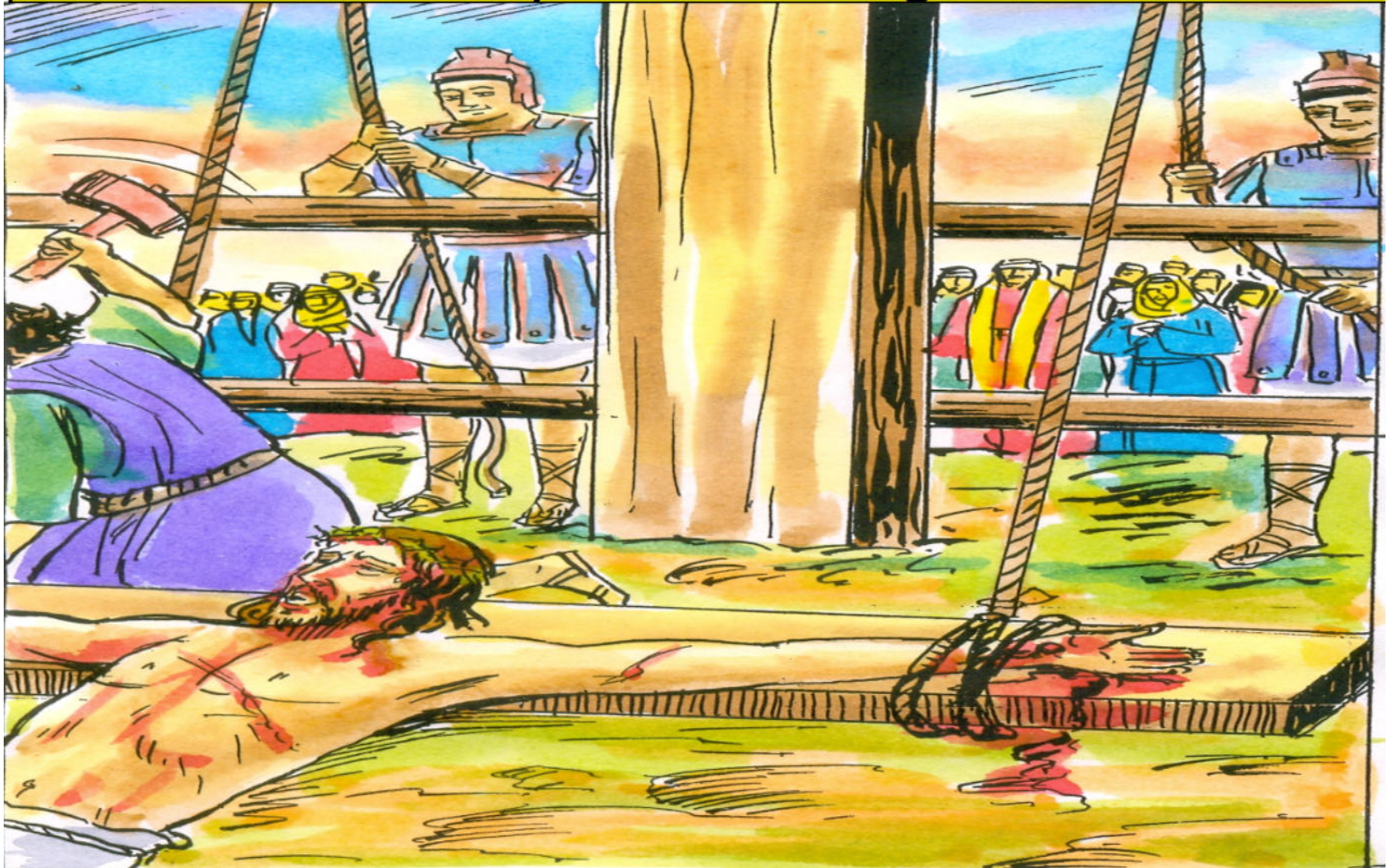
Remove the cross from his
shoulders. Ask that fellow to
carry it.



They forced Simon from Cyrene to carry the cross behind Jesus.



They reached Golgotha.





They crucified Jesus
between two criminals.



Above him was written: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews"

Change that inscription "This man said, I am the king of the Jews".

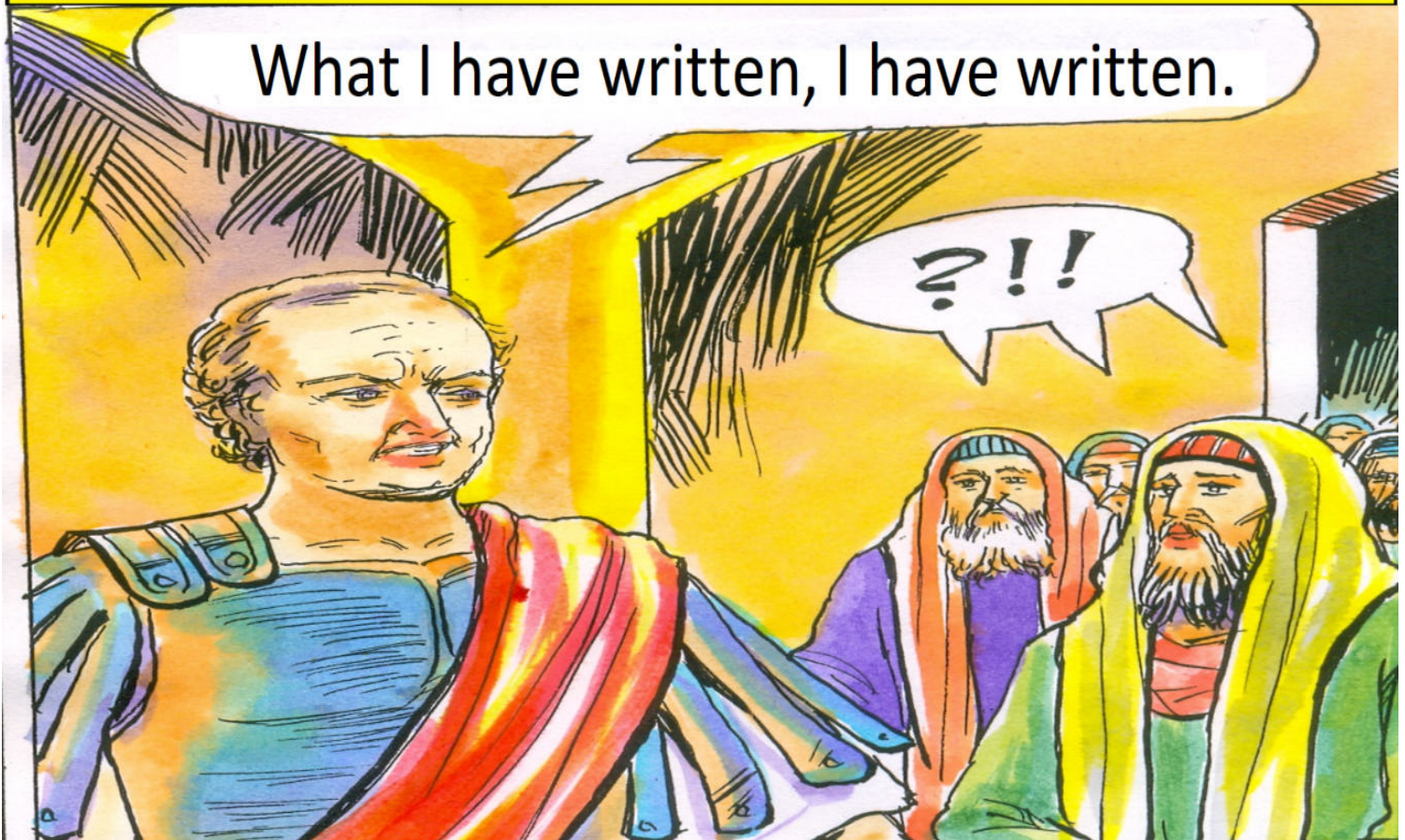
Go and tell the Governor.

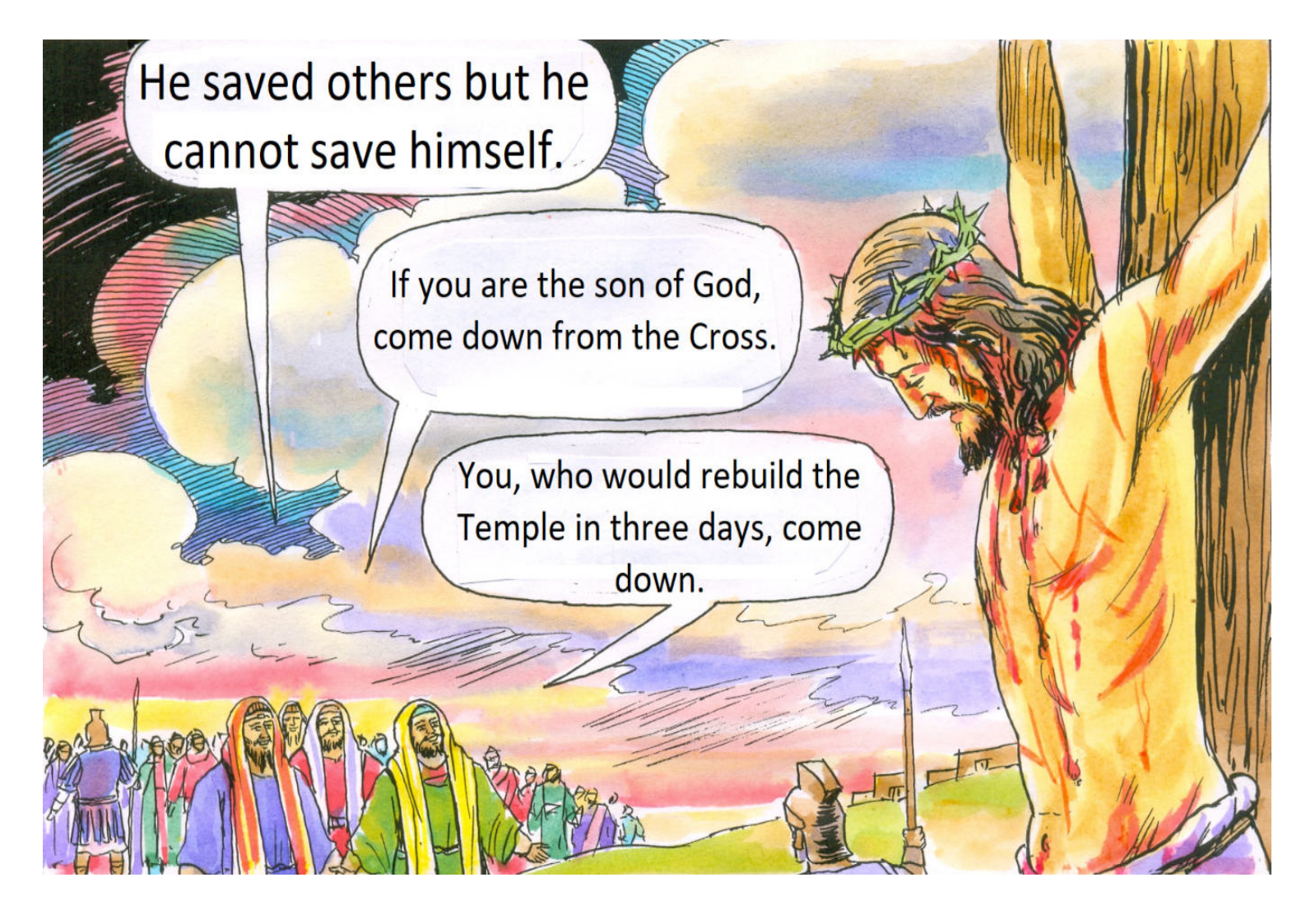


Jewish leaders went to Pilate.

What I have written, I have written.

?!!





He saved others but he
cannot save himself.

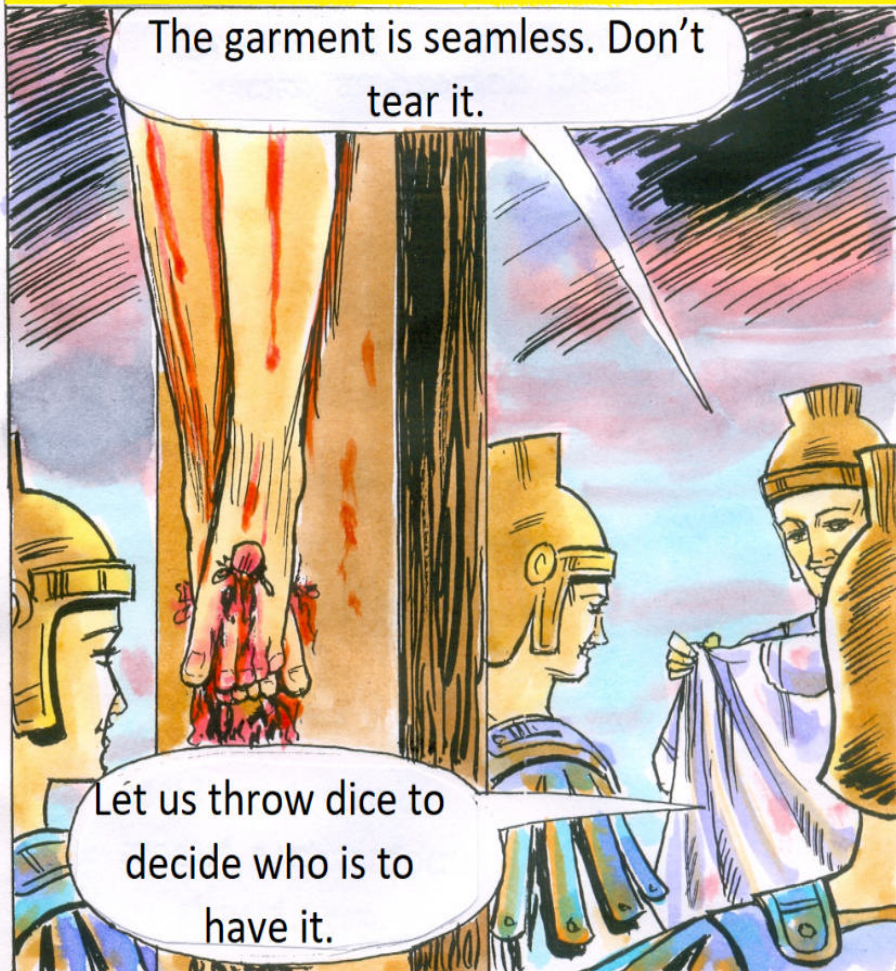
If you are the son of God,
come down from the Cross.

You, who would rebuild the
Temple in three days, come
down.

Father, forgive them for
they do not know what
they are doing.



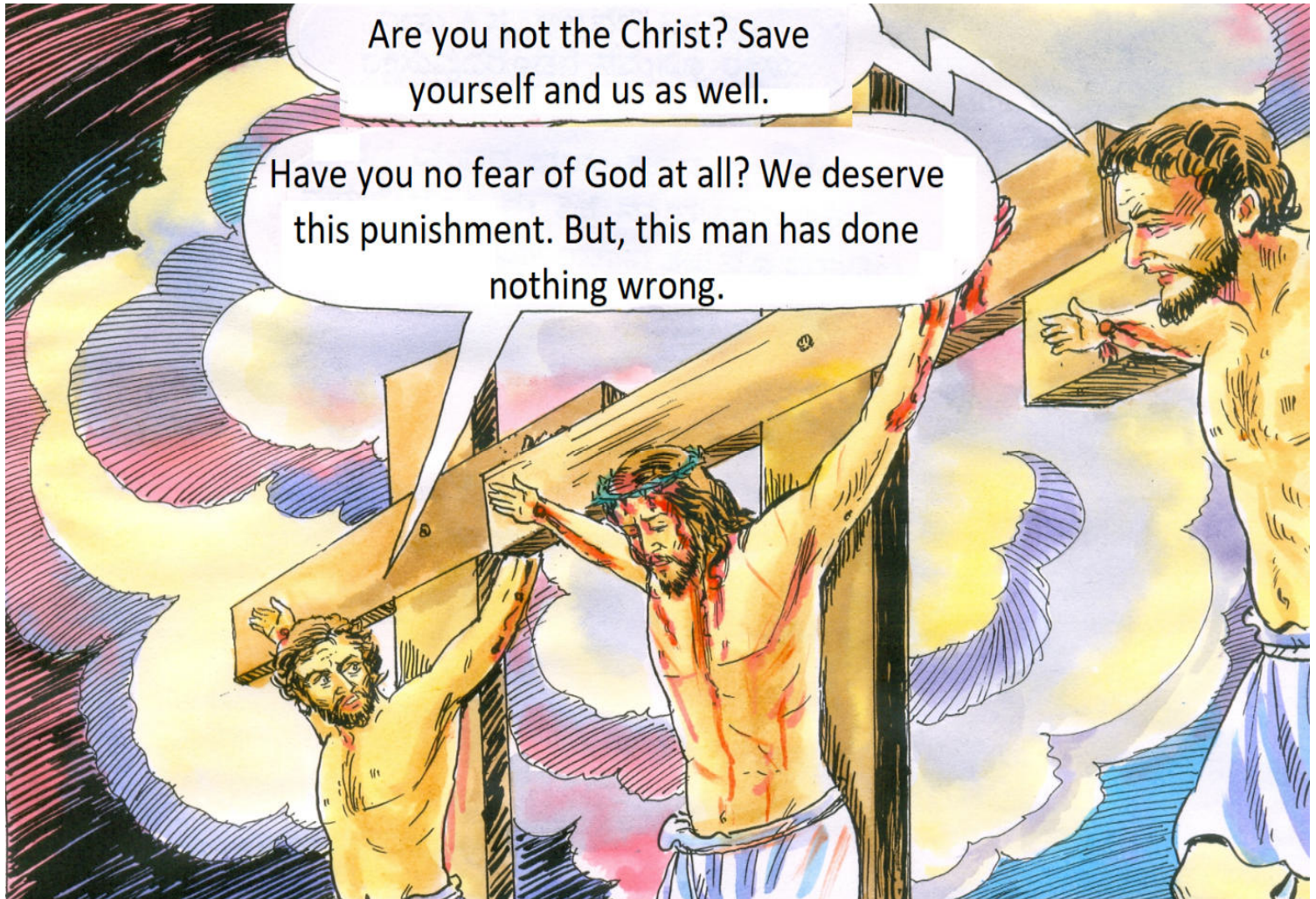
The soldiers cast lots for his clothes.
The garment is seamless. Don't
tear it.



Lét us throw dice to
decide who is to
have it.

Are you not the Christ? Save
yourself and us as well.

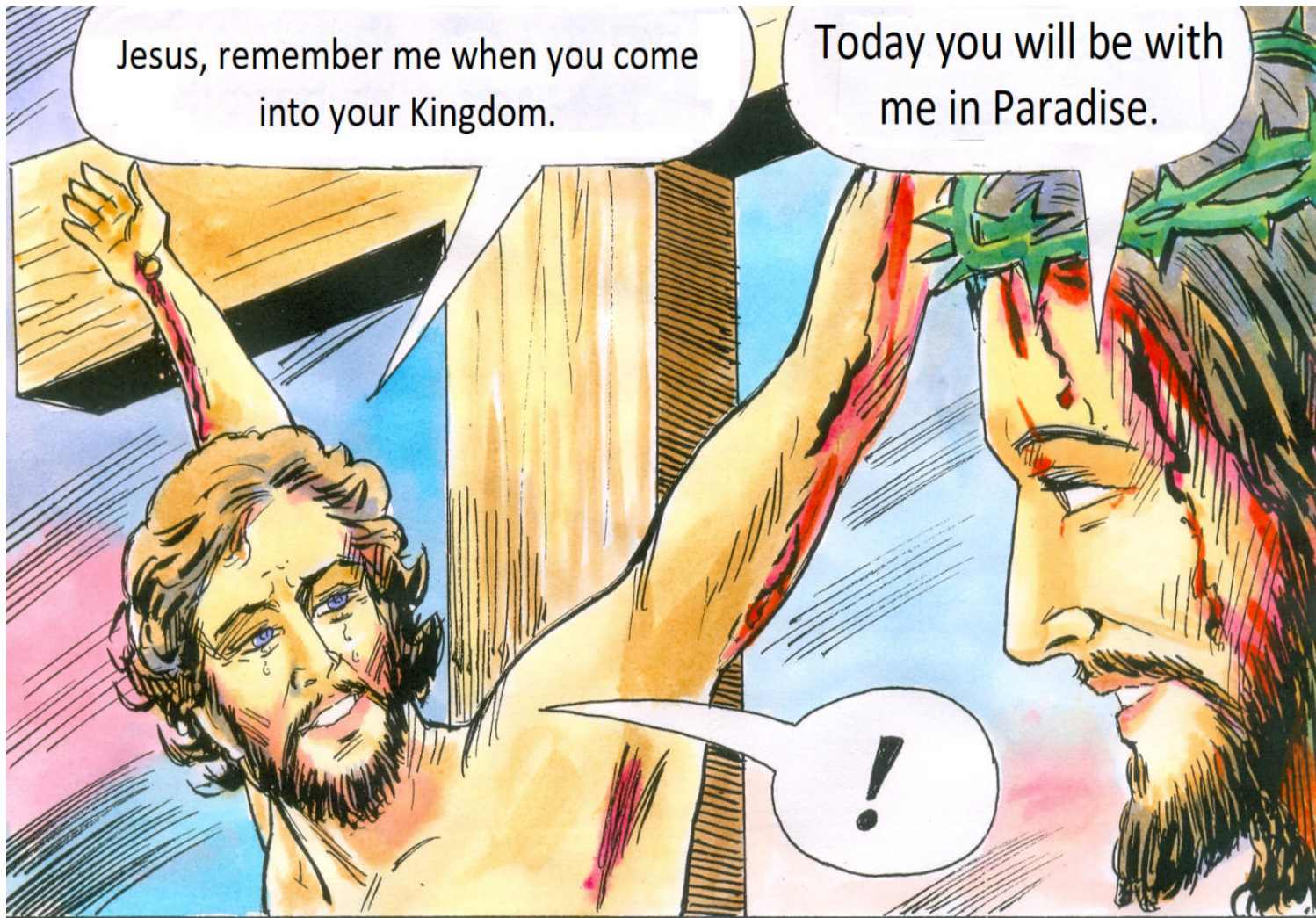
Have you no fear of God at all? We deserve
this punishment. But, this man has done
nothing wrong.



Jesus, remember me when you come
into your Kingdom.

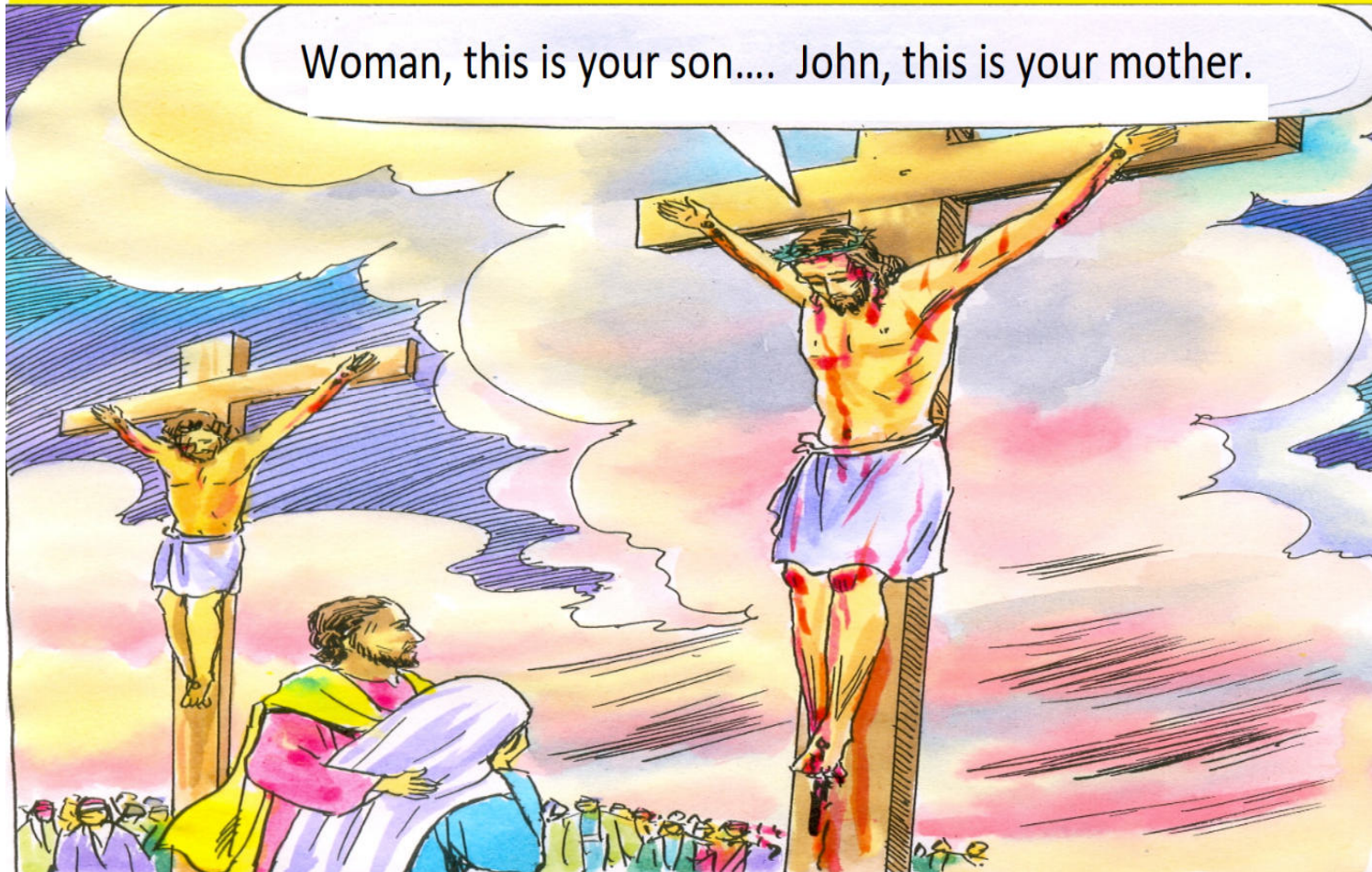
Today you will be with
me in Paradise.

!

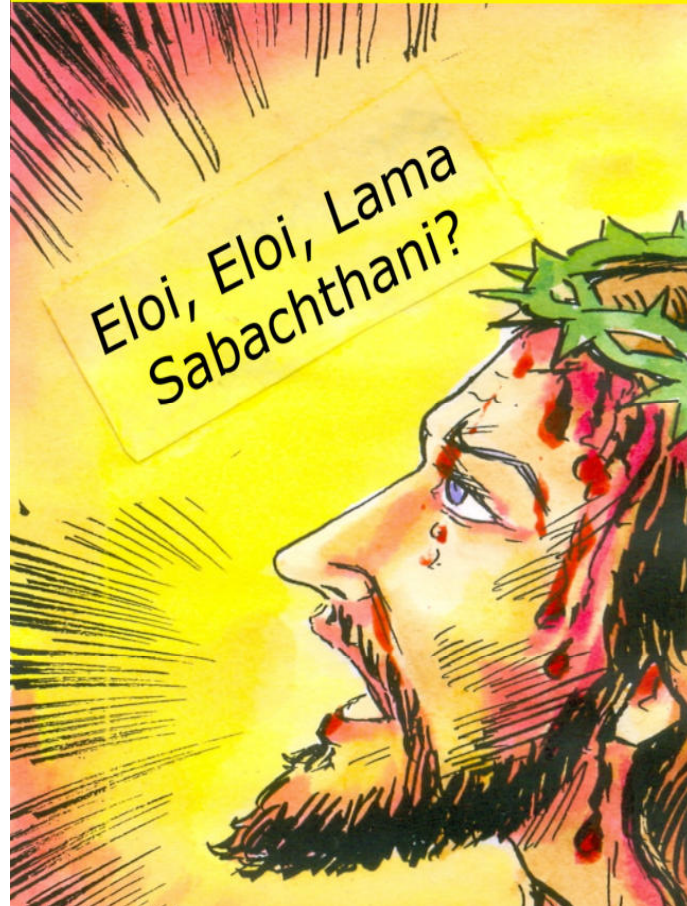


Mary, mother of Jesus and his disciple John were at the foot of the Cross.

Woman, this is your son.... John, this is your mother.



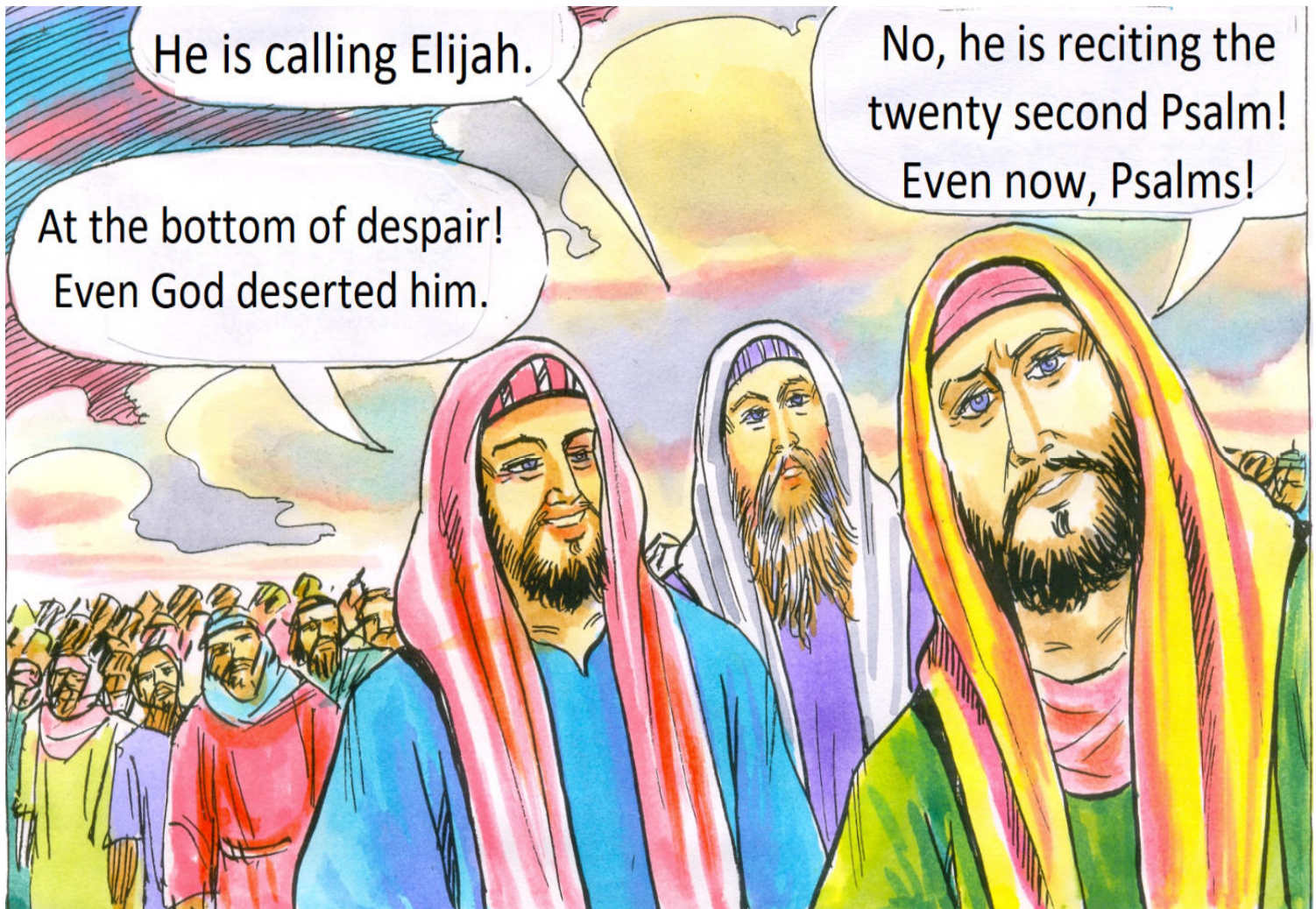
A little later.



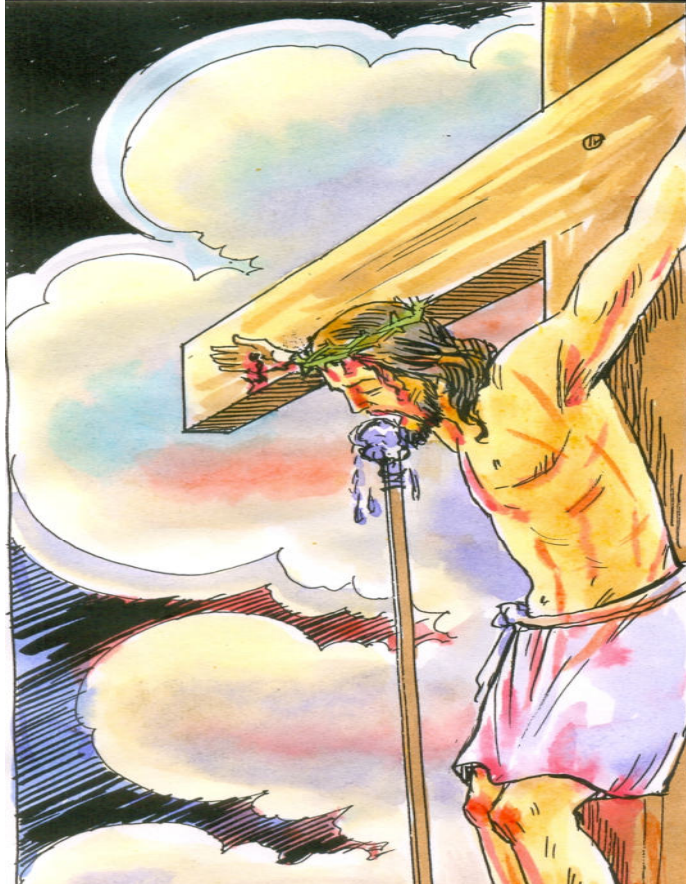
He is calling Elijah.

At the bottom of despair!
Even God deserted him.

No, he is reciting the
twenty second Psalm!
Even now, Psalms!



A soldier soaked a sponge in vinegar and putting it on reed gave it to him to drink.

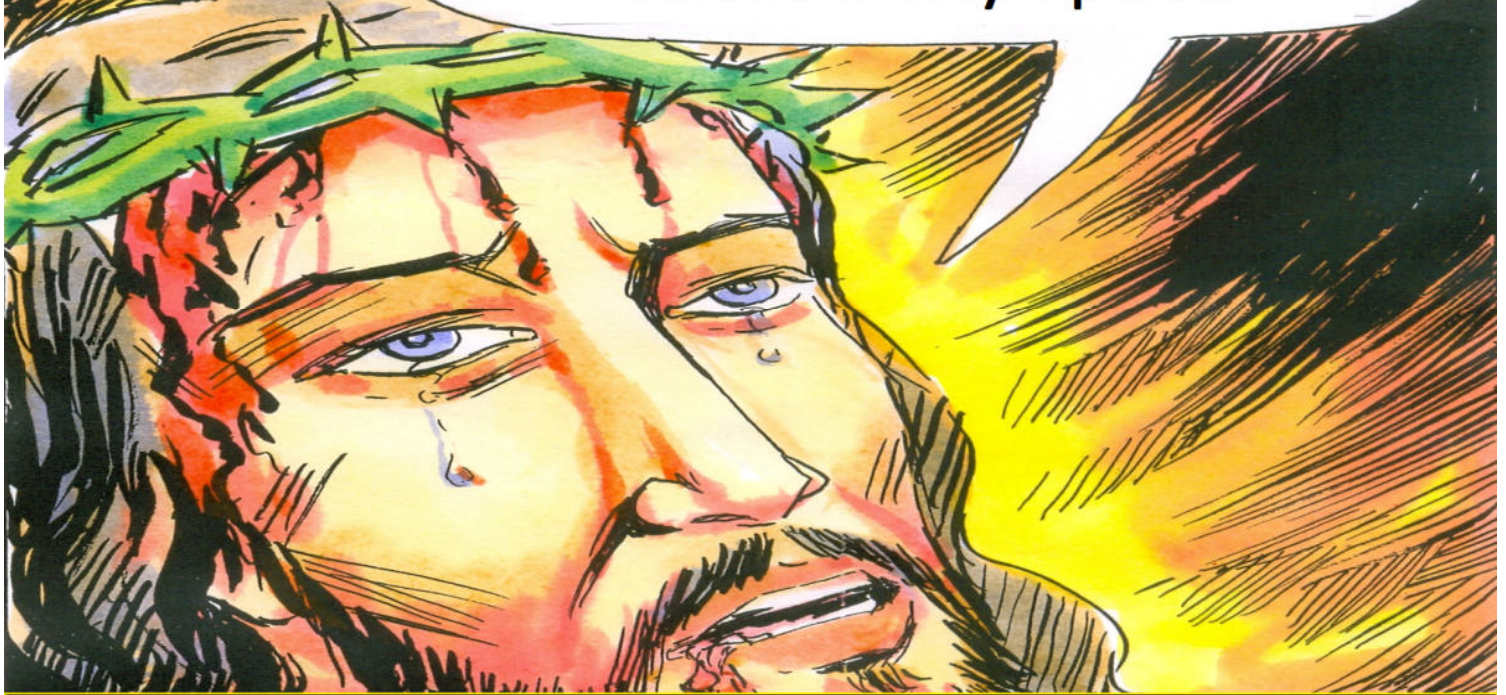


Jesus accepted it.

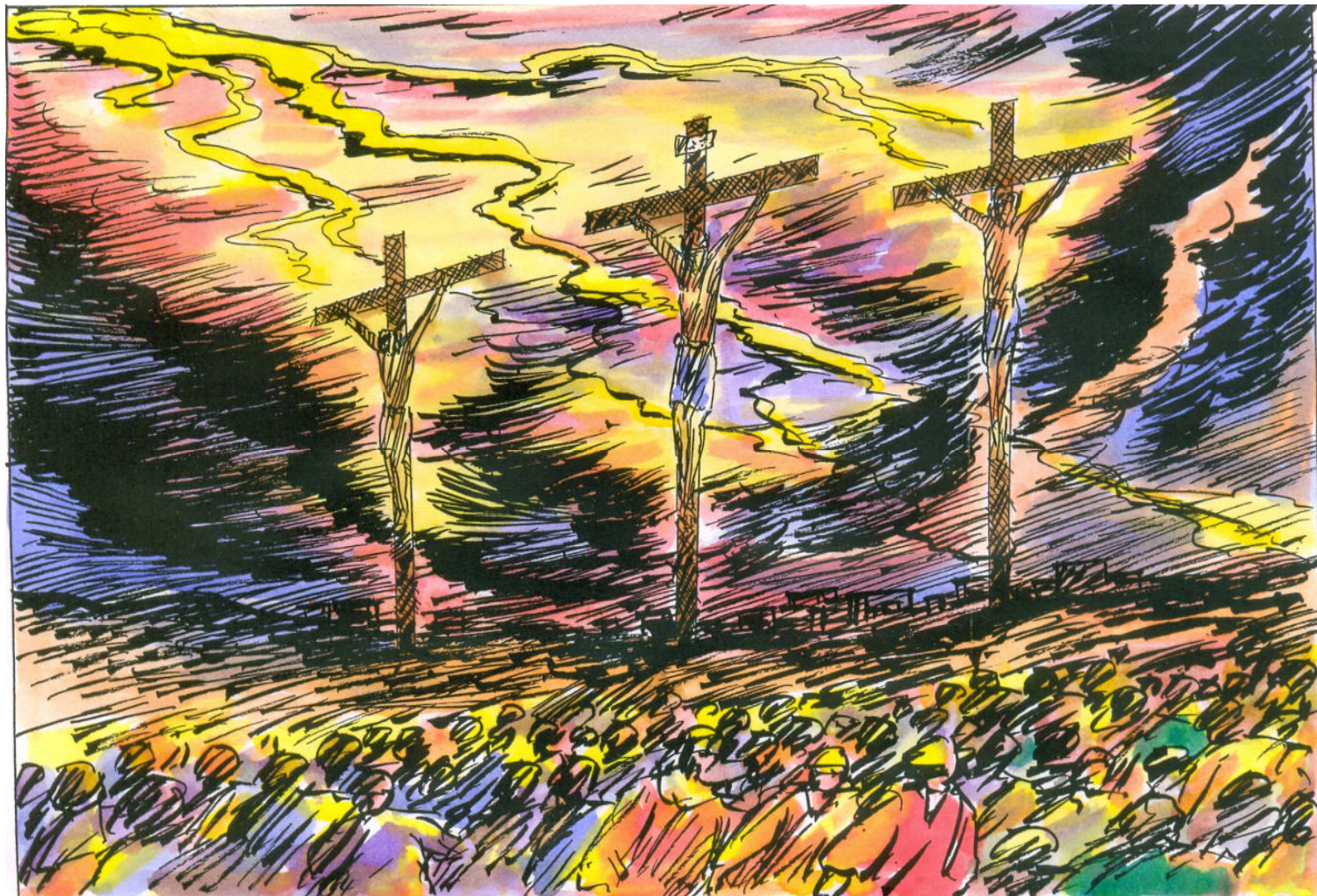
It is accomplished.



Father, into your hands I
commit my spirit.



Saying this Jesus breathed his last.



This man was really
the Son of God.



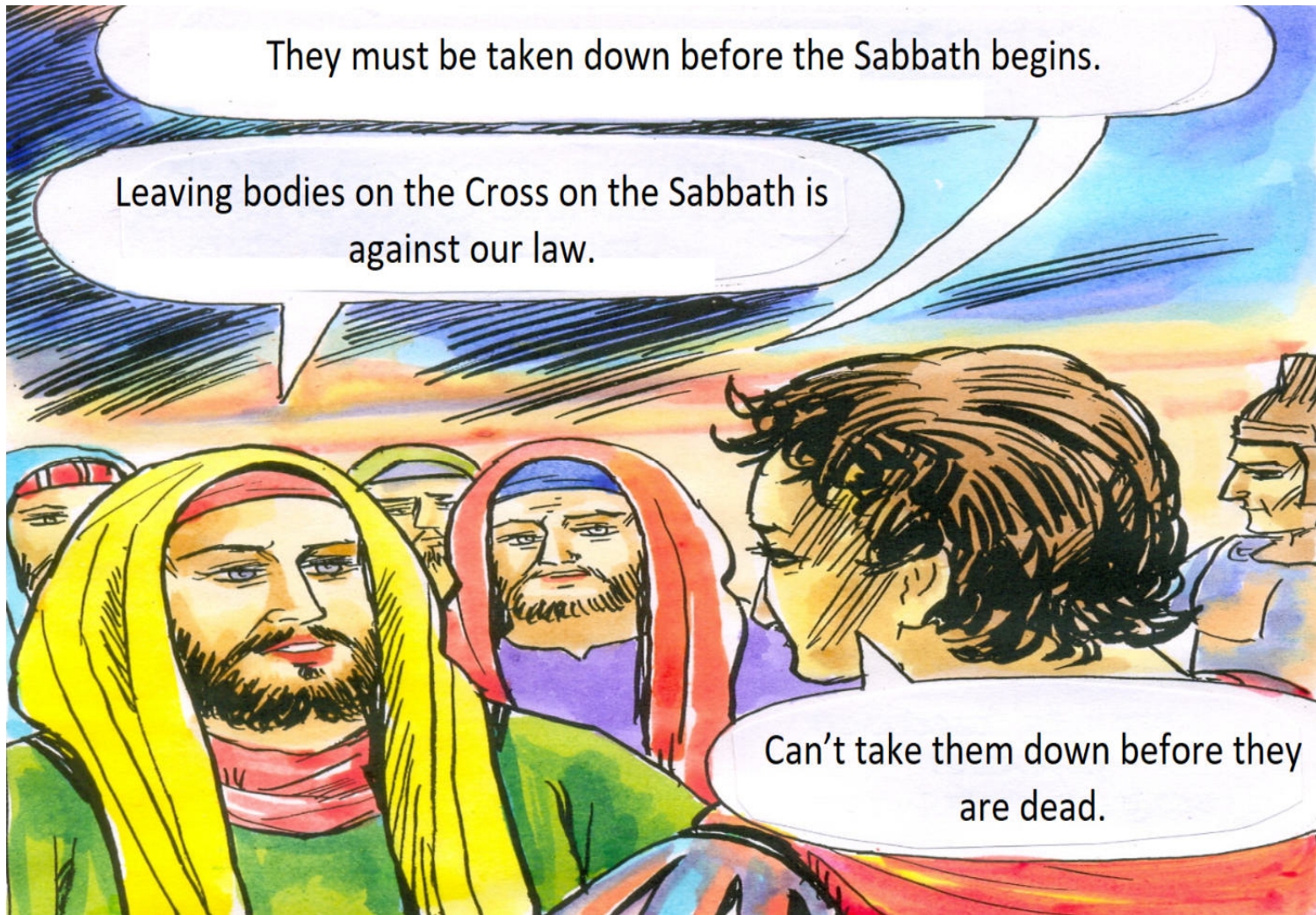
People who stood around went home weeping.



They must be taken down before the Sabbath begins.

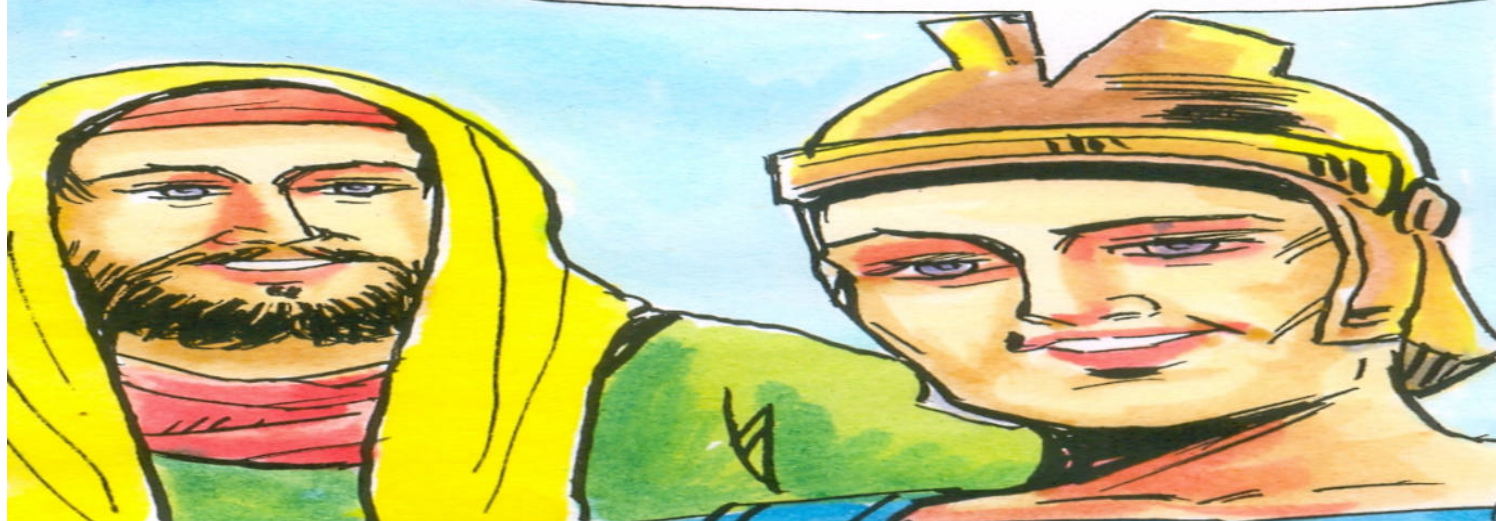
Leaving bodies on the Cross on the Sabbath is
against our law.

Can't take them down before they
are dead.



If they are not dead, kill them breaking their legs

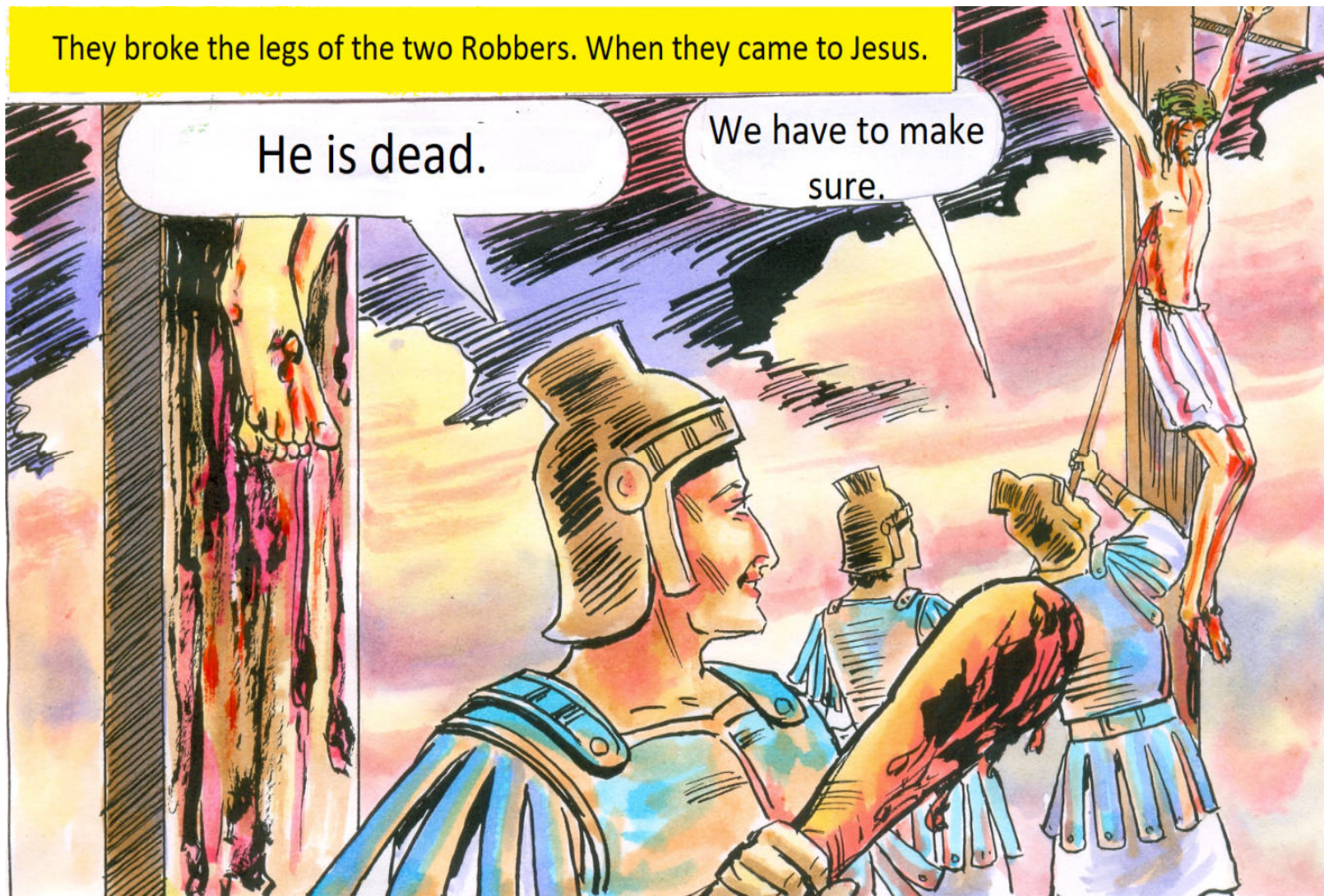
End the pain soon. Anyway, they are
going to die.



They broke the legs of the two Robbers. When they came to Jesus.

He is dead.

We have to make
sure.



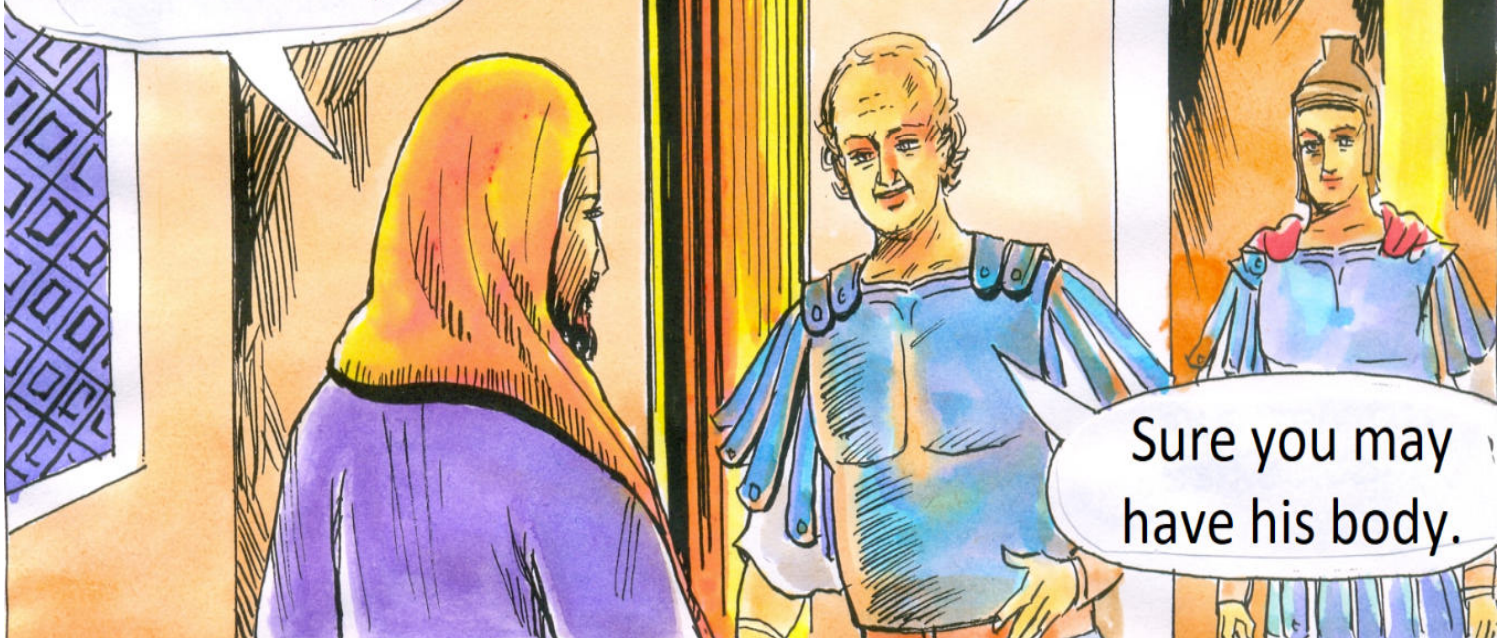
Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Sanhedrin and a friend of Jesus went to Pilate.

Please let me take down the body of Jesus from the Cross and bury it.

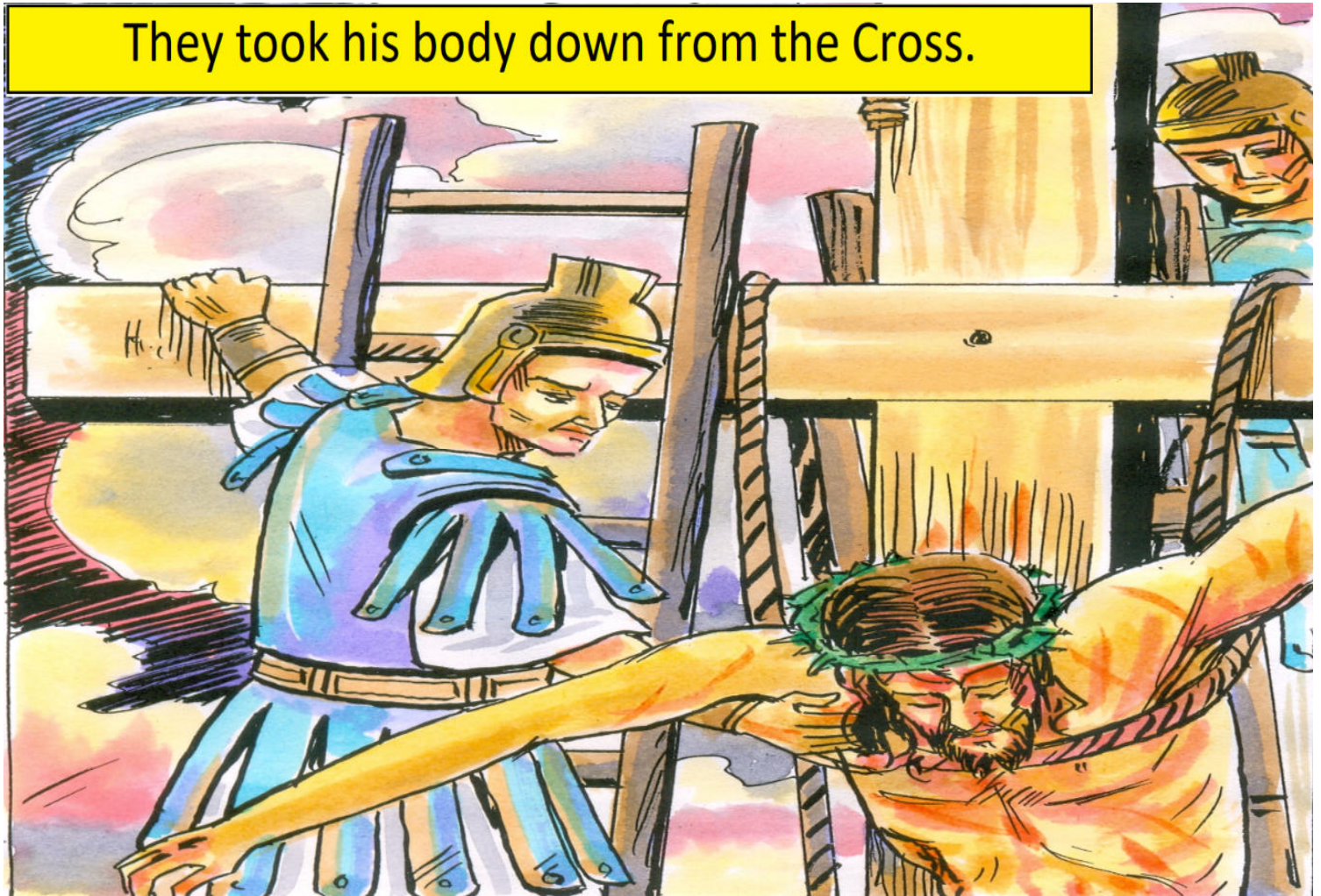
Has he died already? Centurion?

Yes he is dead.

Sure you may have his body.

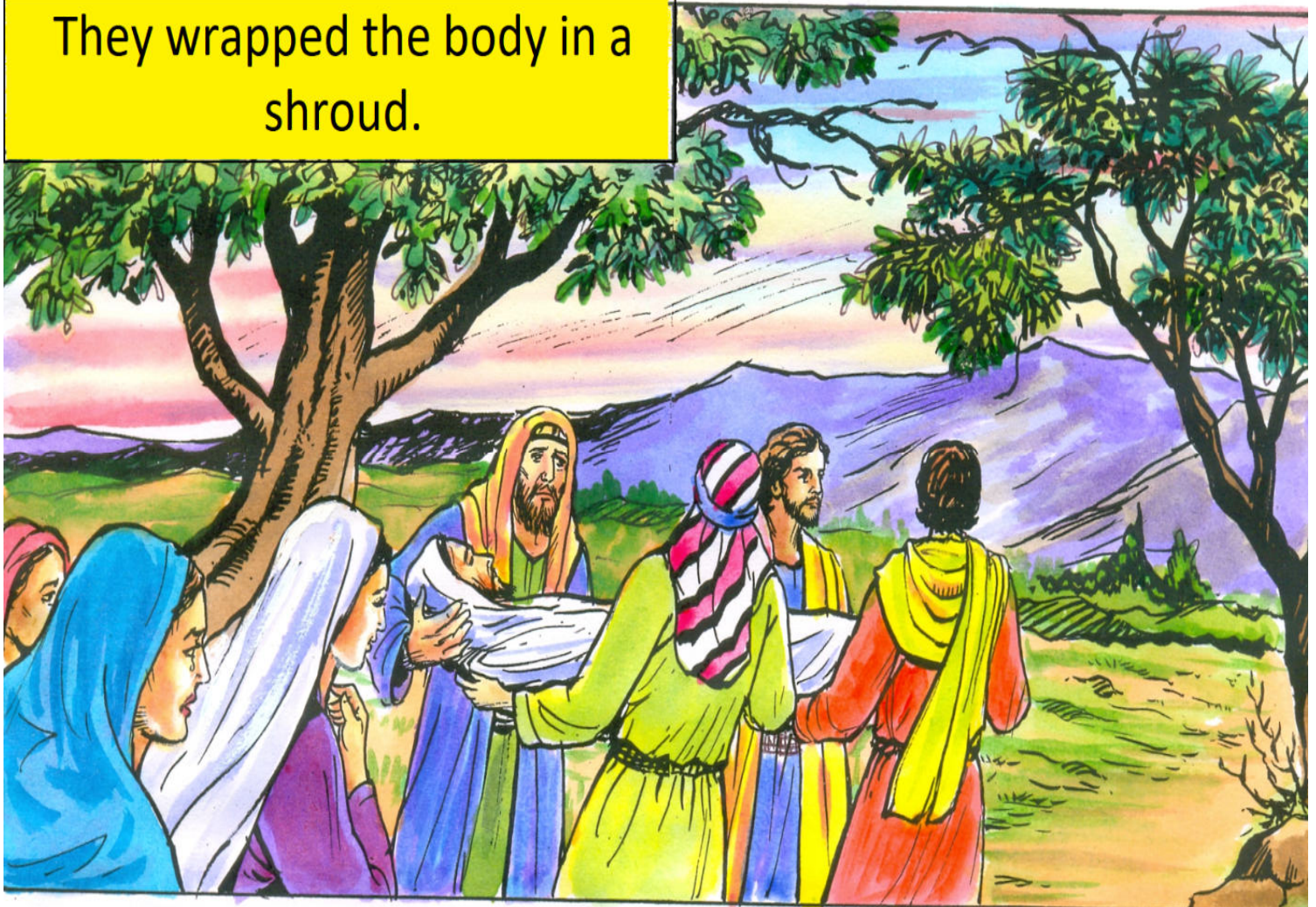


They took his body down from the Cross.





They wrapped the body in a shroud.



Placed him in a new tomb that was
nearby.



Has darkness defeated the Light?
Is death the last word?
Are truth ever vanquished forever?

Victory over death!

Next Story:

With Us Forever.

Questions

1. What was Jesus' Prayer in the garden?
2. What did Jesus reply to Annas?
3. Why did Peter deny Jesus?
4. Why did the Sanhedrin condemn Jesus to death?
5. Why did Pilate send Jesus to Herod?
6. Why did Pilate condemn Jesus to death?
7. Compare the characters of Judas and Peter.
8. What did Jesus tell the women of Jerusalem?
9. Using the four Gospels, write down the seven words of Jesus from the cross.
10. Jesus' death on the cross is the supreme manifestation of God's love. Explain.

Memorize: **"Father... let your will be done, not mine"** (L.k. 22: 42)

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