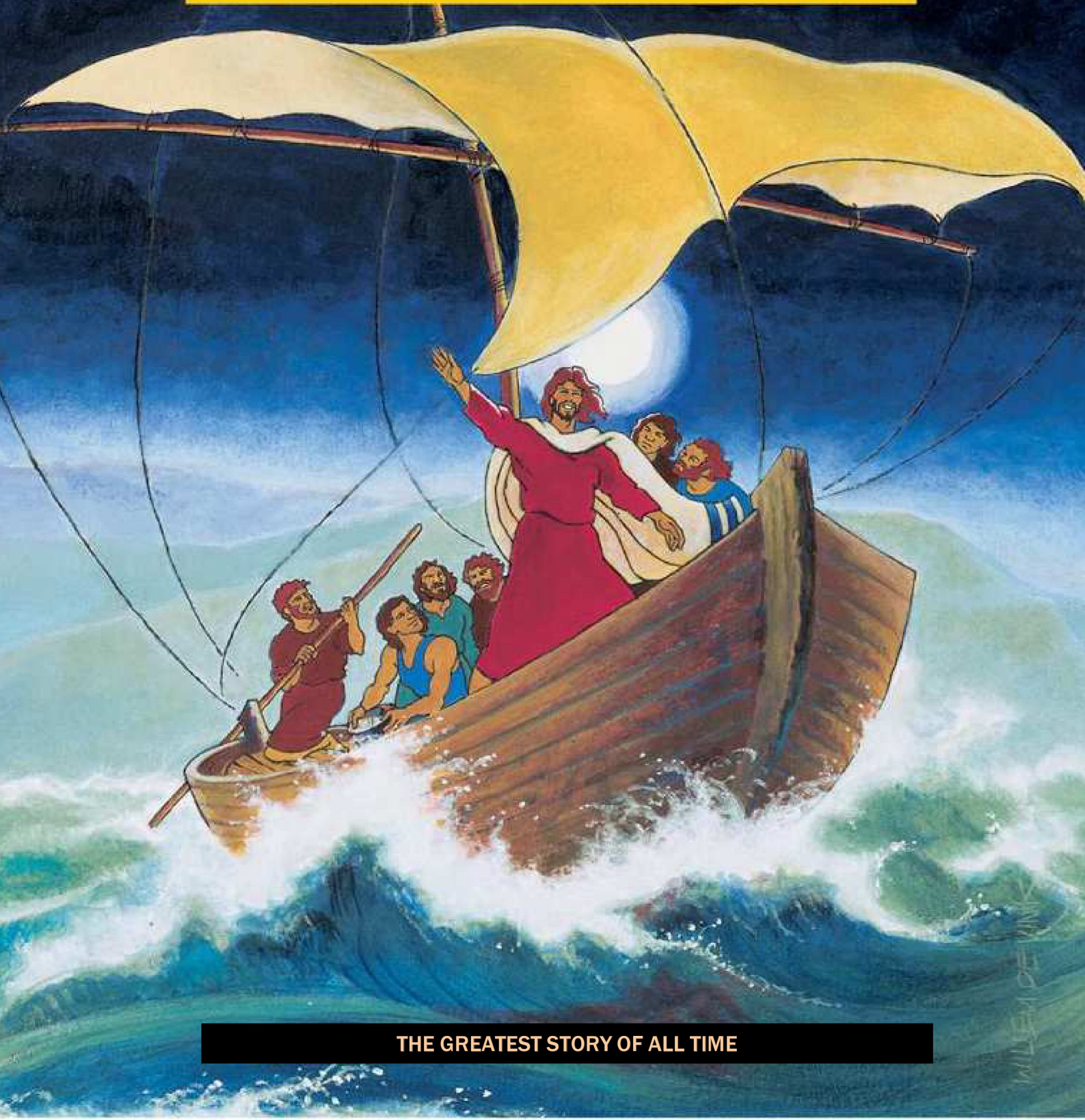


Text and illustrations: Willem de Vink

JESUS MESSIAH



THE GREATEST STORY OF ALL TIME

What is...



Angel: An invisible messenger of God (p.5).

Blessing: All the good things which God wants to give to people who are doing what He wants.

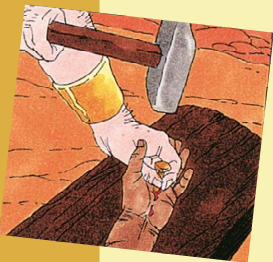


Bible: In the Bible you can read about how God looks at people and how He deals with them.

Communion: Followers of Jesus remember His death and resurrection with bread and wine (p. 41).



Cross: Instrument of torture on which Jesus died of His own free will. It has become the sign for all of Jesus' followers (p.25, 50).



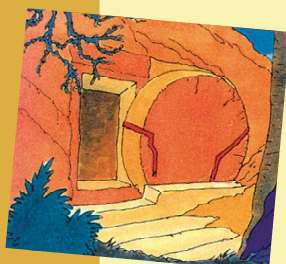
Disciple: Follower of Jesus (p.18).

Easter: The feast at which Jesus' resurrection is celebrated. The Jews celebrate Passover on the same days (p.38-54).



Eternal life: Life with Jesus as God intended it. It overcomes death and has no end (p.23, 29-30 and 59).

Faith: You trust God to do what He promised to do (p.58).



Forgiveness: God forgives, although nobody deserves it. God forgives if you are really sorry for sinning and are willing to change. Forgiveness is possible because Jesus bore the punishment which we deserved (p.58).

God's Kingdom: God's Kingdom is present where people obey Him.

Holy Spirit: God's Spirit by which He wants to live in people who are following Jesus (p.58).

Jesus: The name of God's Son, meaning, 'God saves'.

Messiah: 'Anointed King'. Messiah (a Hebrew word) is translated in Greek as Christ (p.52, 55).

Prayer: You talk to God, quietly or aloud and you listen to Him (p.18, 19, 42).

Resurrection: Jesus rose from the dead. One day everyone will rise from the dead. Then God will judge each human being (p.53-57).

Return: Everything will be made new when Jesus returns to earth. Heaven and earth will be renewed by God (p.57).

Satan: The invisible enemy of God and men (also referred to as the Devil).

Sin: The things we do which are against God's will and which prevent us from reaching the goal which God has for us (p.4).

Son of God: Name of Jesus. He was God Who came to earth as a human being, as the Son of God.



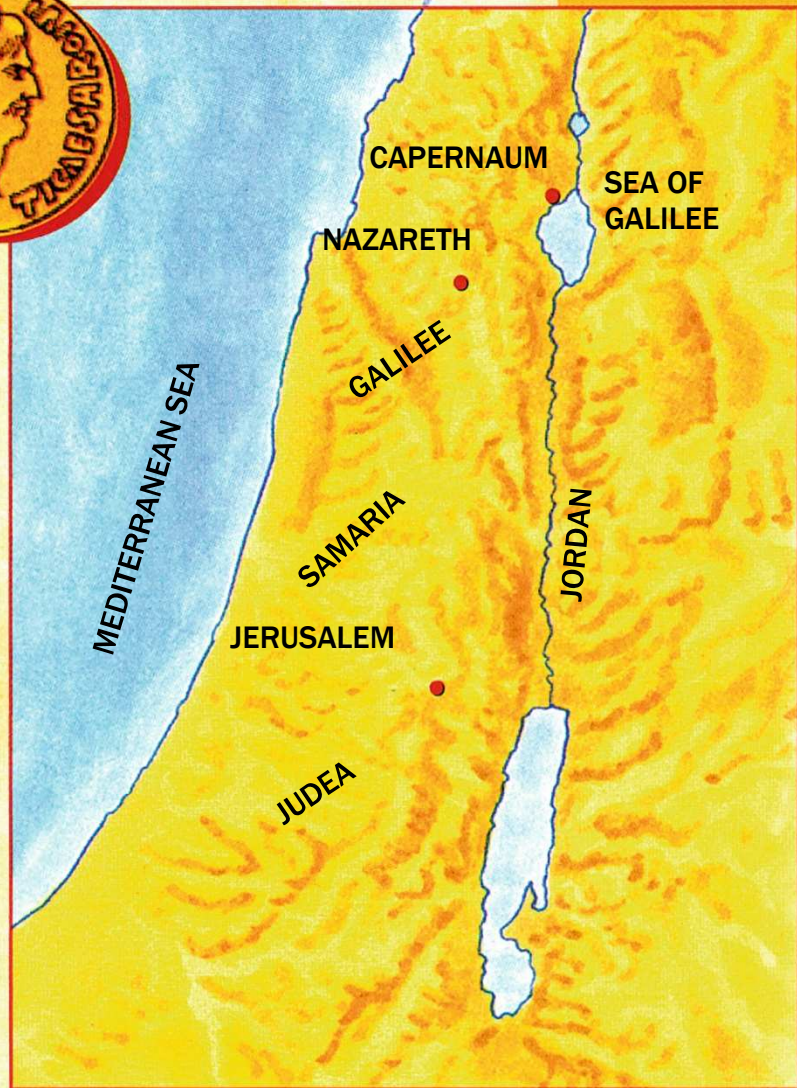
Who is Jesus Messiah?

Jesus lived about 2,000 years ago in Israel. We call Him 'Jesus Messiah' or 'Jesus Christ'. It means that He is King. Yet, He is not just a King. Jesus is called 'the Son of God' and also 'the Son of Man'. This means that He belongs to God and to human beings. The history of Jesus' life is described in the Bible. It is the greatest story of all time.

Jesus' Time

Our era begins with the birth of Jesus. People travelled on foot or on a donkey, camel, or on horseback. Major parts of Europe, the Middle East, and Northern Africa were occupied by the Roman Empire. Most people could not read or write, yet the Jews in Israel could. They were called 'the people of the Book'. God speaks in the Book, the Bible. He is the Creator of all existing things and He wants to be friends with all people. Jesus showed that very clearly!





Israel in Jesus' Time

Capital: Jerusalem.

Provinces: Galilee, Samaria, Judea.

Size: Approximately 28,000 km² (10,810 sq. miles).

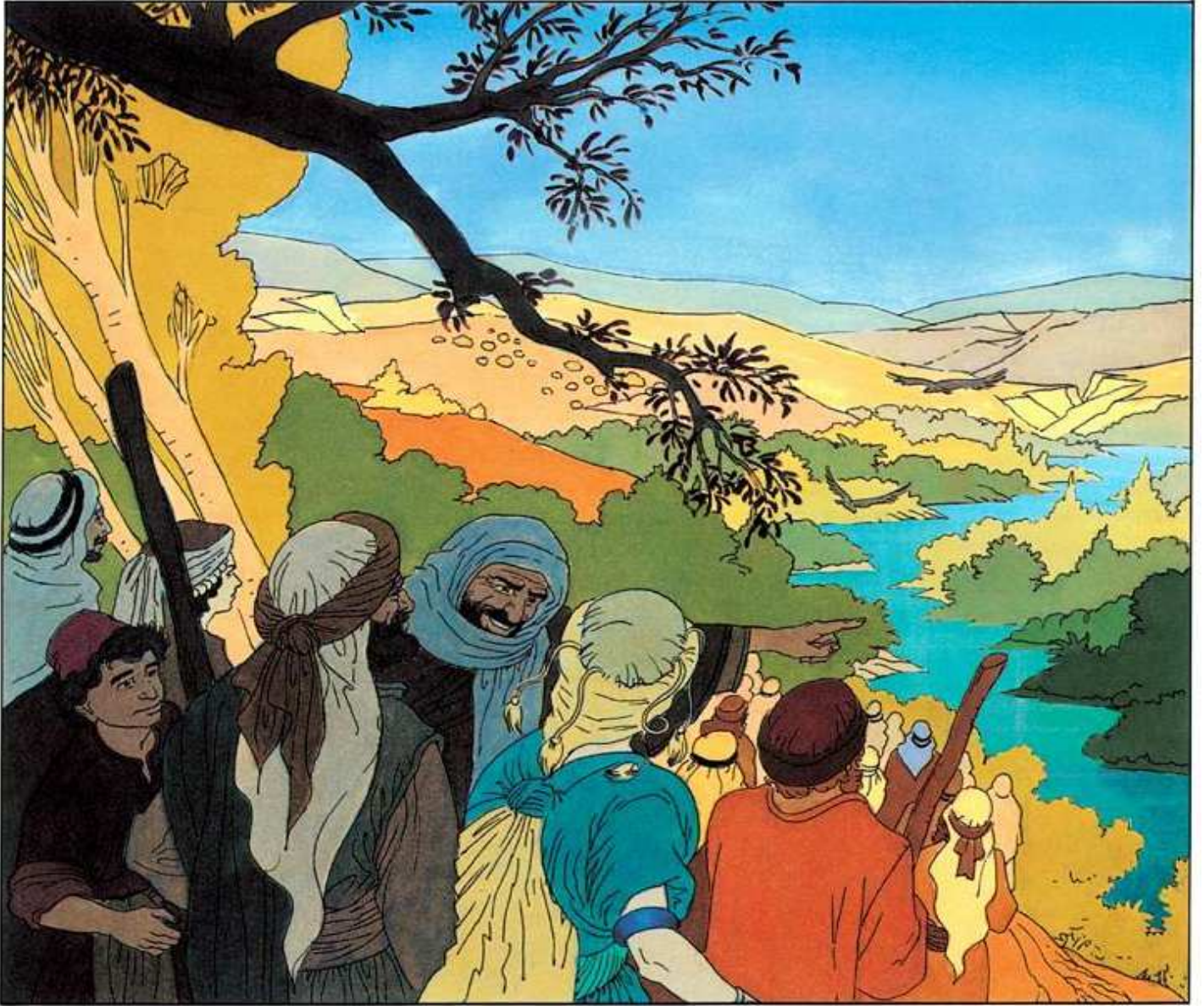
Climate: Subtropical.

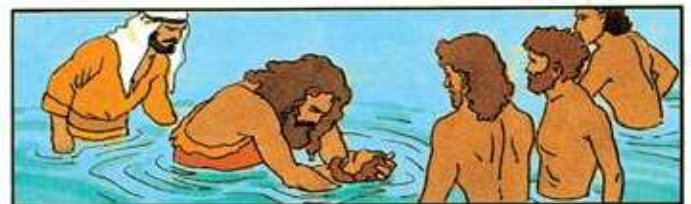
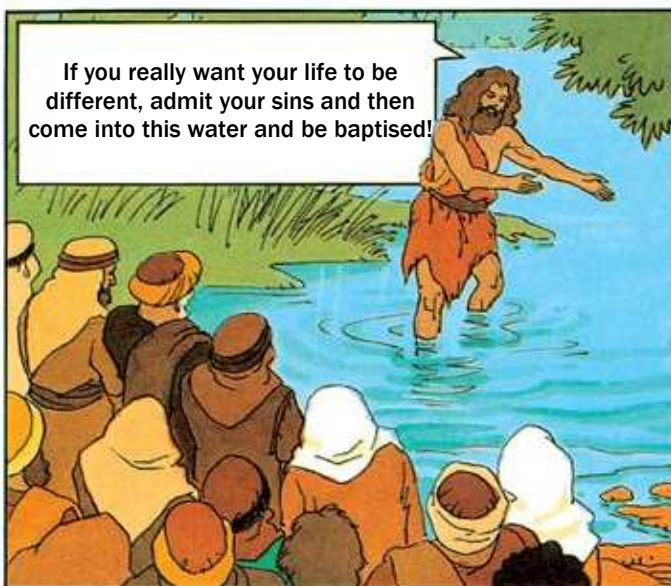
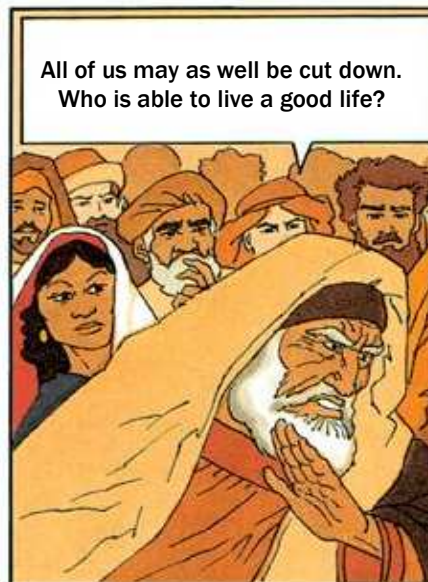
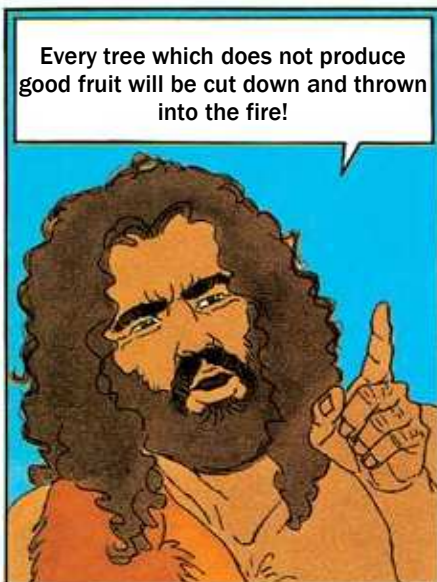
Politics: Since 63 BC (before Christ) the Romans have been in control in Israel.

Government: Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, rules in Israel. Tiberias, the Roman Emperor, rules over him.

Religion: Judaism. The Jews have a temple in Jerusalem. There are priests doing all kinds of work for the religion and there are teachers (such as the Pharisees) who must instruct the people from the Bible.

Languages: Hebrew (the language of the Jews), Greek (the internationally spoken language), Latin (the language of the Romans).



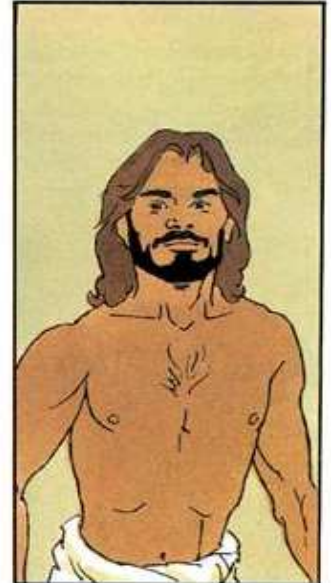


Everyone calls the preacher at the river John the Baptist...

I'm not important. I'm preparing the way for Him who will show us who God is. He will baptize you in God's Spirit and in God's fire. That will completely change you!



And then...



I... I should be baptized by You!



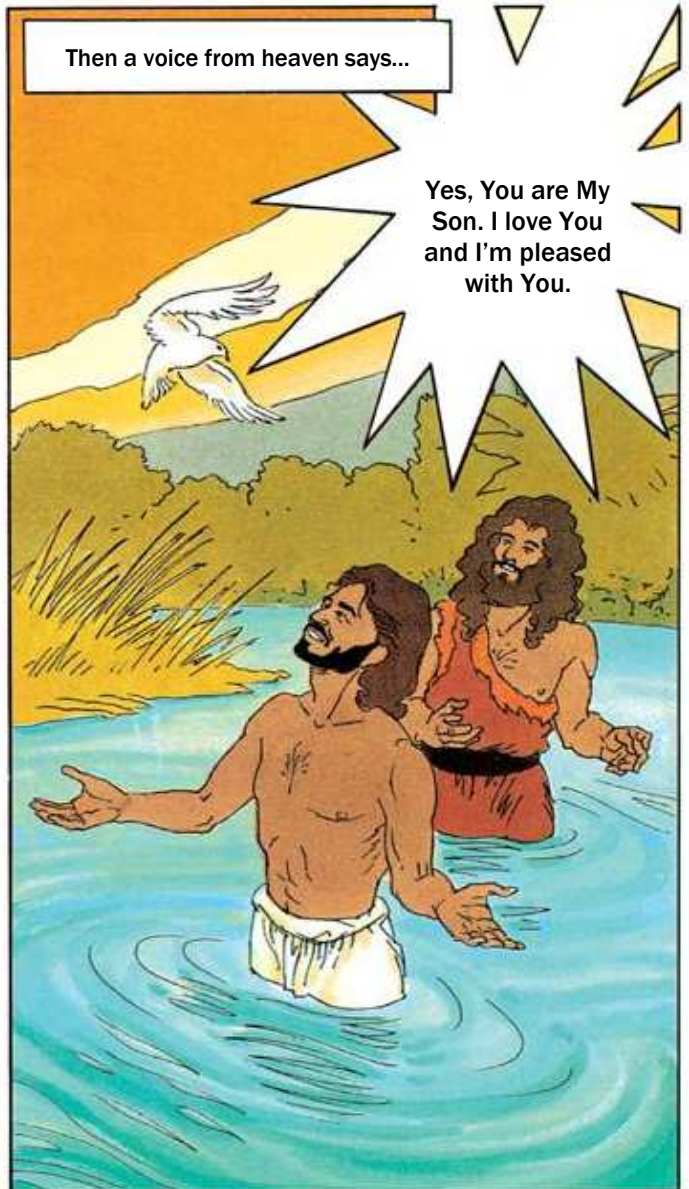
Just do it. Then we'll be doing what God wants.



Father, that Your kingdom may come and Your will be done!

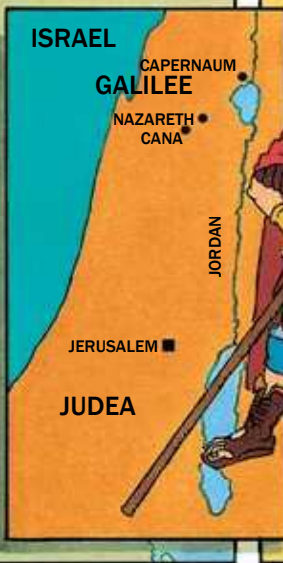


Then a voice from heaven says...



Yes, You are My Son. I love You and I'm pleased with You.

It's at the beginning of our era that John the Baptist is preparing Israel for the coming of the Messiah. At this time Israel is only a small part of the large Roman Empire.



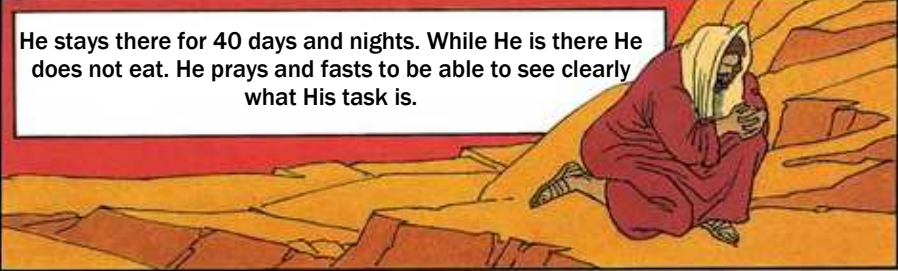
The Jews in Israel feel helpless and oppressed. The people are looking forward to the time when the Messiah will come. He is the Redeemer whose coming is predicted in the old Jewish books. This Messiah will let God's justice triumph.

At the river Jordan, John the Baptist points to Jesus.



Look! There's the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

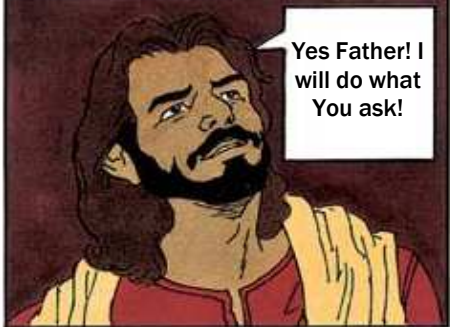
After His baptism, God's Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness.



He stays there for 40 days and nights. While He is there He does not eat. He prays and fasts to be able to see clearly what His task is.

To succeed, Jesus has to make God's intentions clear in the world. It's God's plan that people are released from the grip of death.

Jesus takes on Satan, the invisible ruler of darkness who rules the world with death and decay.

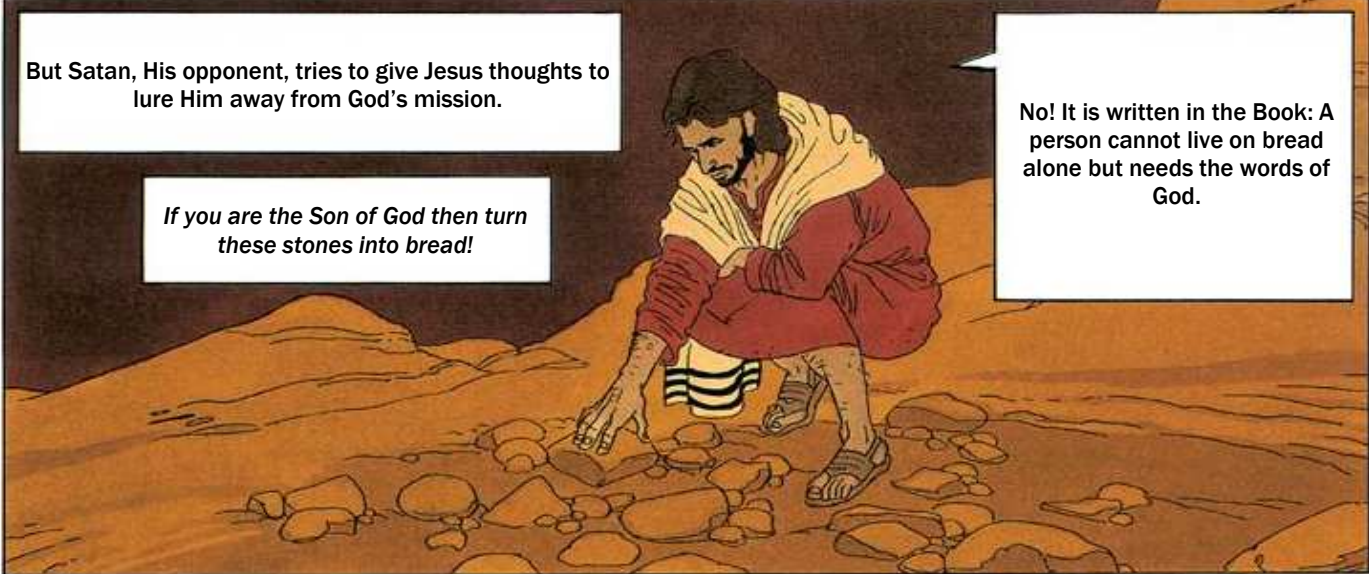


Yes Father! I will do what You ask!

But Satan, His opponent, tries to give Jesus thoughts to lure Him away from God's mission.

If you are the Son of God then turn these stones into bread!

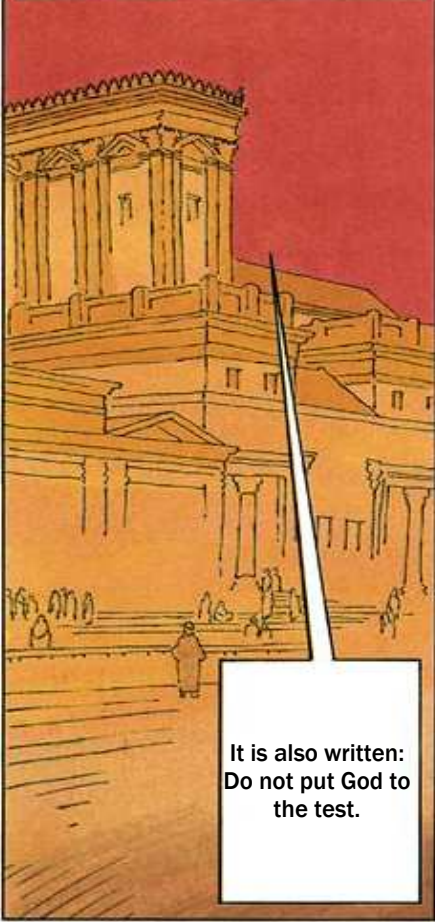
No! It is written in the Book: A person cannot live on bread alone but needs the words of God.



If you are really God's Son prove it! Jump off the temple roof. Isn't it written that the angels will carry you?

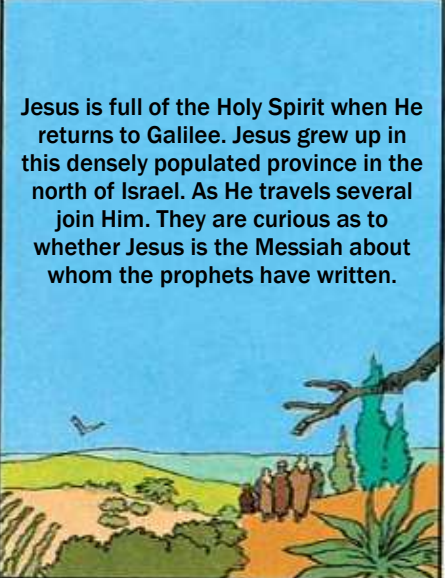
If You really bow down to me and worship me, I'll give you all the power on earth!

Then Satan leaves Jesus alone. Angels come to serve Him...



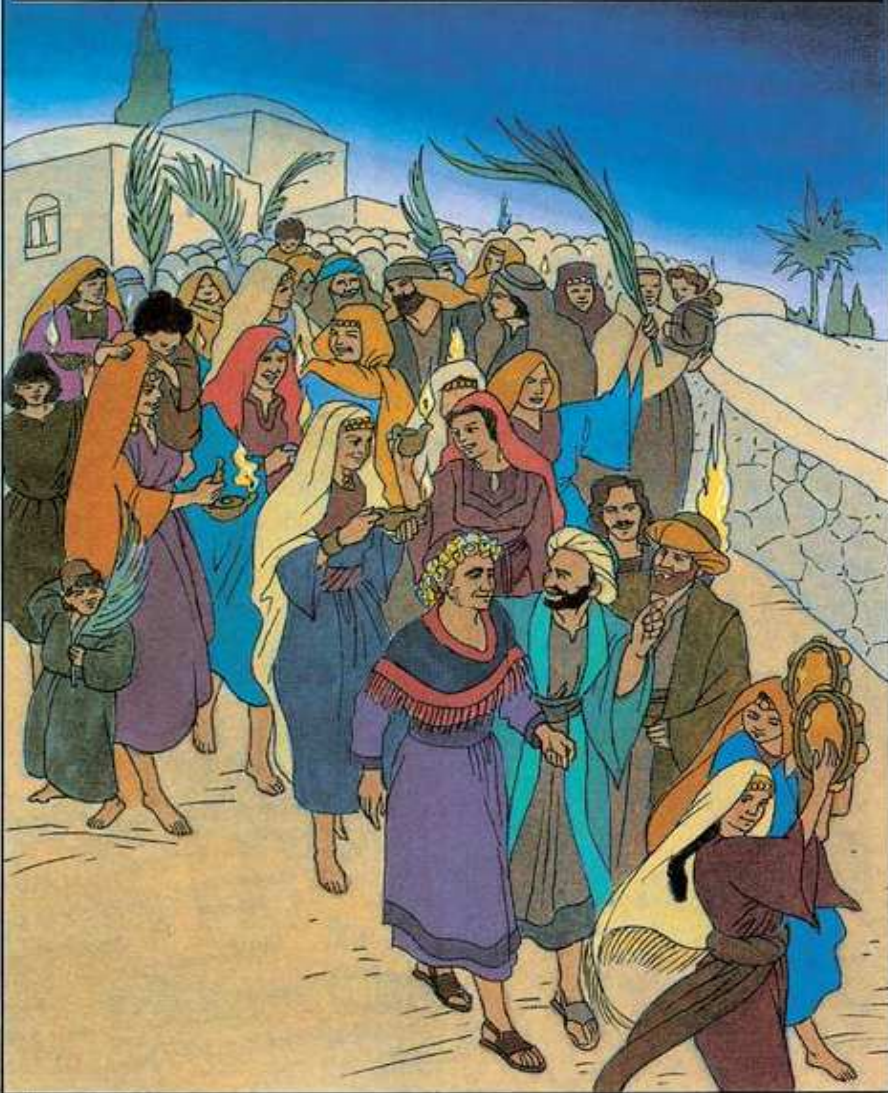
It is also written: Do not put God to the test.

Leave Me Satan! It is written: God alone is the One we are to worship and serve.



Jesus is full of the Holy Spirit when He returns to Galilee. Jesus grew up in this densely populated province in the north of Israel. As He travels several join Him. They are curious as to whether Jesus is the Messiah about whom the prophets have written.

In Cana, Somewhere in the hills of Galilee, a wedding is taking place...



Jesus is also at the celebration together with His mother and some of His friends.



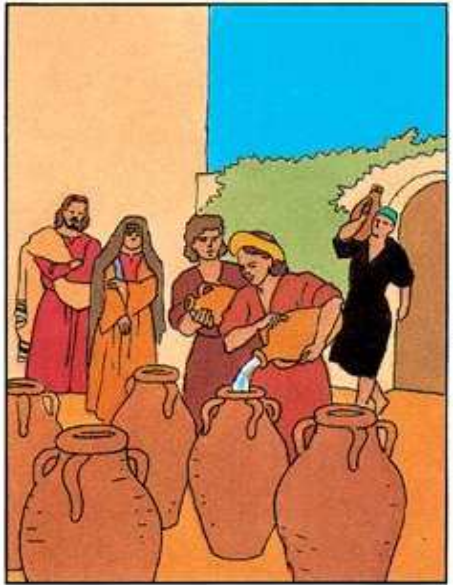
But half way through the celebrations...

What a problem! The wine has run out!

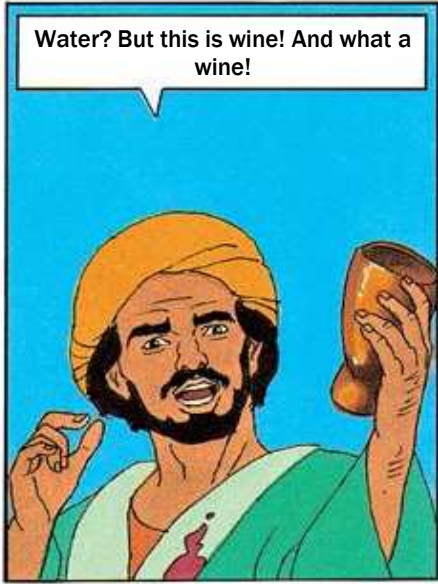
Just do what Jesus tells you!



Fill the large jars with water and let the Master of Ceremonies taste it.



Water? But this is wine! And what a wine!



Taste it! You have kept the best wine till last!



It's unheard of! I've never been to a wedding like this before. Water that's turned into wine! The best wine!

That was the work of Jesus of Nazareth!

Who is He?



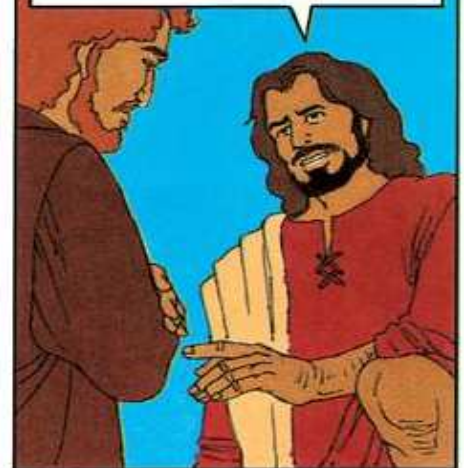
Capernaum is a prosperous fishing village by the Lake of Galilee. Here Jesus starts to speak publicly about God's Kingdom!



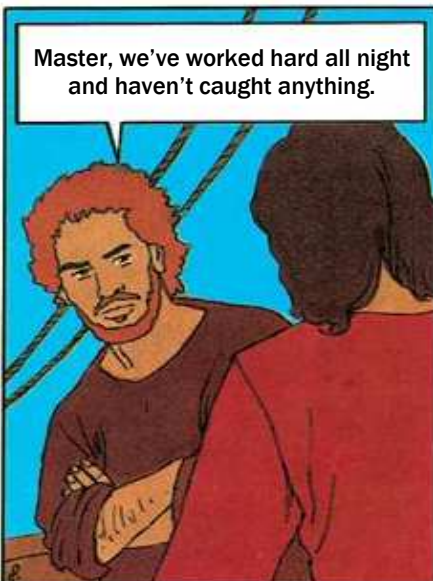
And here He chooses His first disciples.



Peter, let's sail to deeper water and put your nets out there.



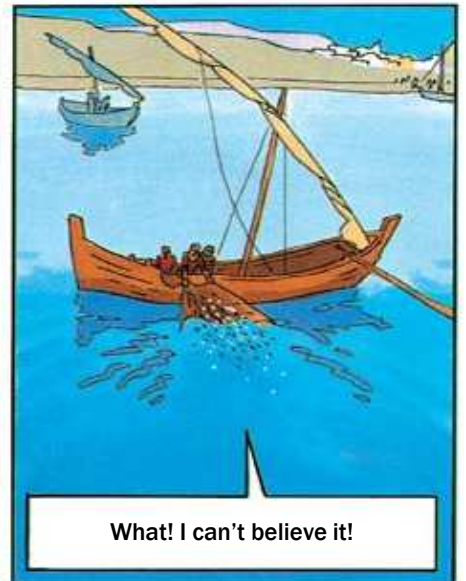
Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything.

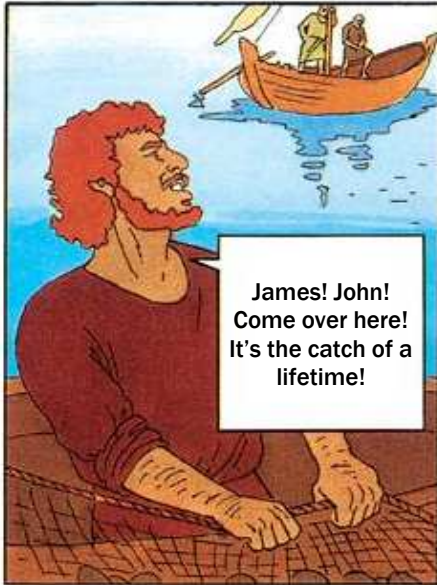


But if You say so...



What! I can't believe it!



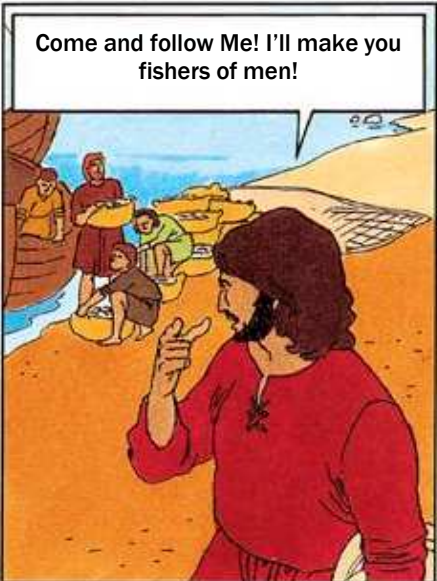


James! John!
Come over here!
It's the catch of a
lifetime!

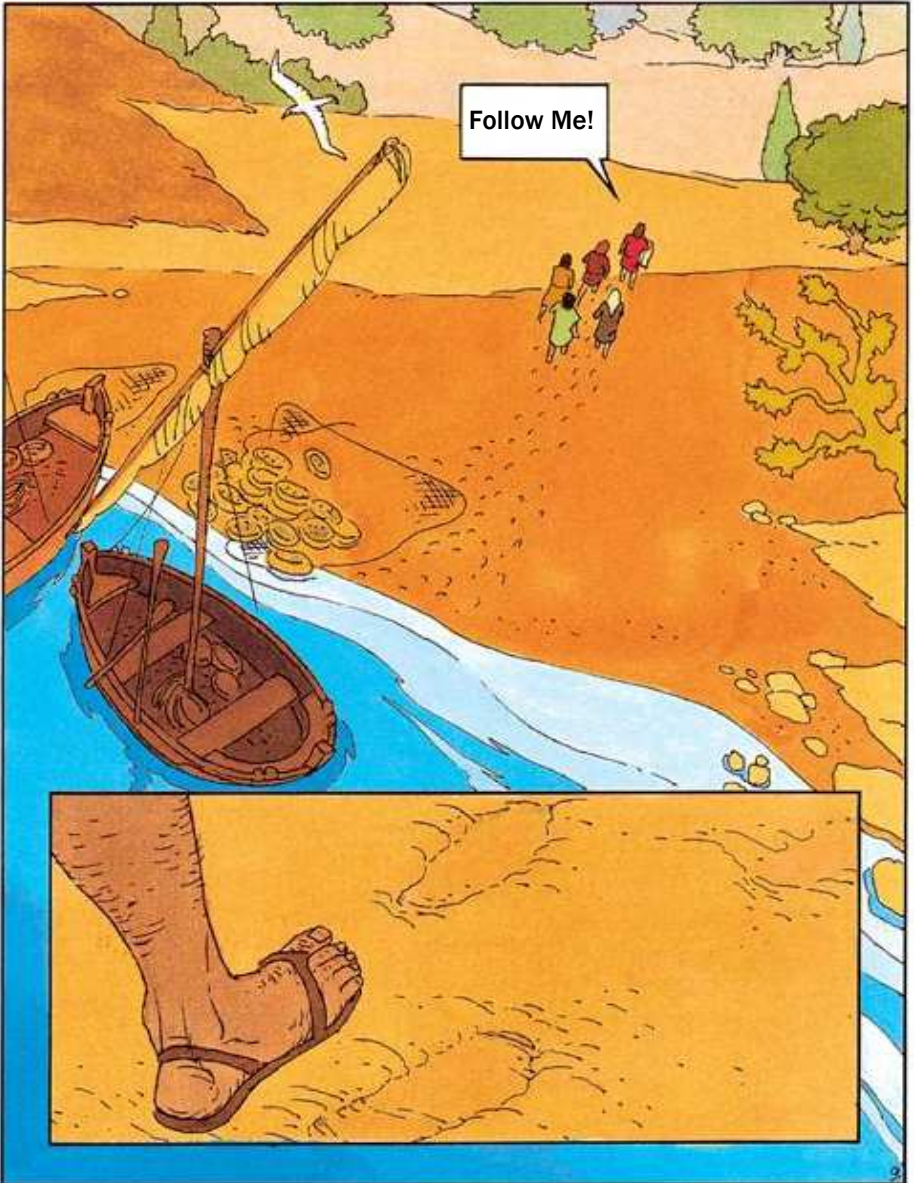


Leave me Lord! I'm a man full of sin.

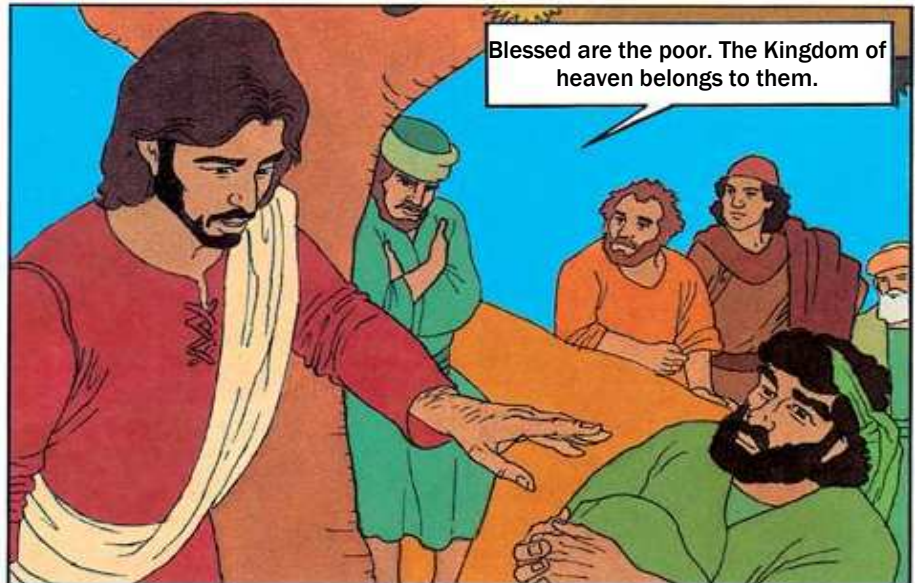
Don't be afraid, Peter!



Come and follow Me! I'll make you
fishers of men!

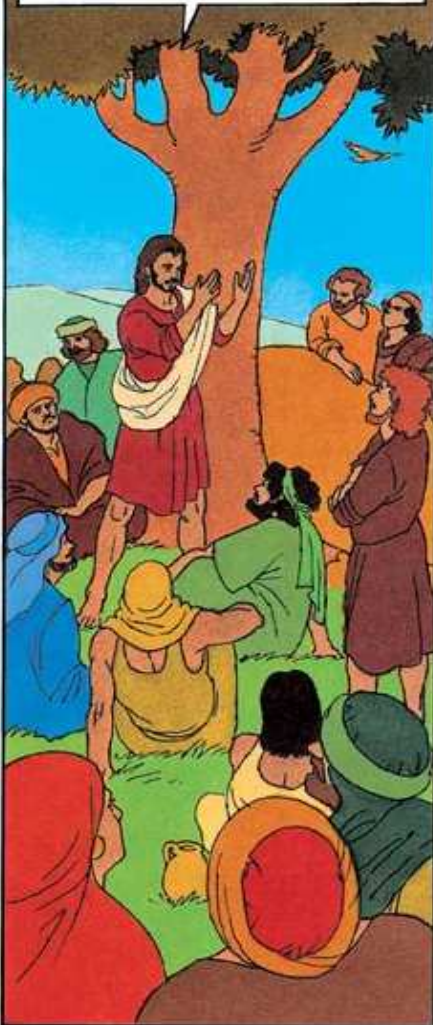


Jesus travels all over Galilee with His disciples, telling everyone about the Kingdom of God. He heals all sorts of diseases, driving out demonic spirits and the people are amazed and follow Him. They even come from other provinces and Jerusalem, the capital of Israel. They hang on to His every word...



Blessed are the poor. The Kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

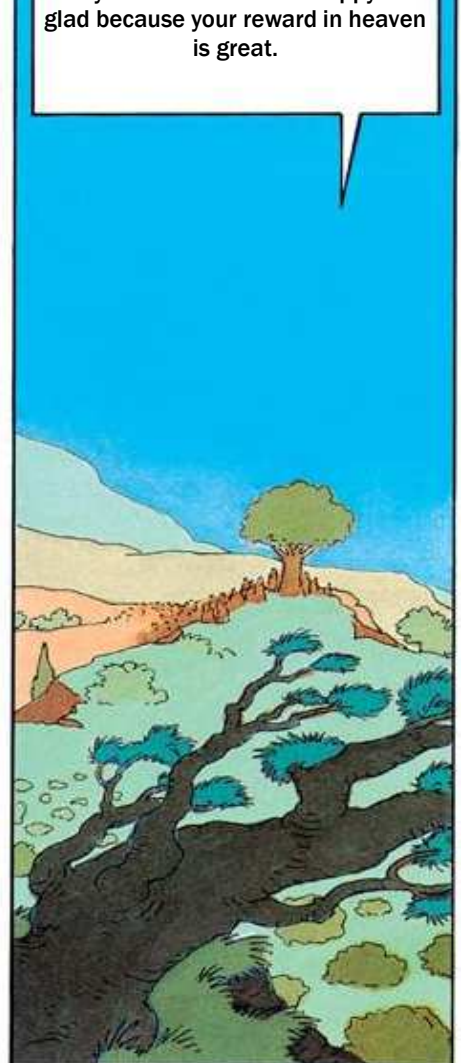
Blessed are the hungry because they will be satisfied.



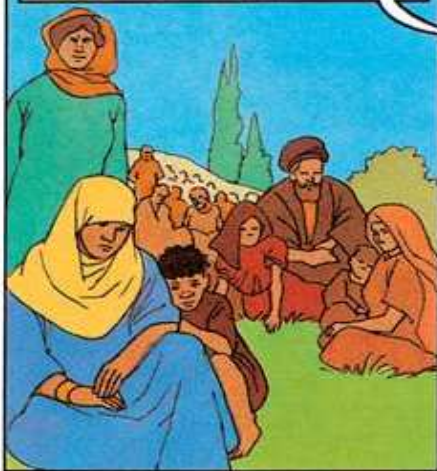
Blessed are those who cry, for they will laugh again.



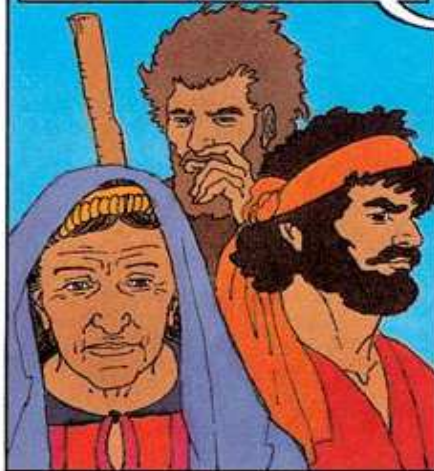
Blessed are you if people treat you badly because of Me. Be happy and glad because your reward in heaven is great.



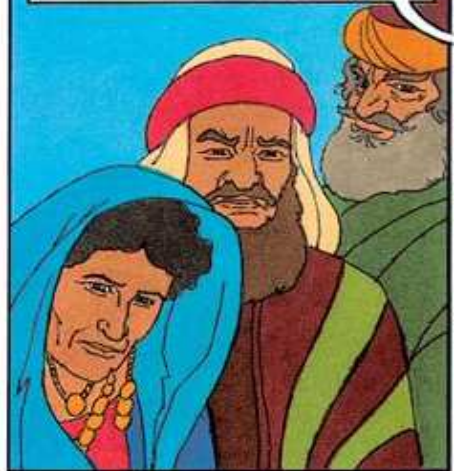
Treat everyone in the way that you yourself would like to be treated.



Love your enemies and pray for them.



Do good secretly so that you won't attract attention.



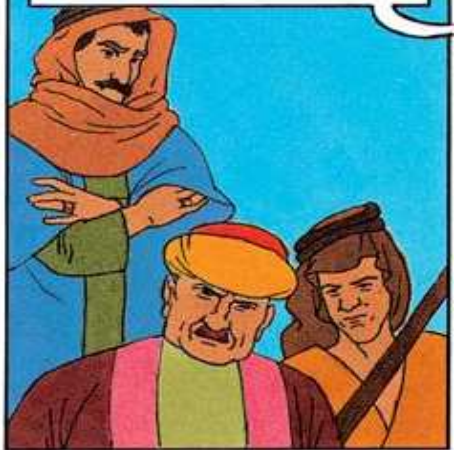
Anyone who looks at a woman longing to have her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.



The eye is the light of the body. If your eye is clear then your whole body will be illuminated. But if your eye is cloudy, you live in darkness.



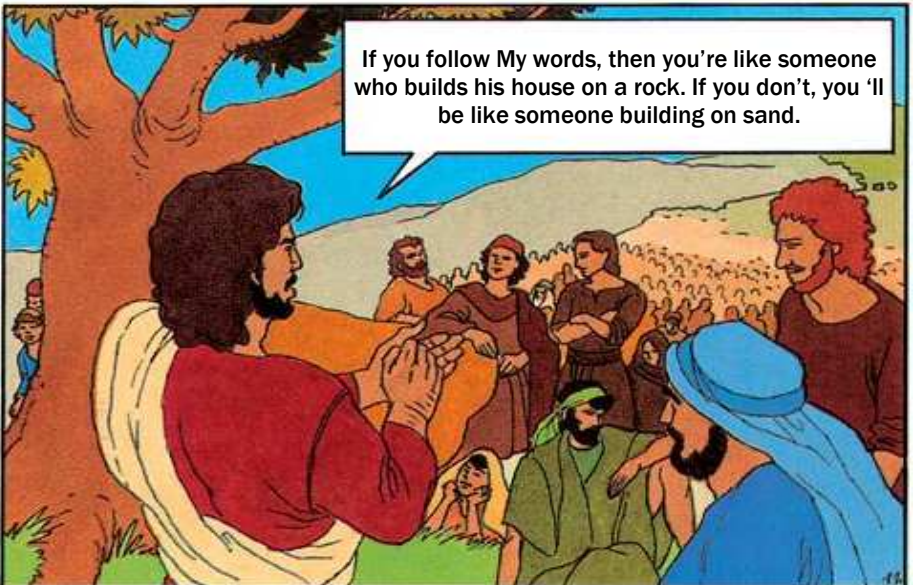
No one can serve two masters; it's either God or riches.



Don't worry about tomorrow. Be concerned about God's kingdom first and then the rest will follow.

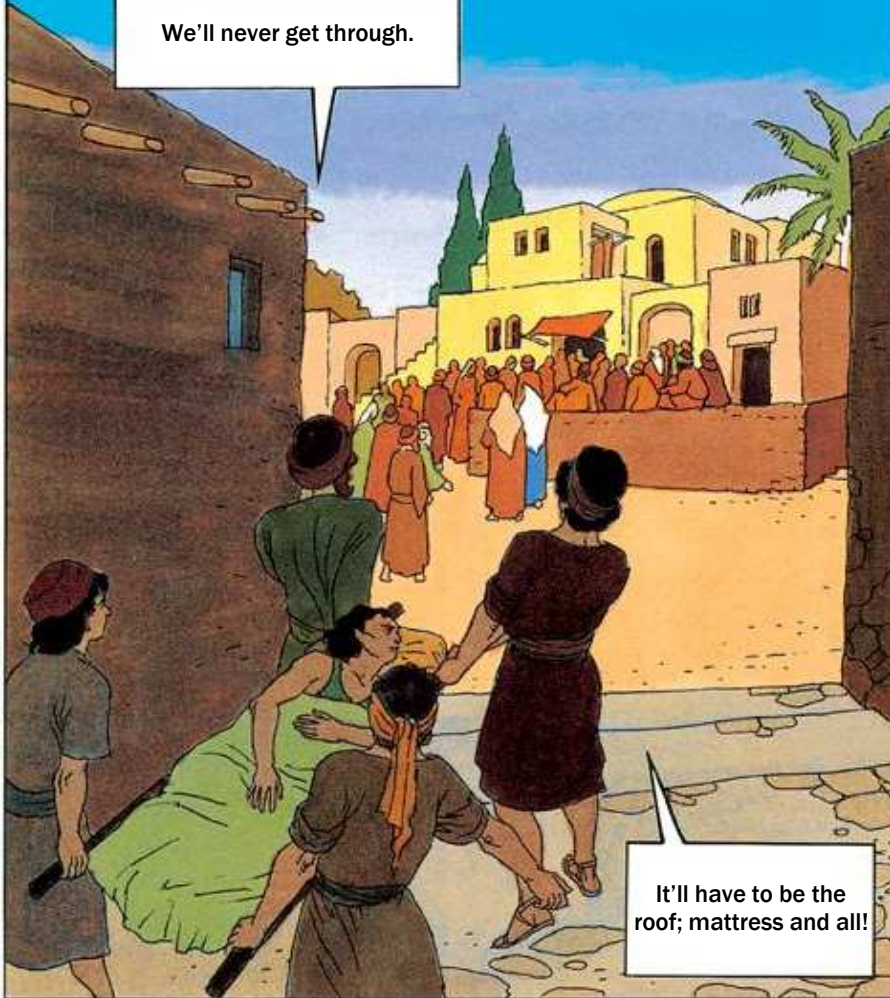


If you follow My words, then you're like someone who builds his house on a rock. If you don't, you'll be like someone building on sand.



One day when the people were crowding around Jesus' house in Capernaum...

We'll never get through.

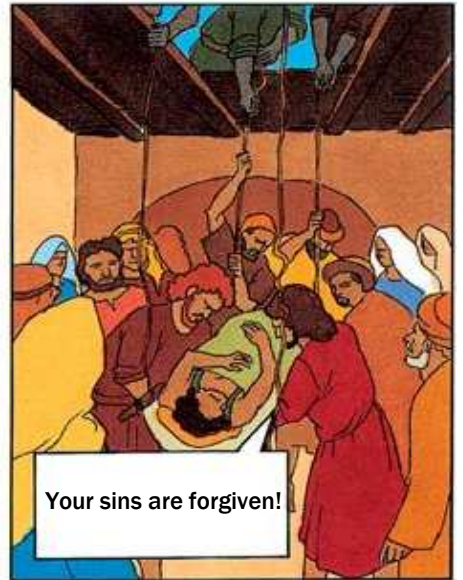


It'll have to be the roof; mattress and all!

What's happening up there?



Leave them! Those friends have a lot of faith!



Your sins are forgiven!

How could He! Did you hear that?



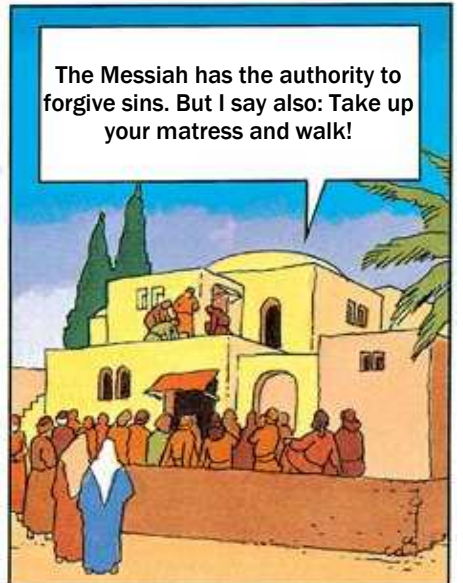
He's mocking God!

Only God can release someone from his sins!

What is easier to say to a lame man: 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Get up'?



The Messiah has the authority to forgive sins. But I say also: Take up your mattress and walk!



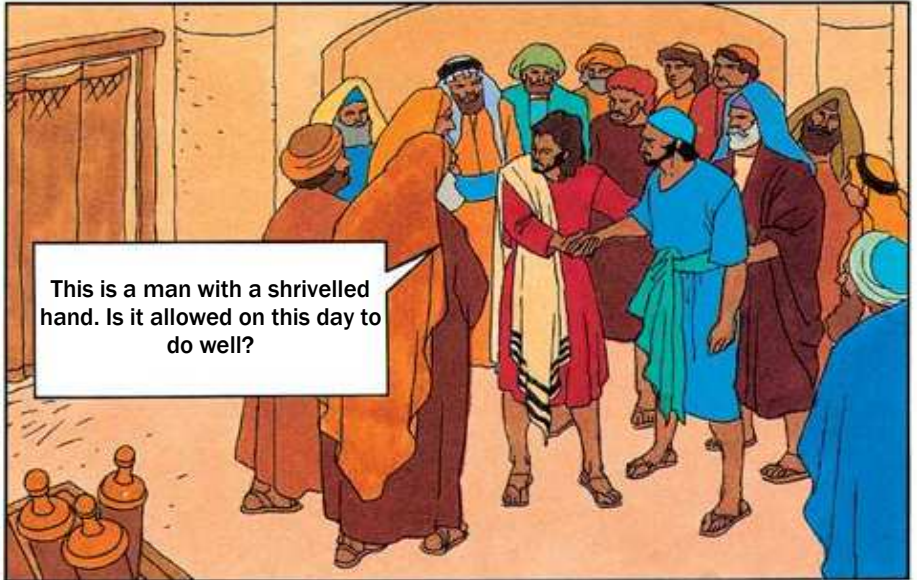


Incredible!

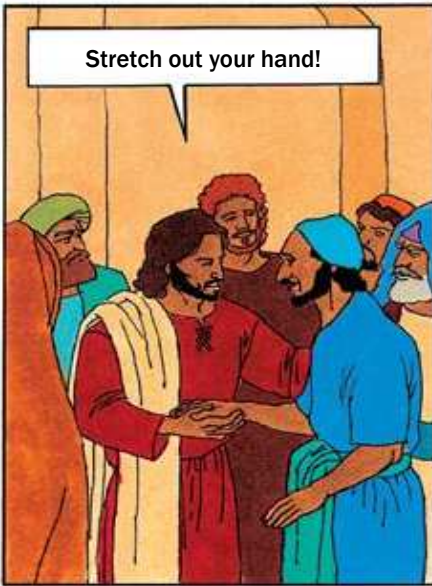
He's walking!

Yeah! I can walk!

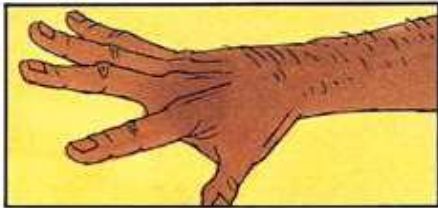
But not everyone is happy with Jesus' actions. The religious leaders keep notice if Jesus is keeping the rules of the Sabbath. On this day in Israel it is strongly forbidden to do any kind of work.



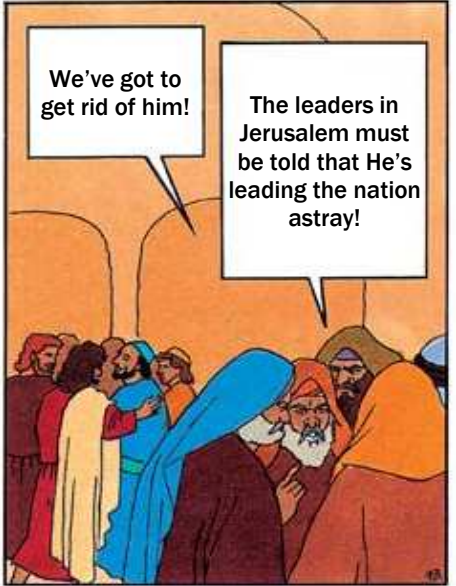
This is a man with a shrivelled hand. Is it allowed on this day to do well?



Stretch out your hand!



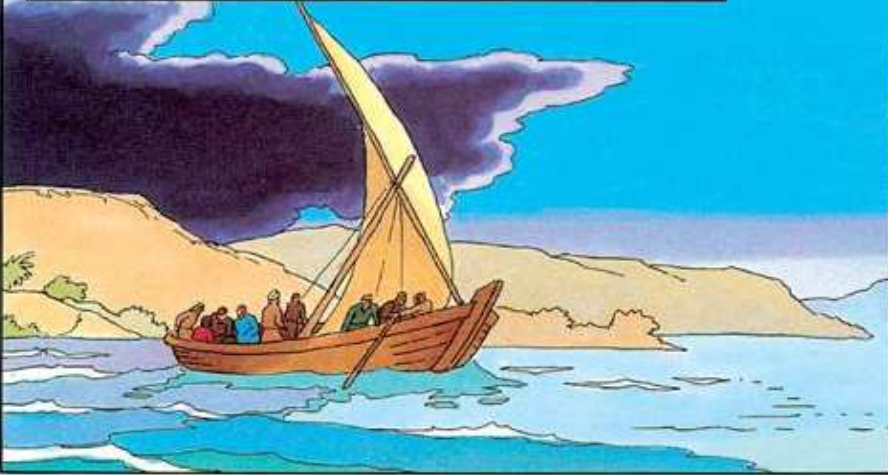
Wow! I'm healed!



We've got to get rid of him!

The leaders in Jerusalem must be told that He's leading the nation astray!

Jesus sails with His disciples on the lake of Galilee.

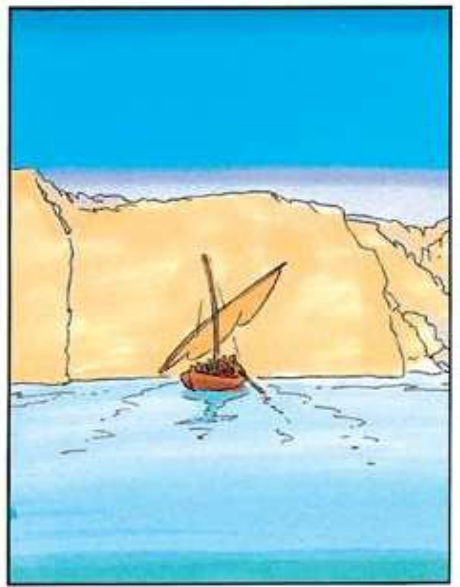
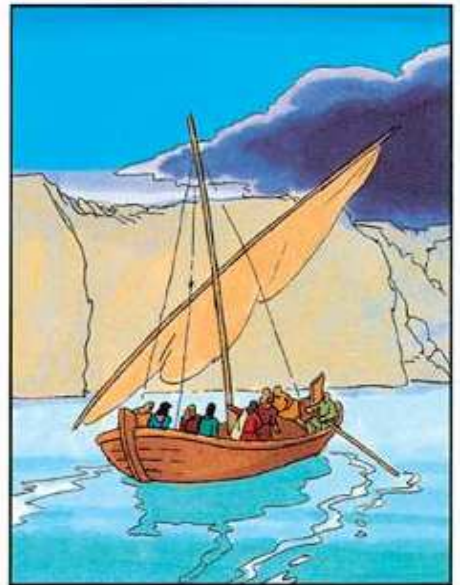
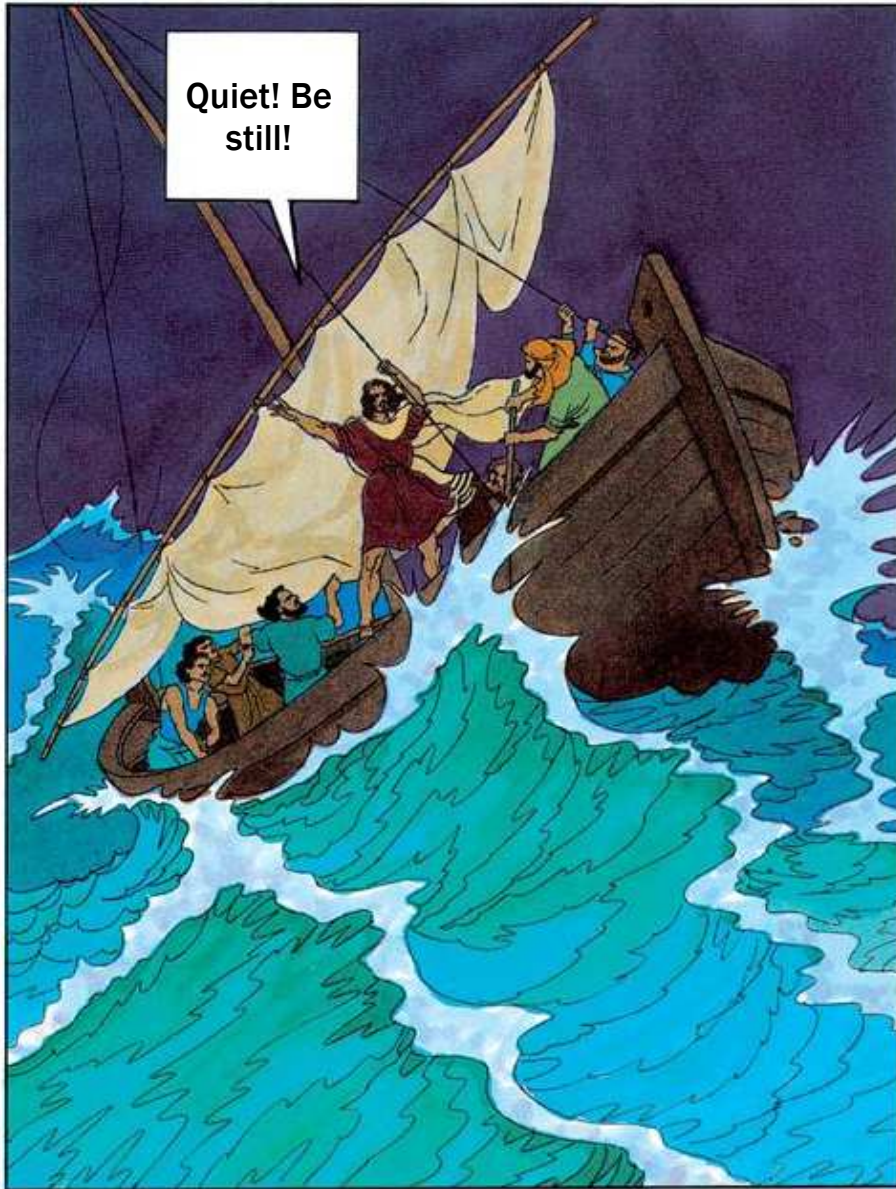


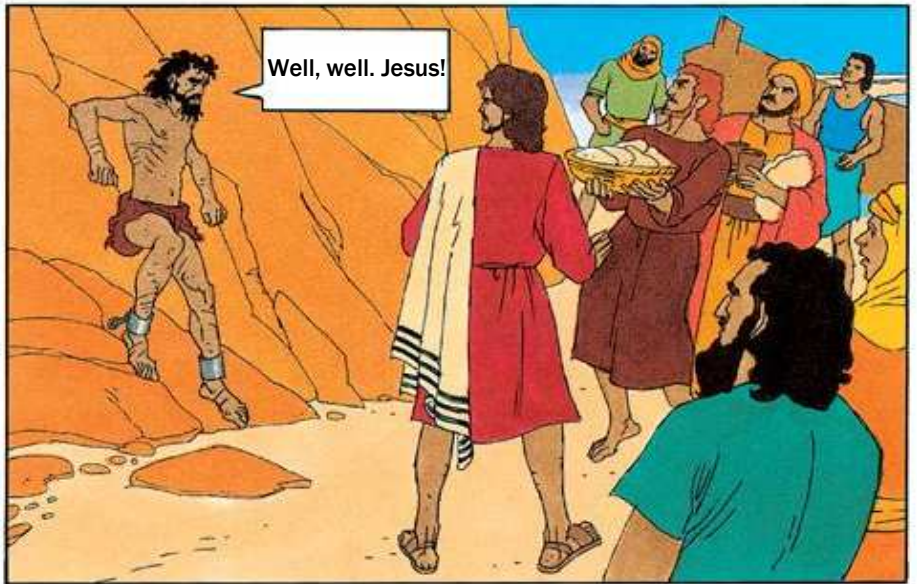
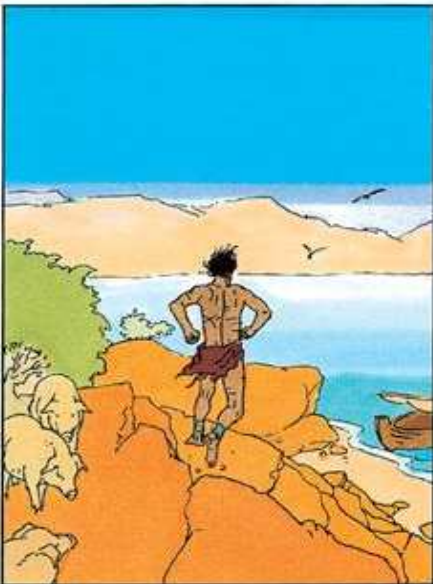
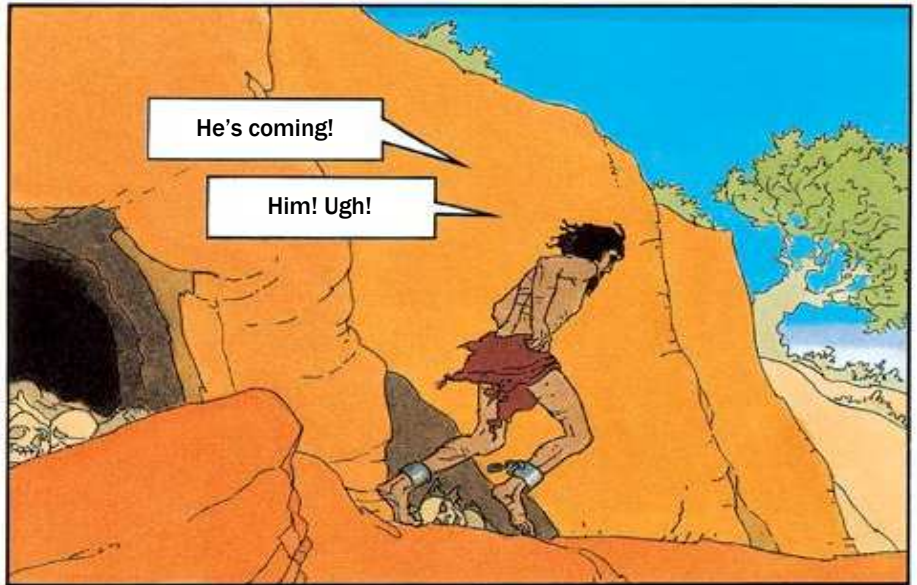
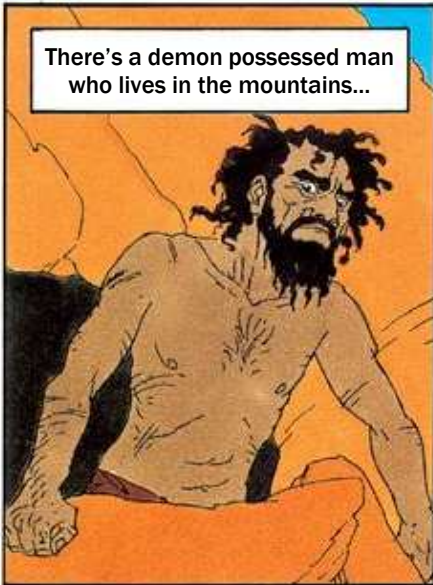
Master! Help! We're going under!

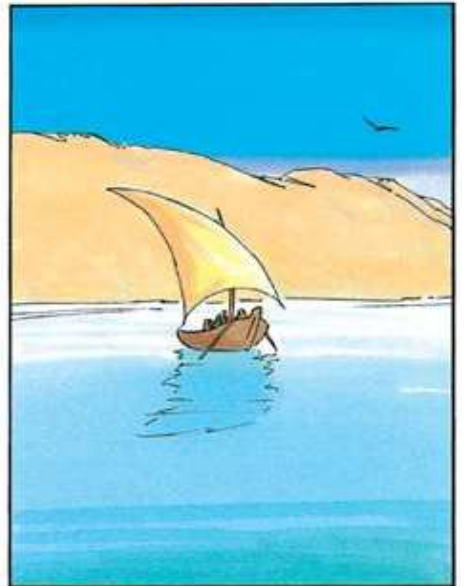
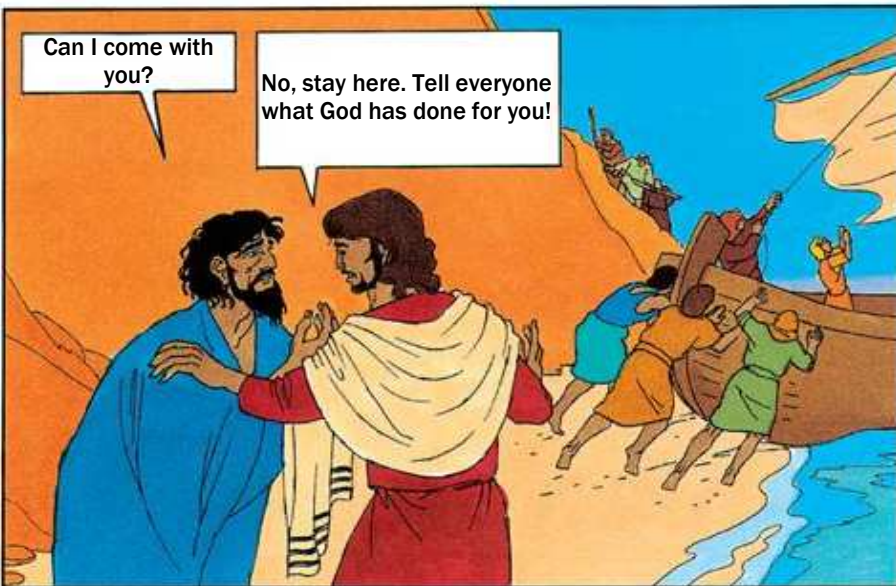
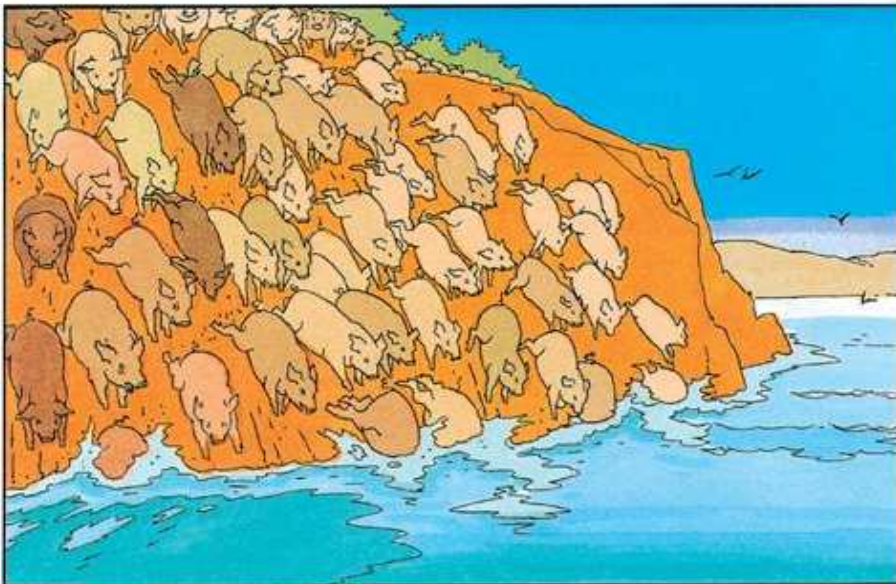
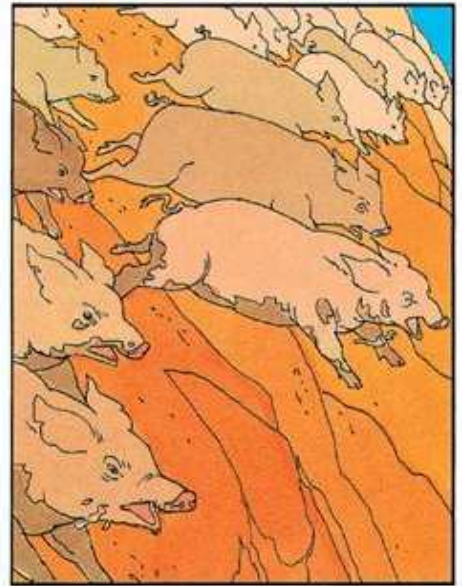


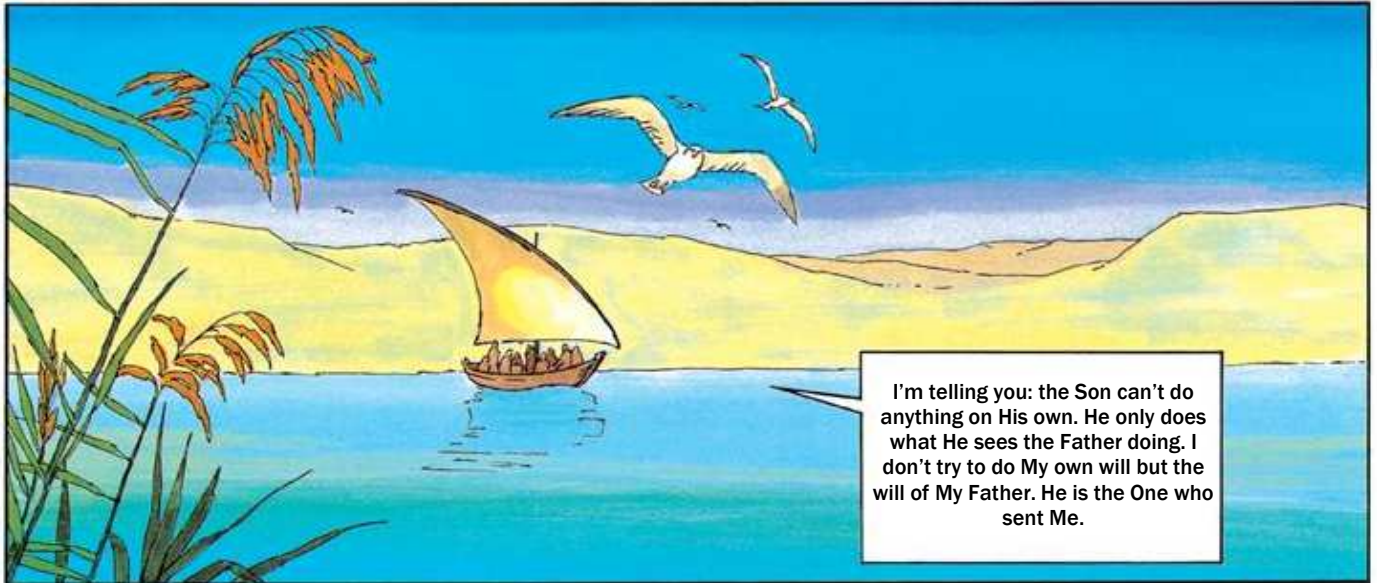
Why are you afraid? Where's your faith?



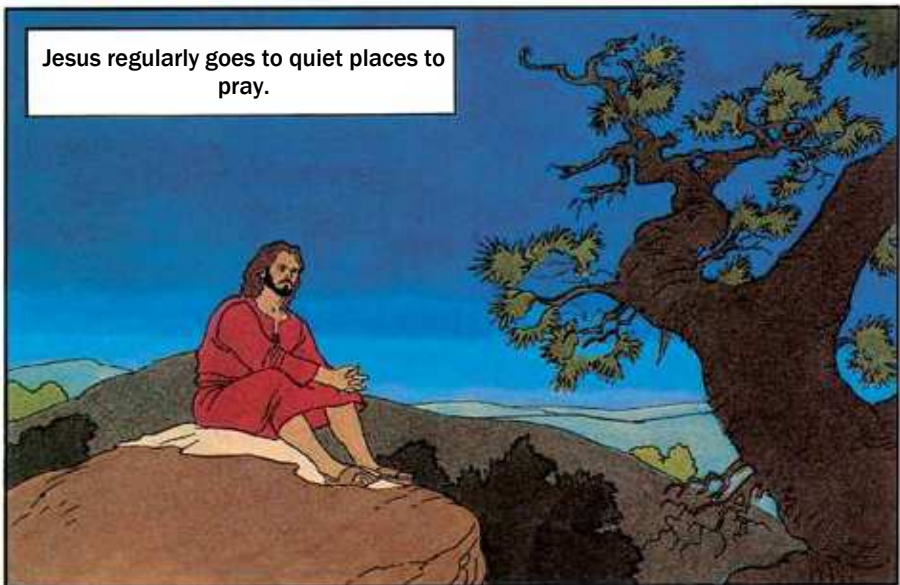




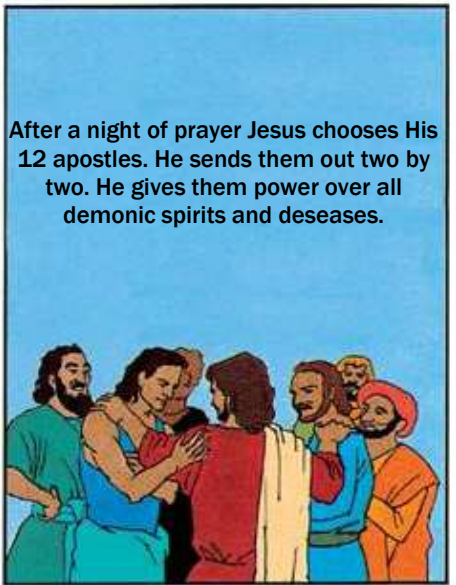




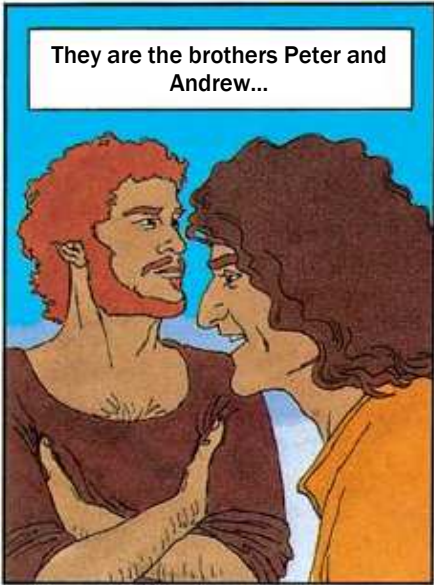
I'm telling you: the Son can't do anything on His own. He only does what He sees the Father doing. I don't try to do My own will but the will of My Father. He is the One who sent Me.



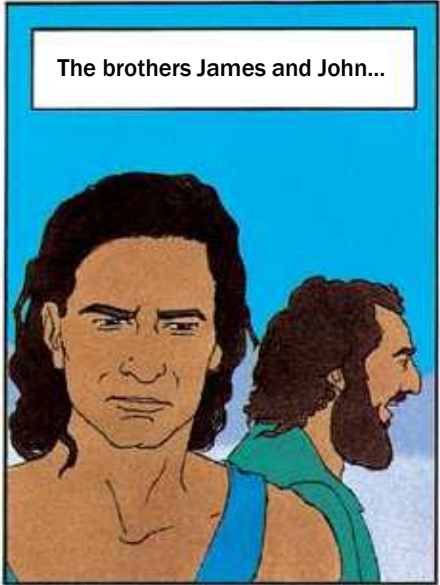
Jesus regularly goes to quiet places to pray.



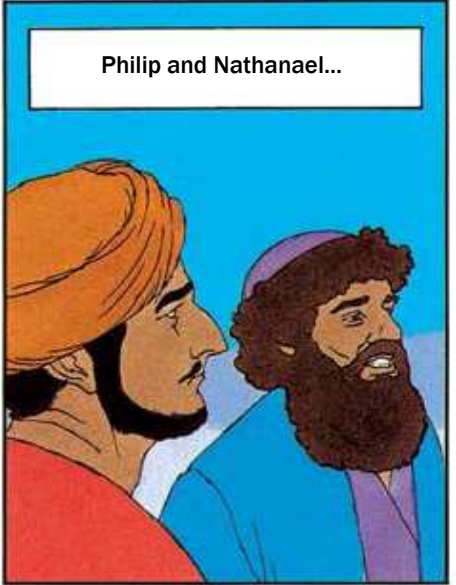
After a night of prayer Jesus chooses His 12 apostles. He sends them out two by two. He gives them power over all demonic spirits and diseases.



They are the brothers Peter and Andrew...

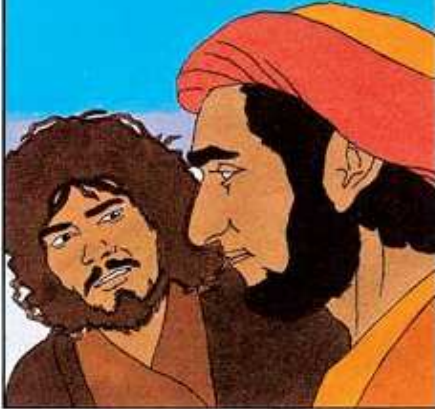


The brothers James and John...



Philip and Nathanael...

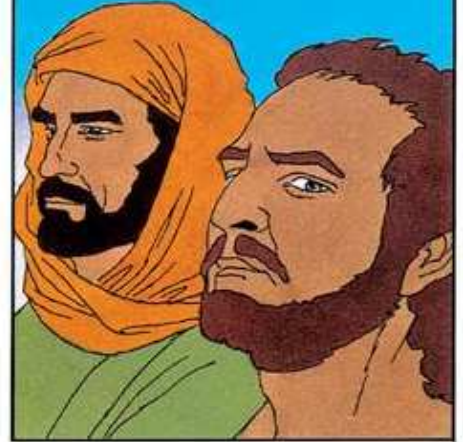
Thomas and Matthew (who had previously been a tax collector for the Roman occupiers)



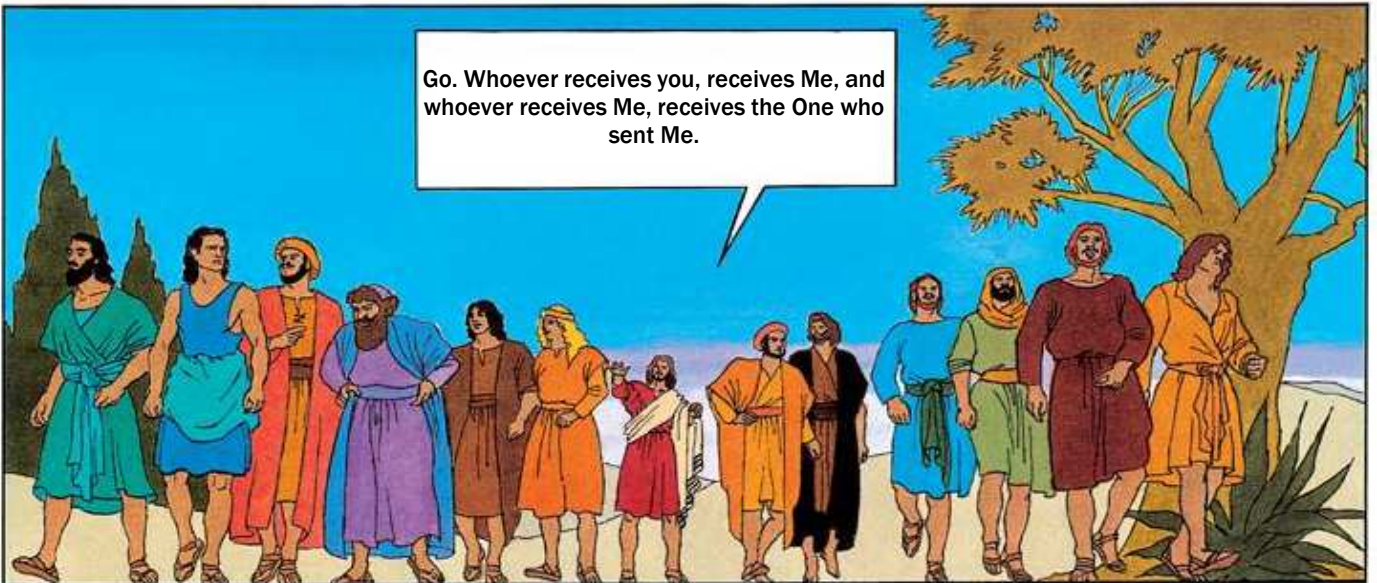
Thaddaeus and the other James...



Simon, the resistance fighter, and Judas Iskariot.

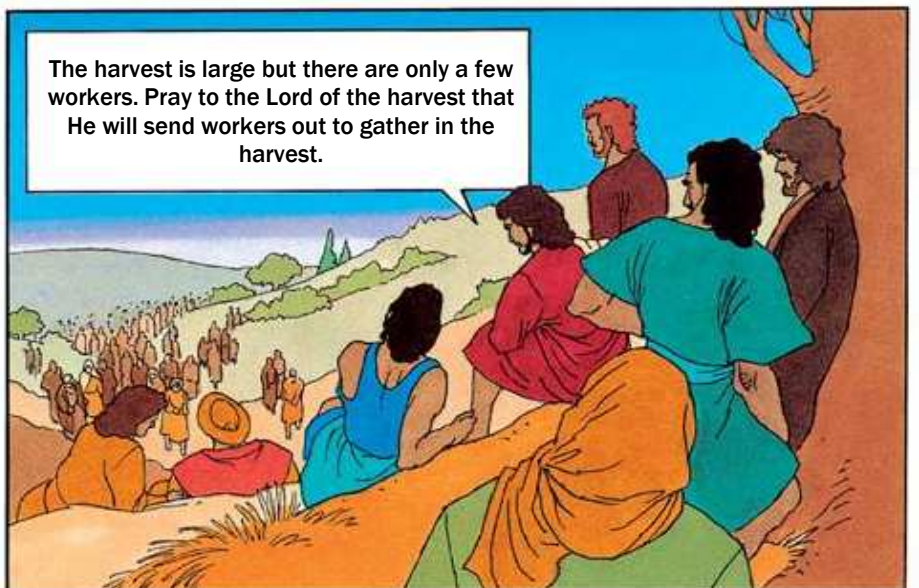


Go. Whoever receives you, receives Me, and whoever receives Me, receives the One who sent Me.



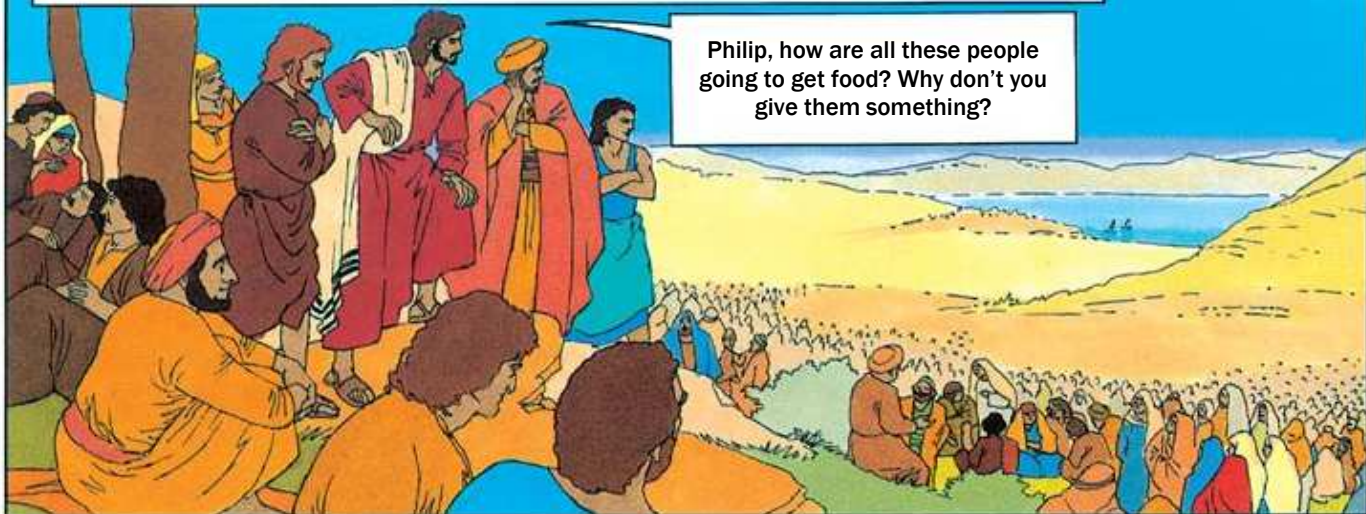
The 12 apostles return excited about their mission. After this Jesus wants to go to a quiet spot with them, but the crowds won't leave Him alone.

The harvest is large but there are only a few workers. Pray to the Lord of the harvest that He will send workers out to gather in the harvest.



Jesus is speaking and healing again. It's getting late...

Philip, how are all these people going to get food? Why don't you give them something?



Eight months' wages would be nowhere near enough!

Here is a boy with five loaves and two small fishes. That's all there is.



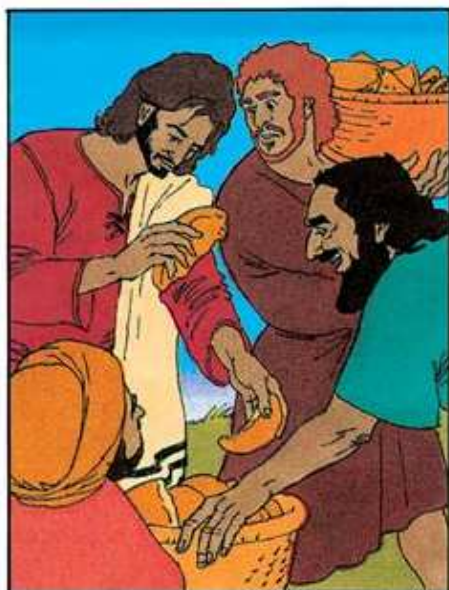
Get the people to sit in groups of 50.

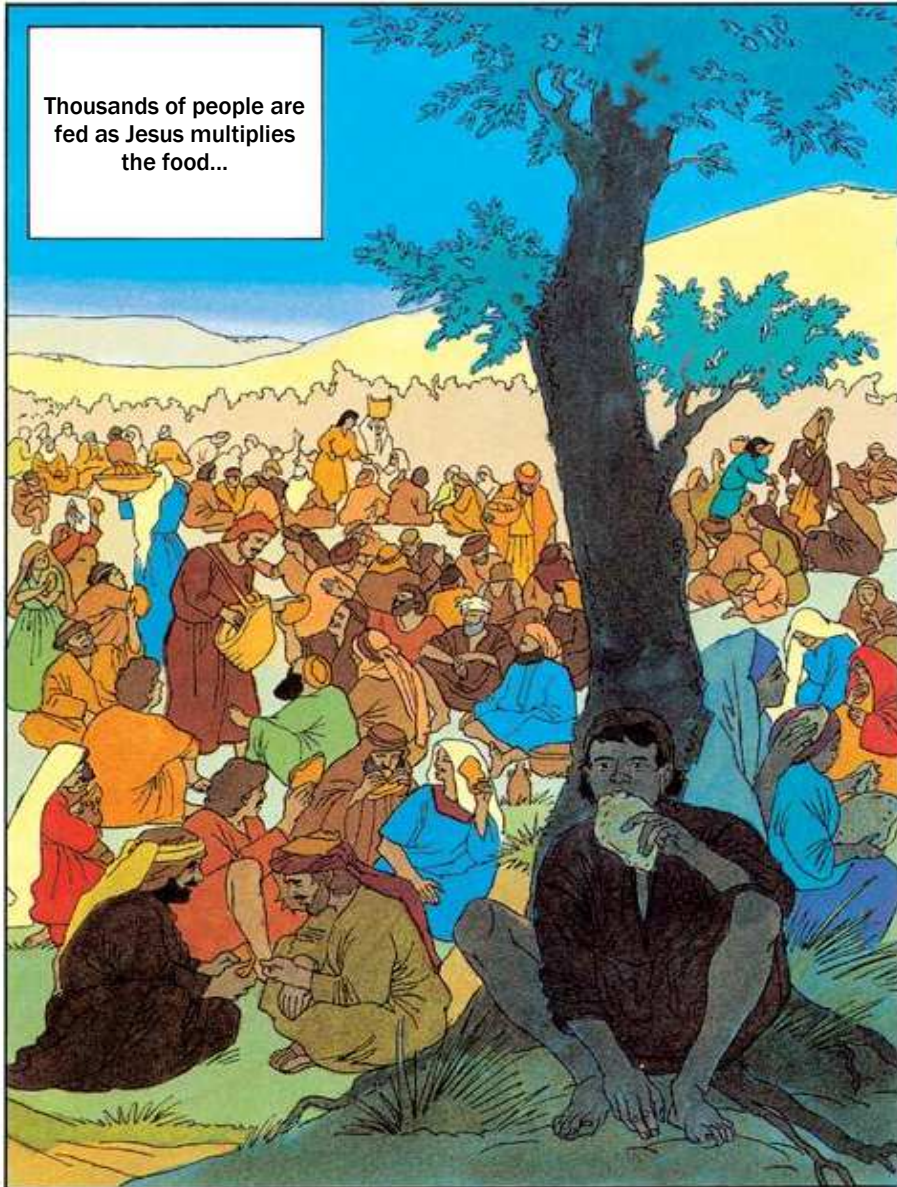


Jesus thanks God...

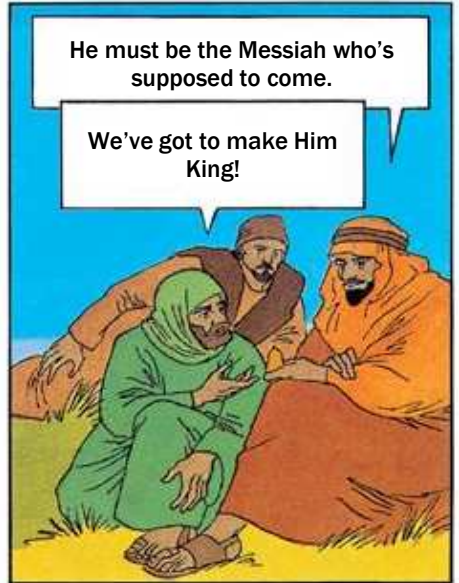


He breaks the bread and fishes.





Thousands of people are fed as Jesus multiplies the food...

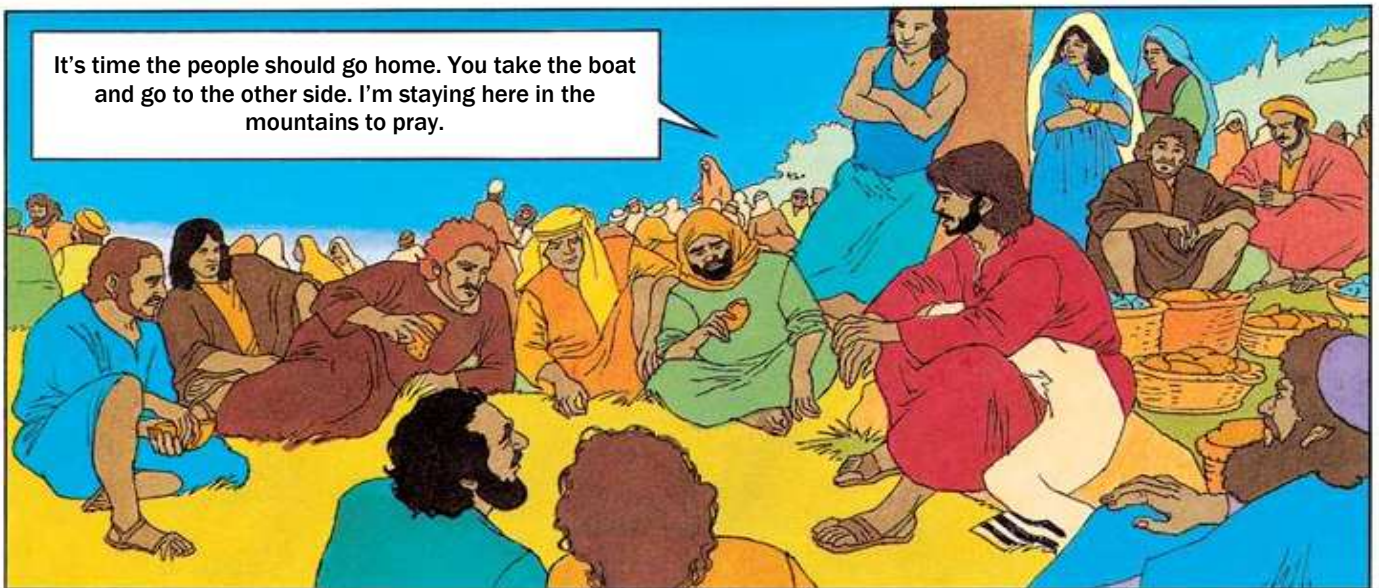


He must be the Messiah who's supposed to come.

We've got to make Him King!



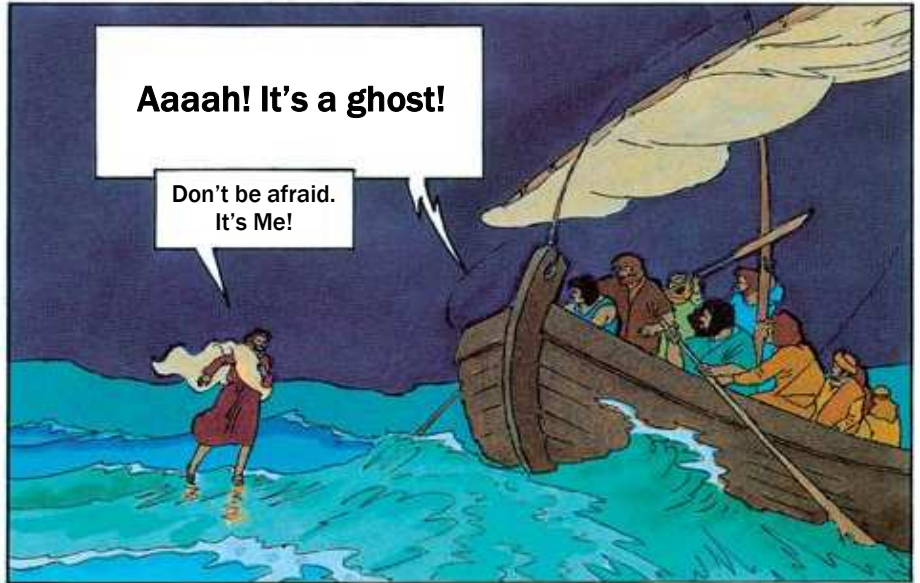
Just look! There are 12 full baskets left over!



It's time the people should go home. You take the boat and go to the other side. I'm staying here in the mountains to pray.



Later...



Aaaah! It's a ghost!

Don't be afraid.
It's Me!

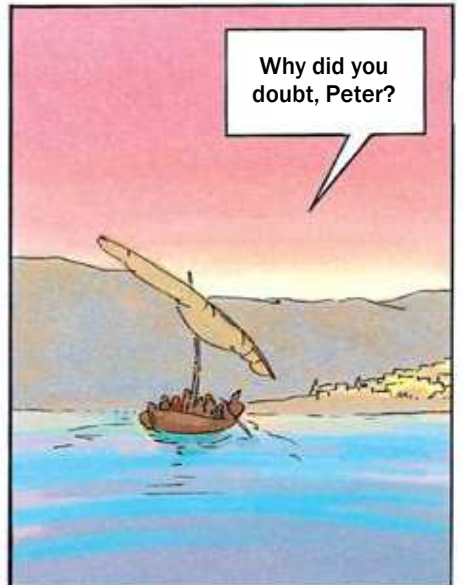


Lord if it's You, tell me
to come to You on the
water!

Come,
Peter.



Lord, save me!



Why did you
doubt, Peter?

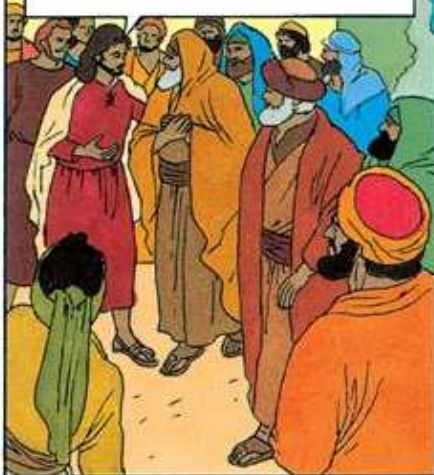
There are people who want to proclaim Jesus as king. They hope that with His leadership the Roman occupiers will be ousted. Jesus' opponents are also on the increase. They're continually criticising Him. They want to set the people against Him and get rid of Him.



Master when did You get here?

Are you looking for me because of the bread I gave you?

Don't worry about food that will decay but about food that will remain and give eternal life.

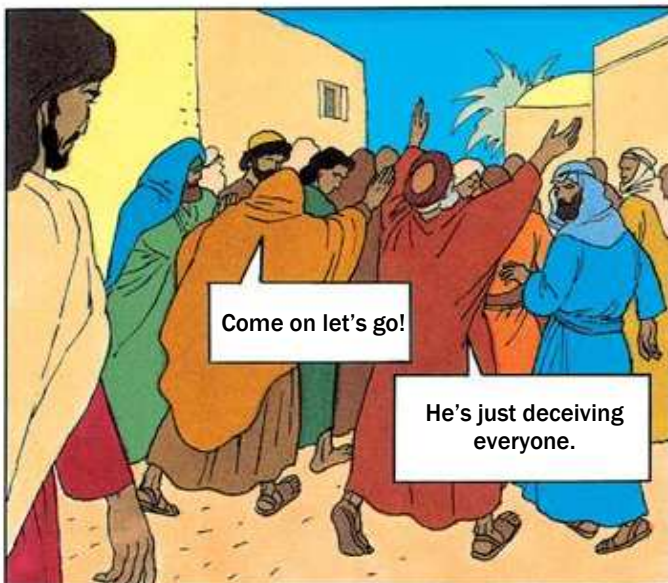


I am the bread that gives eternal life. It is My body that is given for the life of the world.



How can this Man give us His body to eat?

Rubbish!



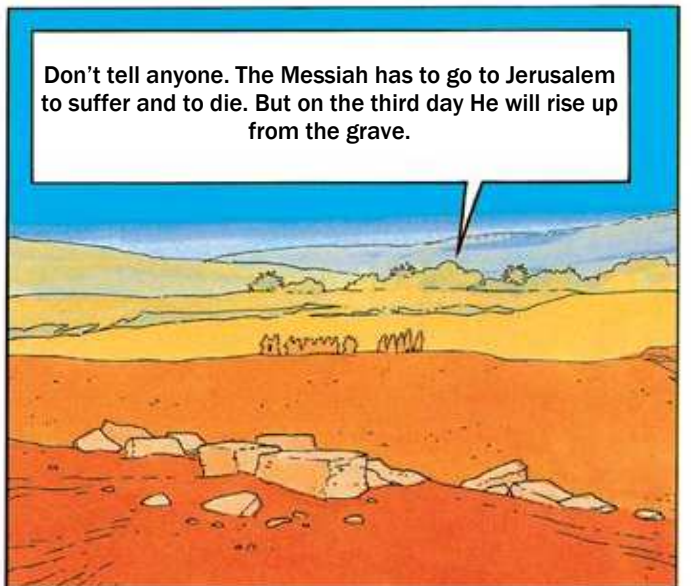
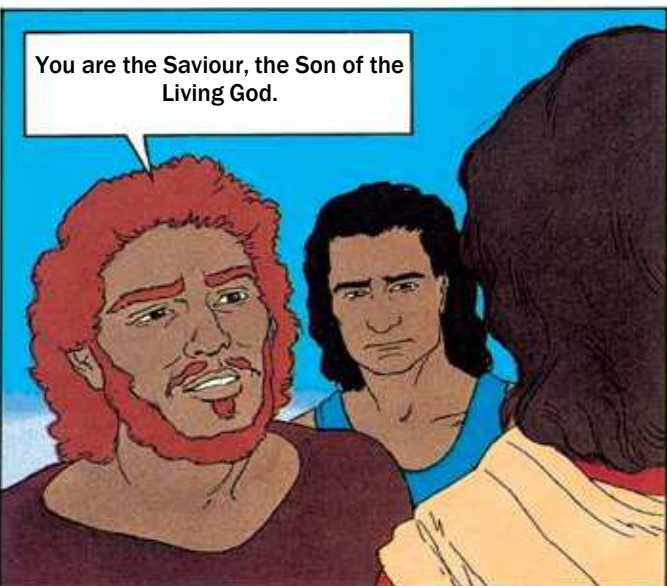
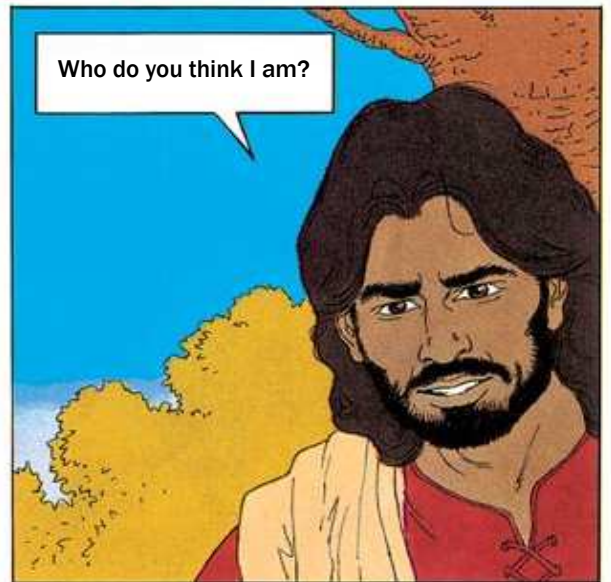
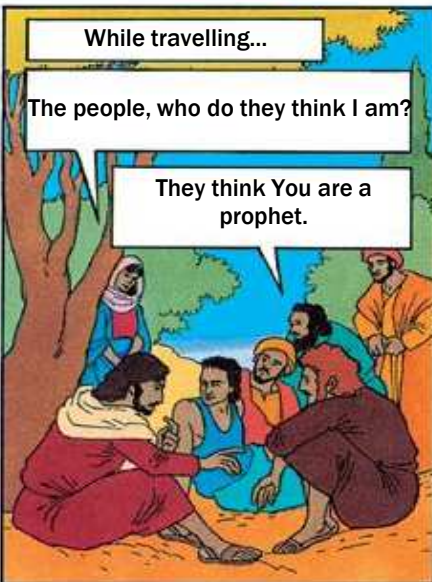
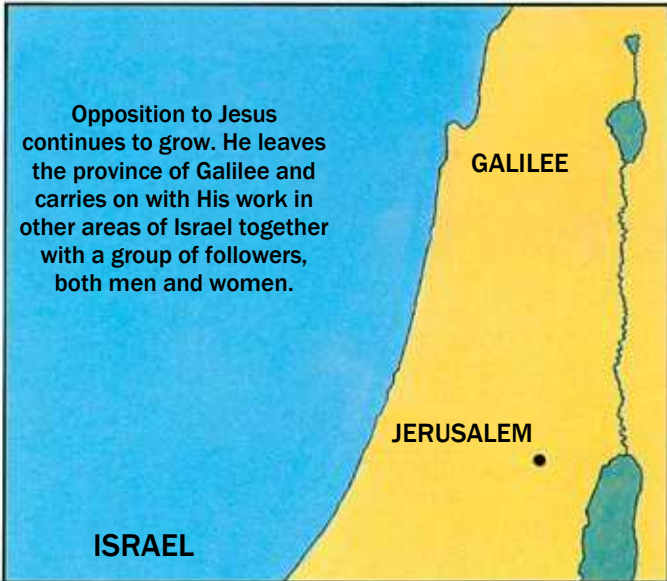
Come on let's go!

He's just deceiving everyone.



Don't you want to go as well?

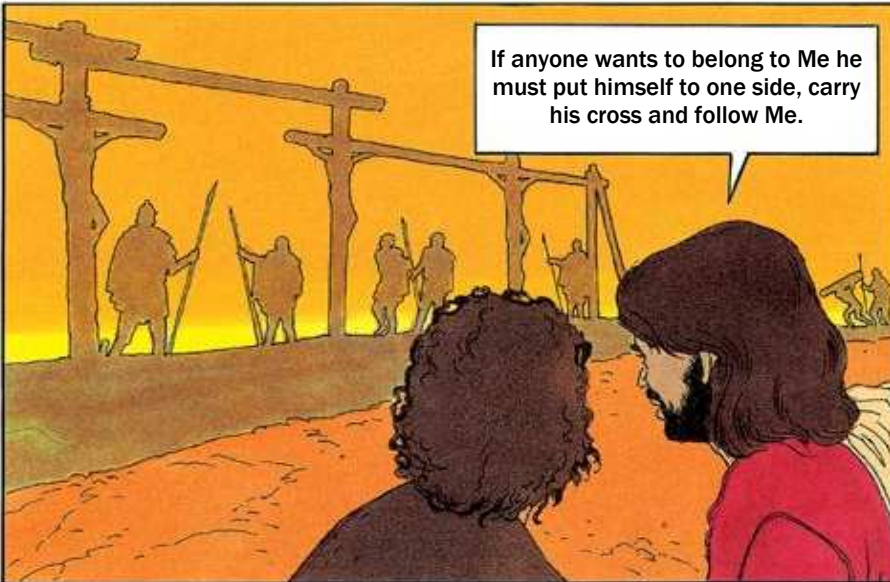
Lord, to whom shall we go? You've got words of everlasting life!



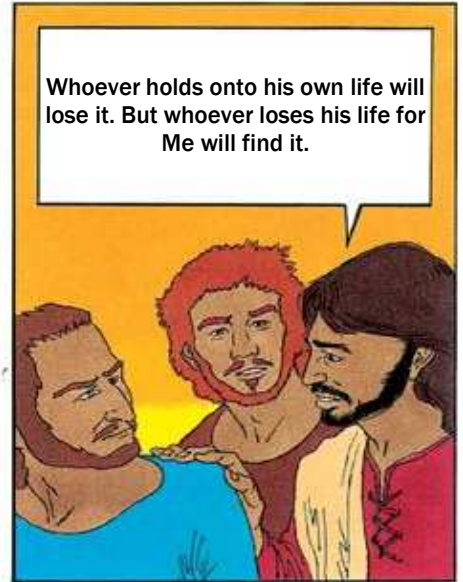
Outside the city of Jerusalem people are often killed. They are crucified, which is a cruel, Roman death penalty.



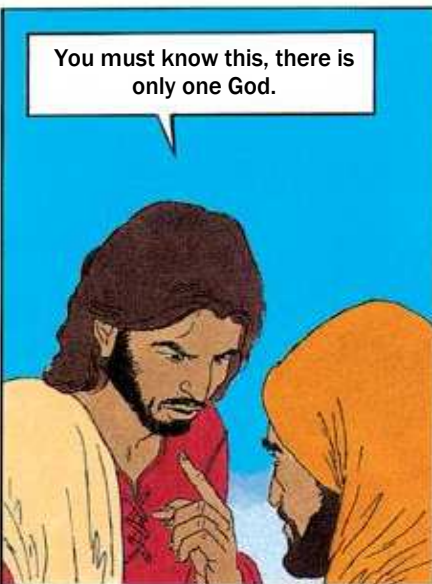
If anyone wants to belong to Me he must put himself to one side, carry his cross and follow Me.



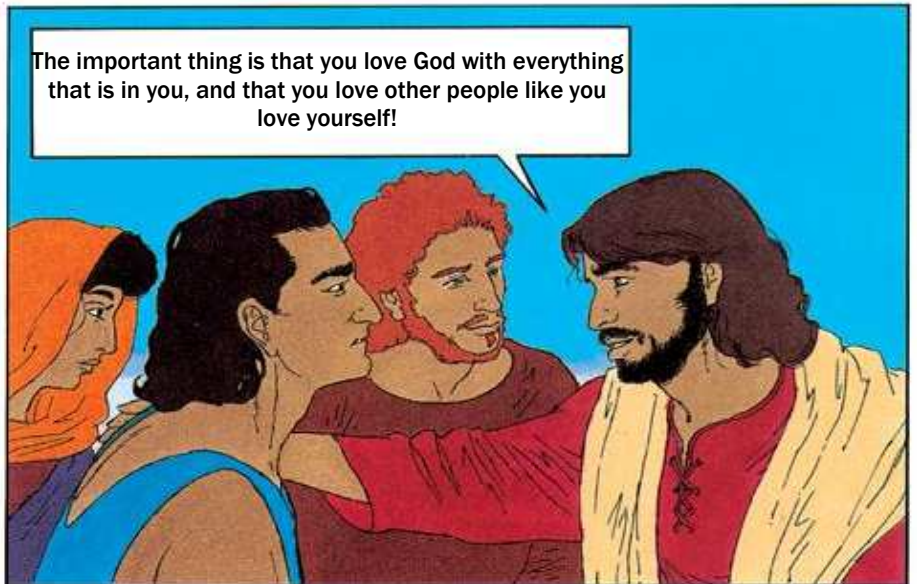
Whoever holds onto his own life will lose it. But whoever loses his life for Me will find it.



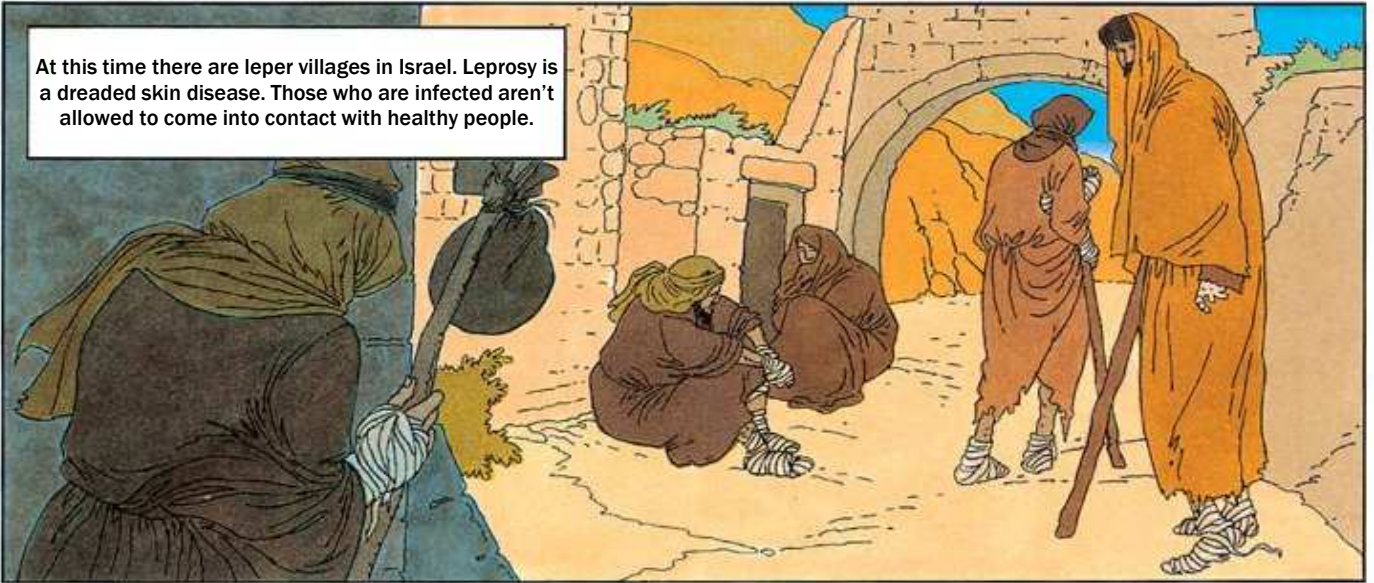
You must know this, there is only one God.



The important thing is that you love God with everything that is in you, and that you love other people like you love yourself!

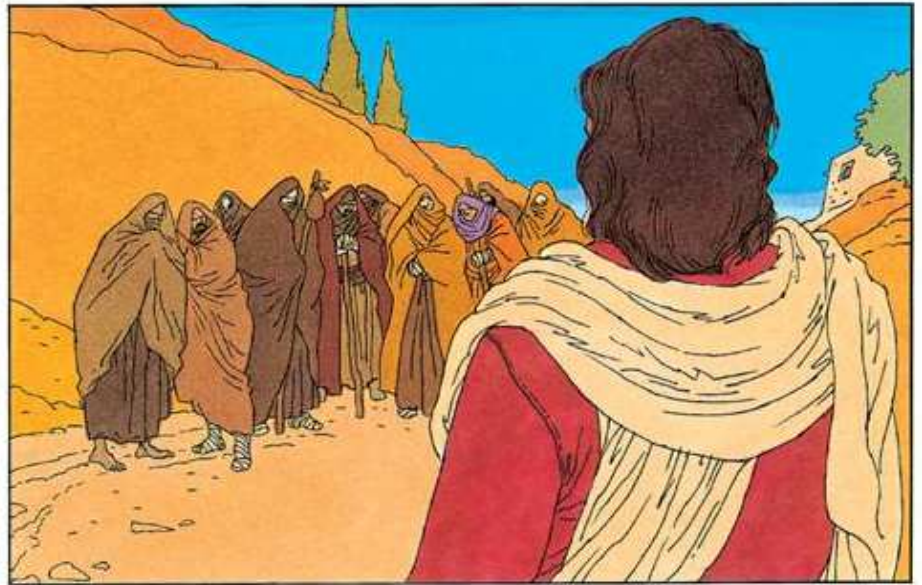
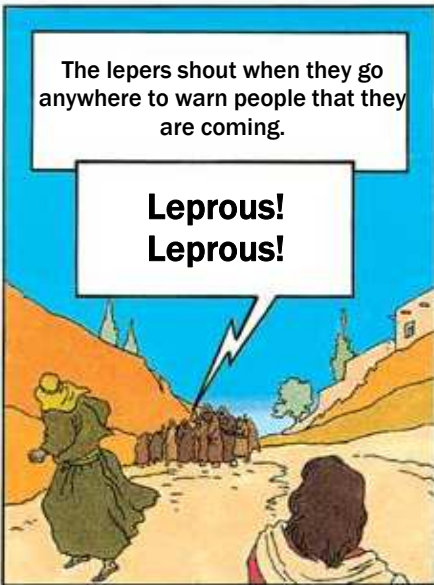


At this time there are leper villages in Israel. Leprosy is a dreaded skin disease. Those who are infected aren't allowed to come into contact with healthy people.



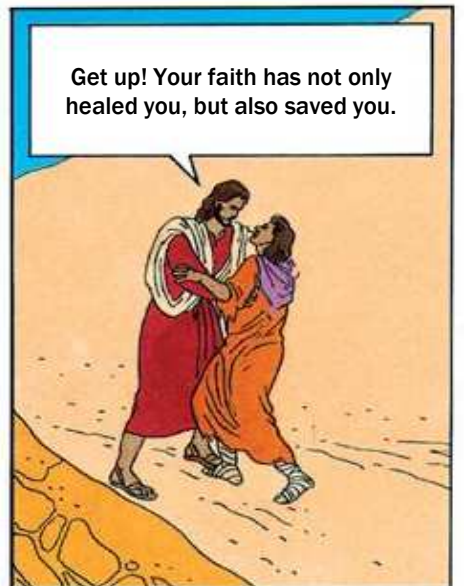
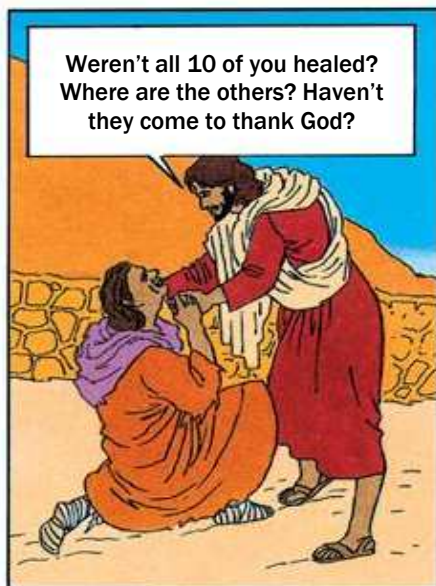
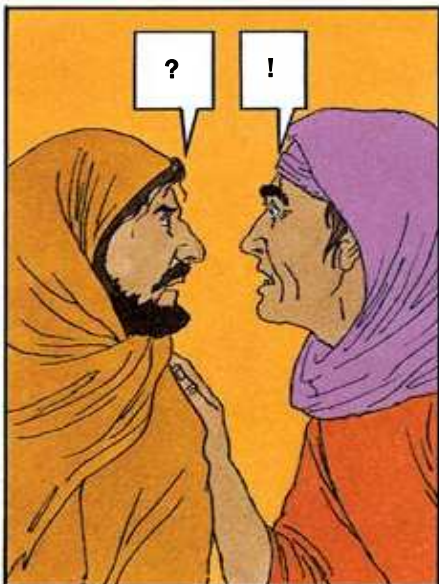
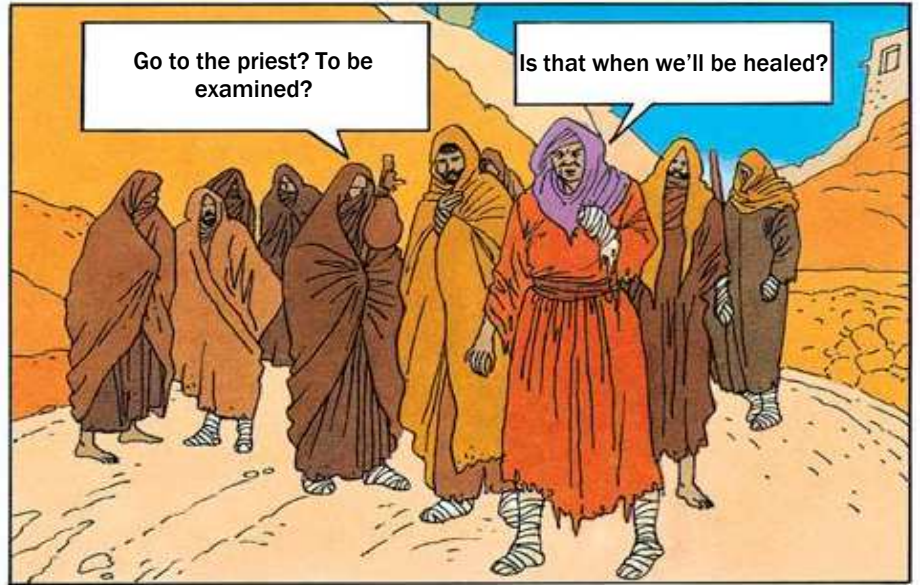
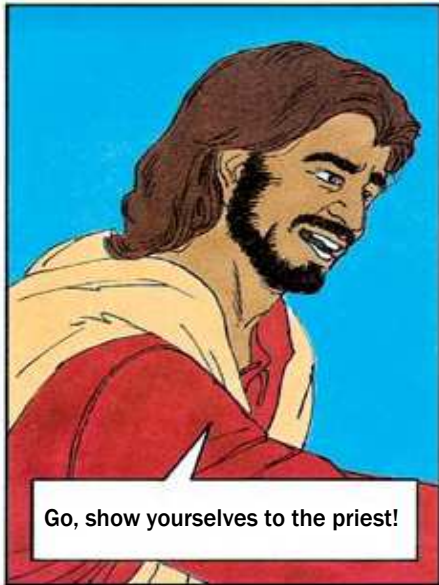
The lepers shout when they go anywhere to warn people that they are coming.

**Leprous!
Leprous!**



Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.






The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem send their servants to Jesus to spy on Him as he is travelling. They are totally opposed to His actions.


He associates with people who have bad reputations such as prostitutes, tax officials who deal with the Romans...

The Messiah has come to look for those who are lost and to save them.



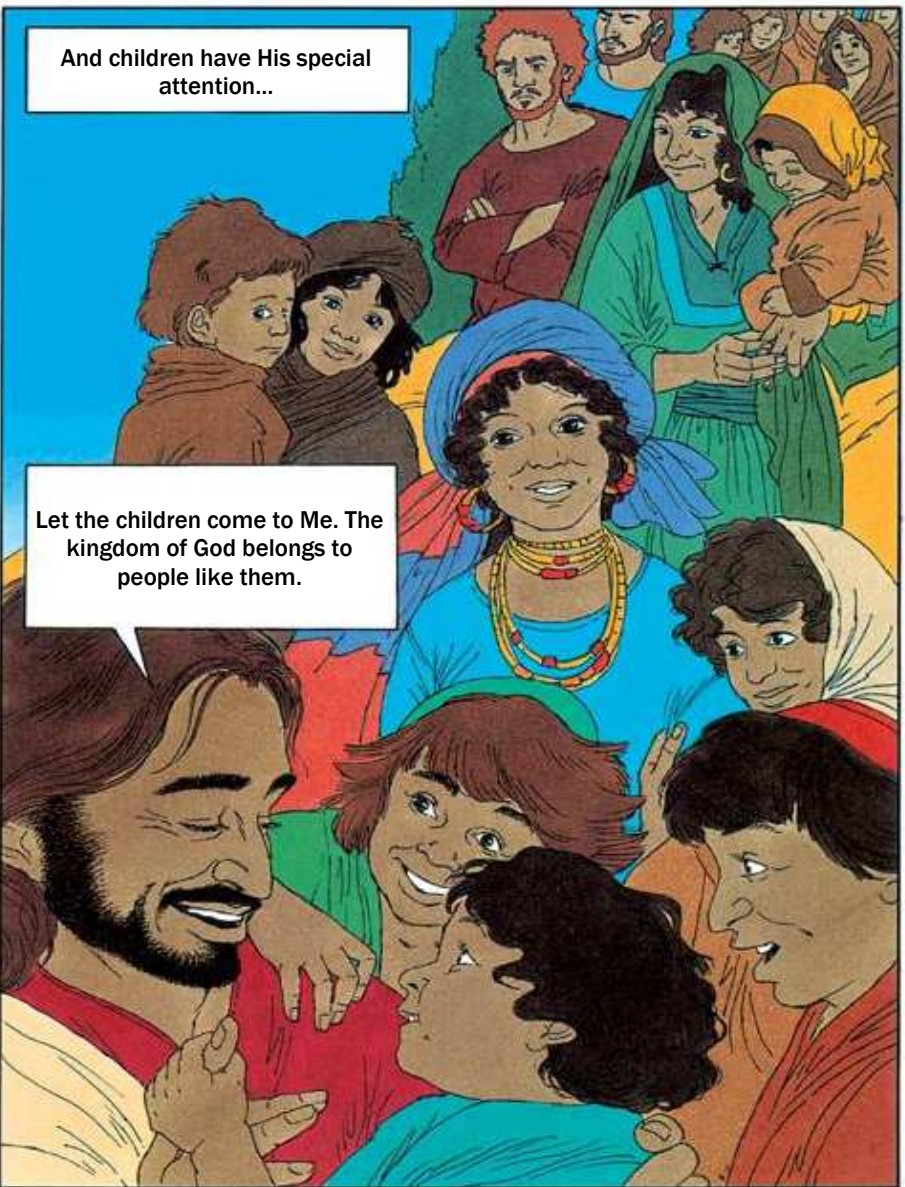
Because Jesus heals on the Sabbath...

Be healed!



And children have His special attention...

Let the children come to Me. The kingdom of God belongs to people like them.

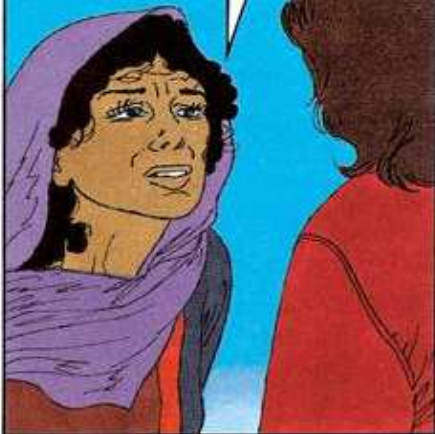


Jesus is called to Bethany, a village not far from Jerusalem. Lazarus is ill. Lazarus and his two sisters Martha and Mary are good friends of Jesus. When Jesus arrives in Bethany He hears that Lazarus was buried four days ago.



Lord!

Lord, if You'd been here, my brother wouldn't have died!



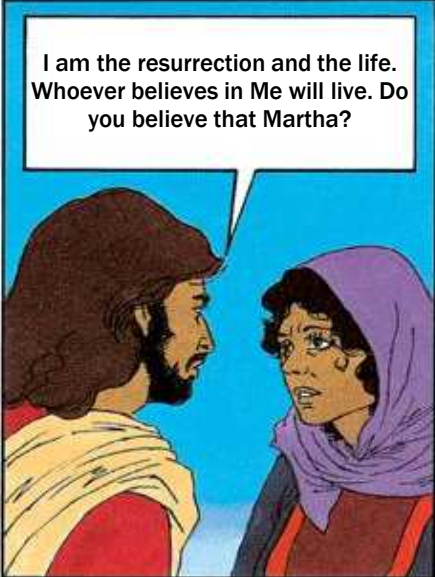
Your brother shall rise again, Martha.



Yes I know. He will live again at the resurrection on the last day.



I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me will live. Do you believe that Martha?

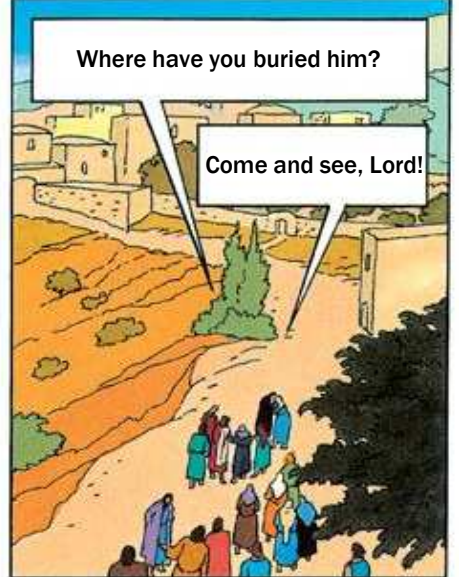


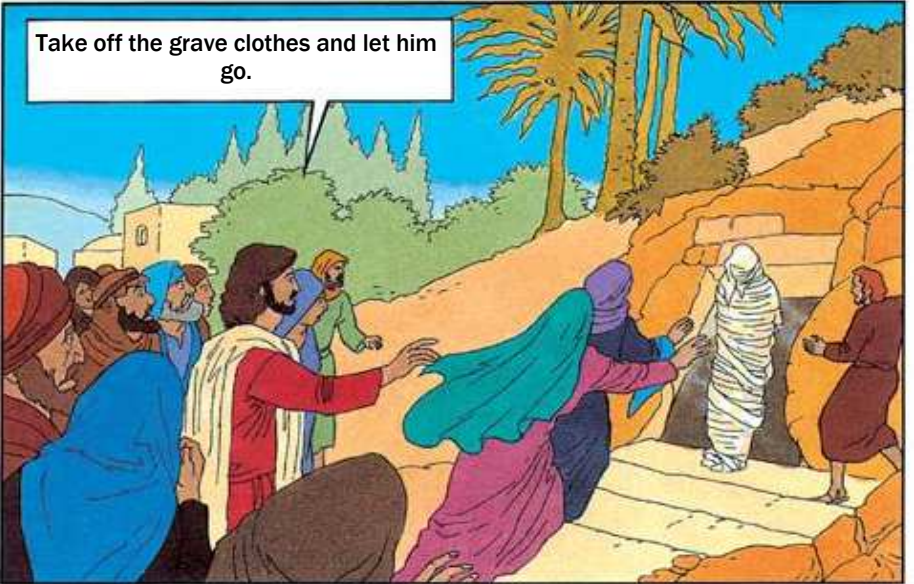
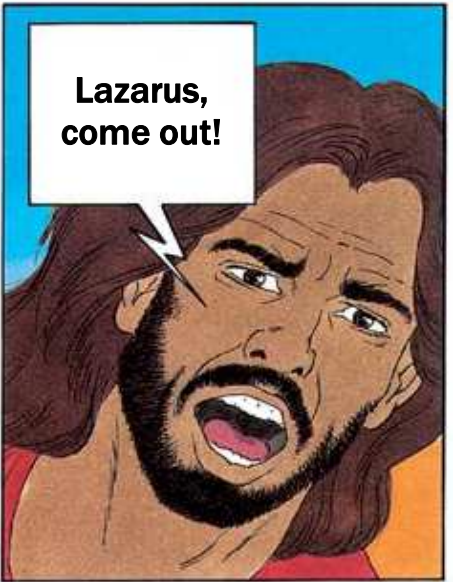
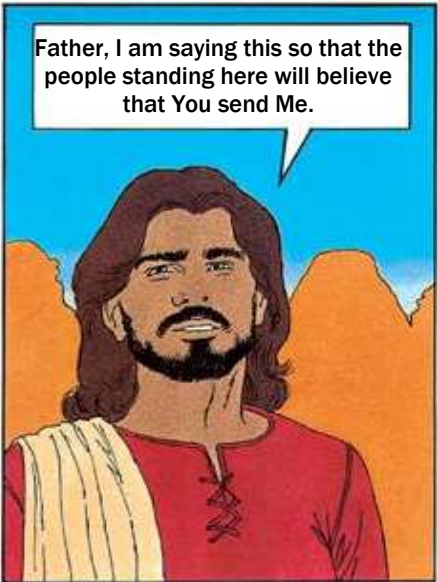
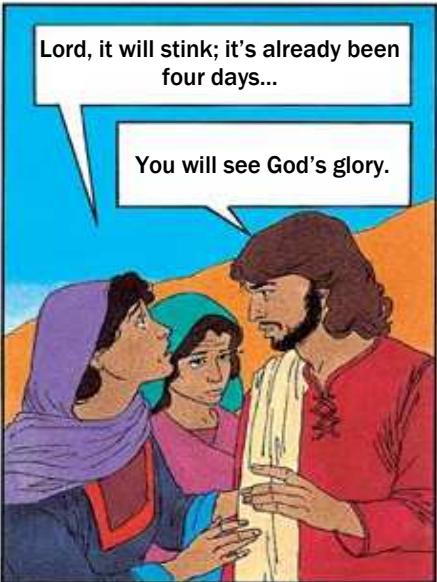
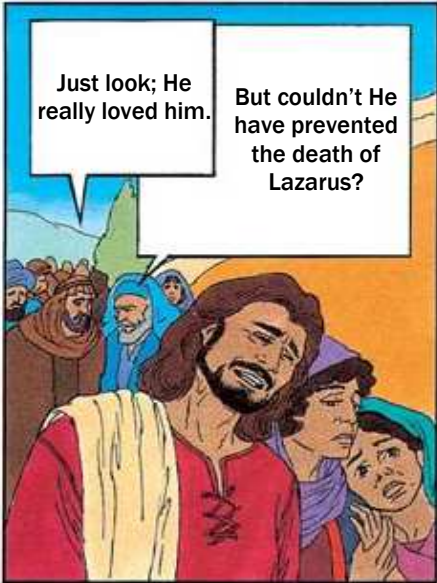
Yes Lord! I believe that You are the promised Saviour who was to come into the world, the Son of God.

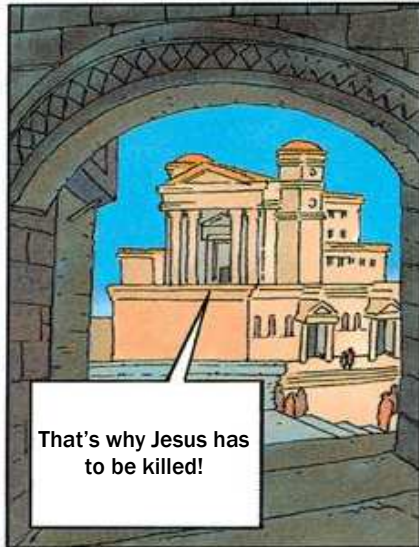
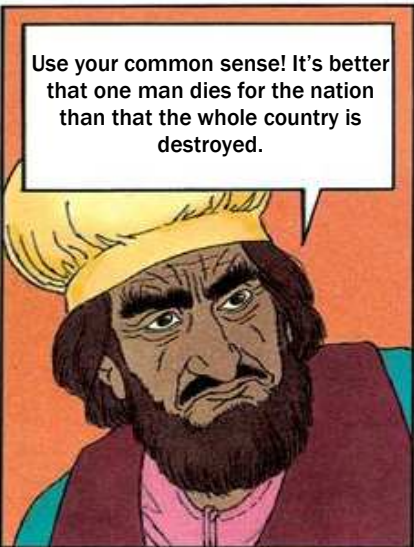
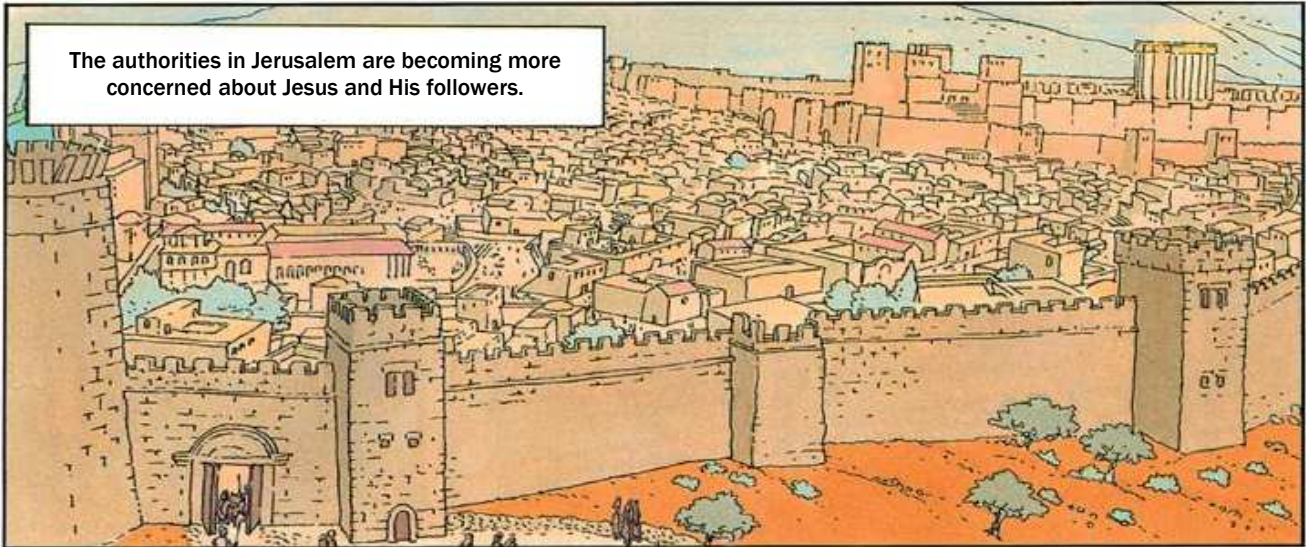


Where have you buried him?

Come and see, Lord!

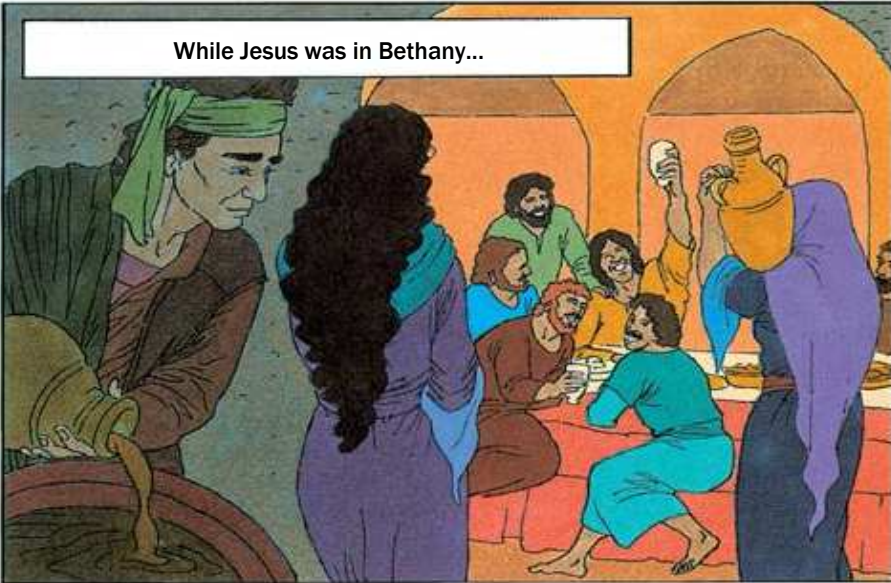




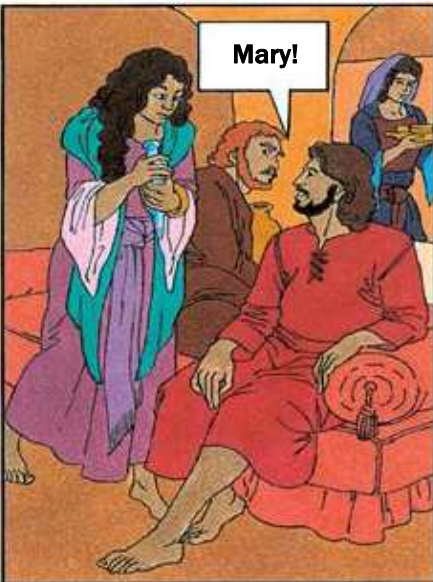


From that moment on the Jewish leaders look for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to the Romans. They are the only ones authorised to give the death penalty.

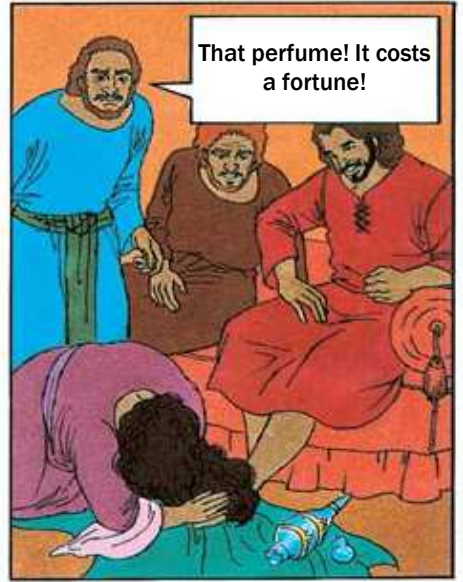
While Jesus was in Bethany...



Mary!



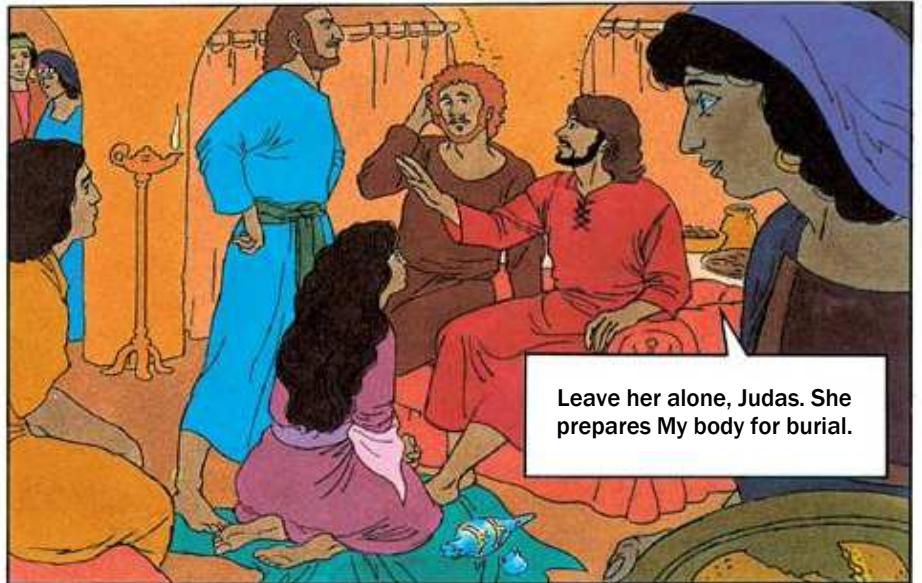
That perfume! It costs a fortune!



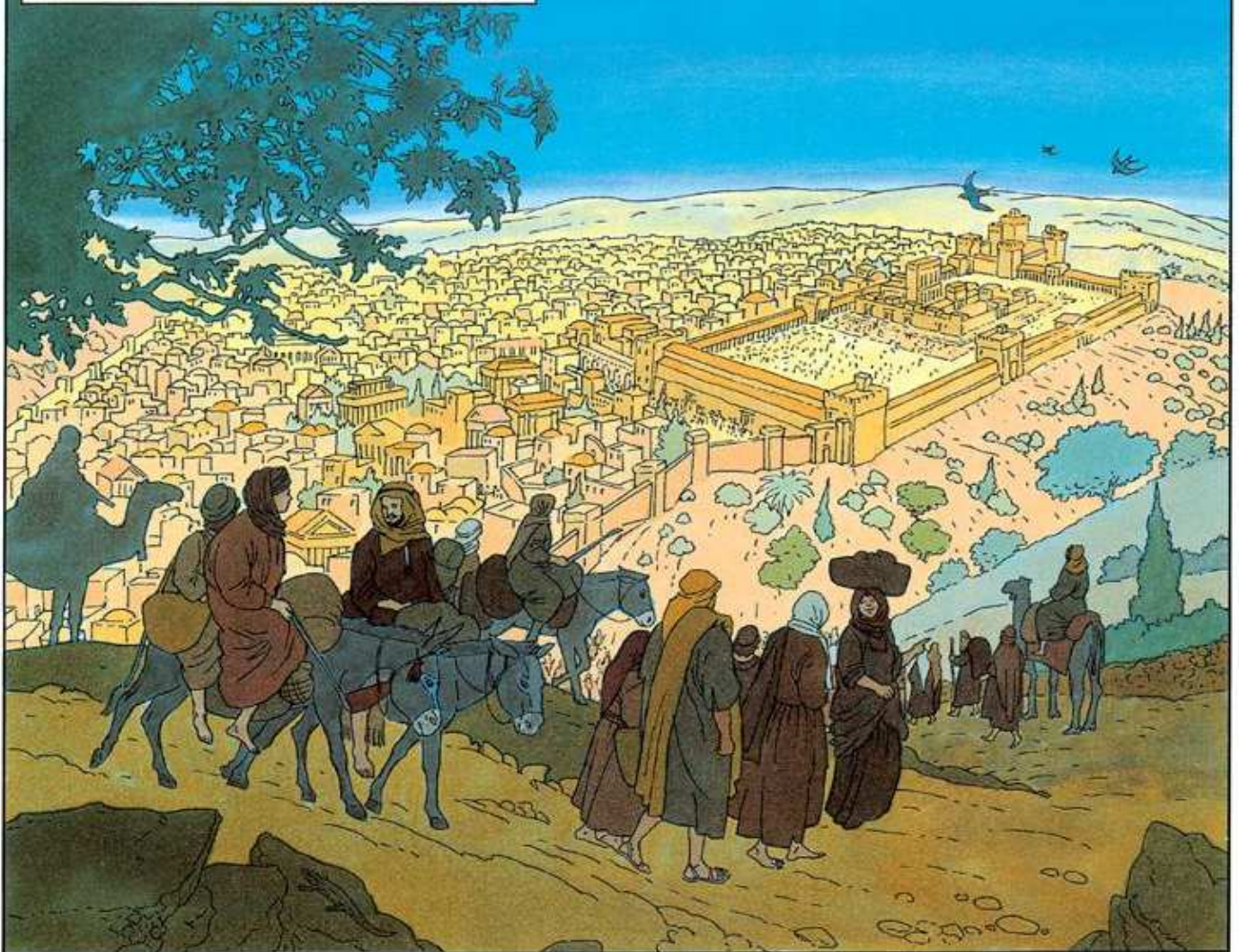
We'd have been better off giving the money to the poor!



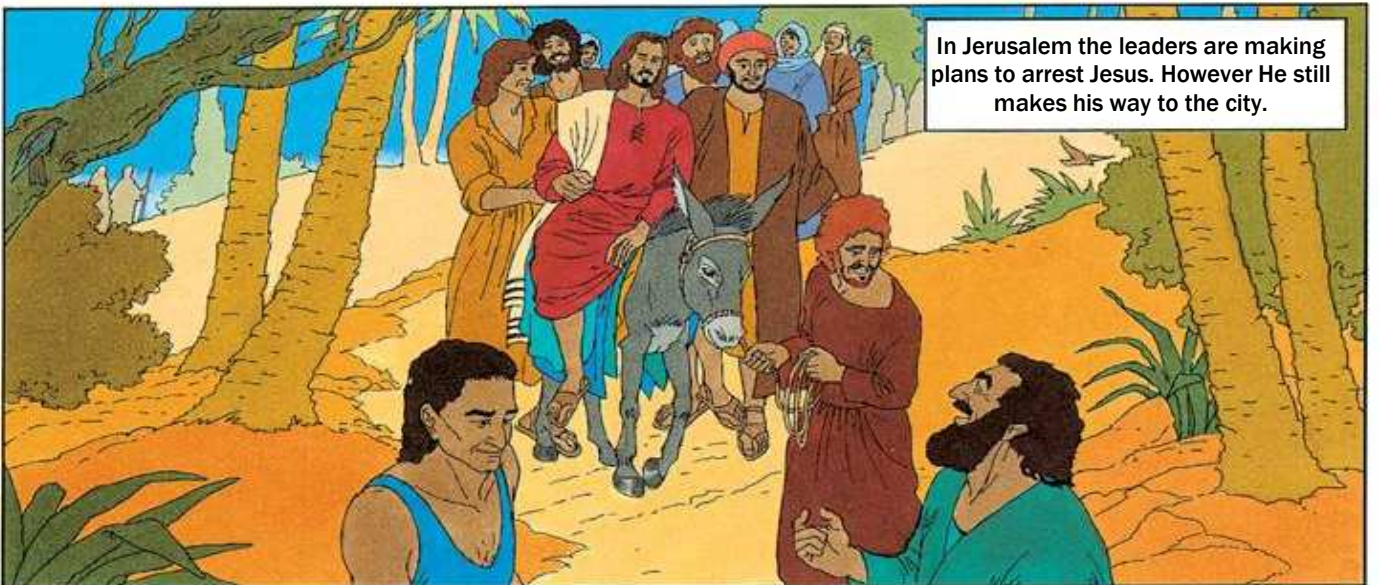
Leave her alone, Judas. She prepares My body for burial.



Soon it will be the Feast of the Passover. Crowds of people are travelling to Jerusalem.



In Jerusalem the leaders are making plans to arrest Jesus. However He still makes his way to the city.

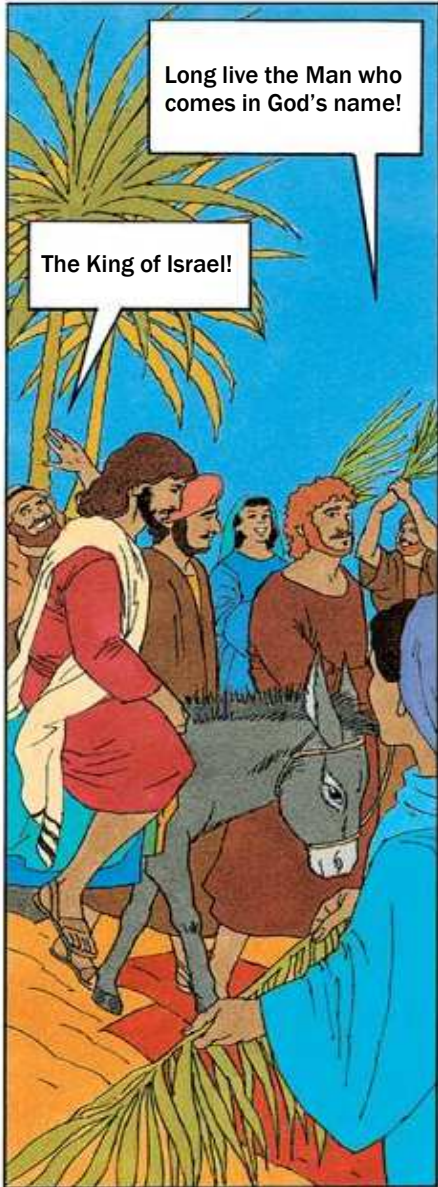




The people cheer, welcoming Him.

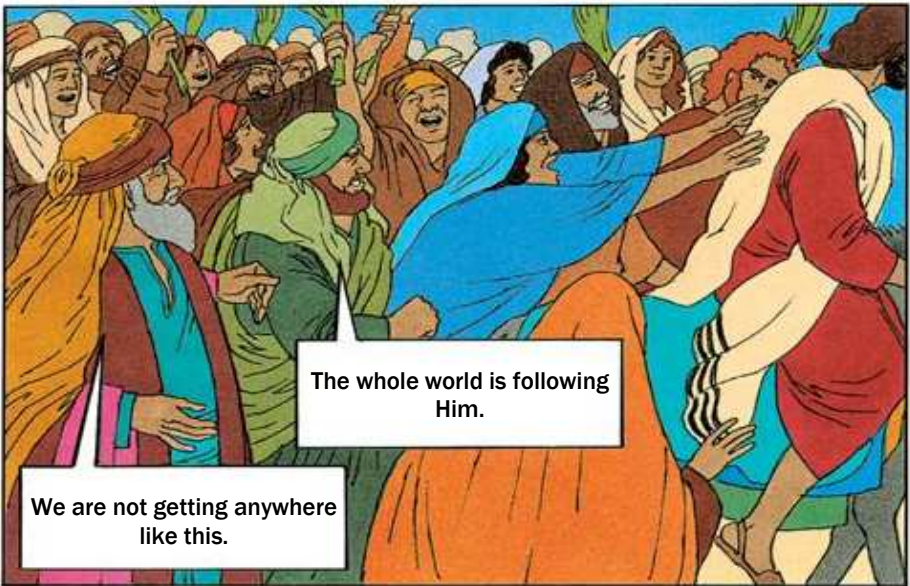
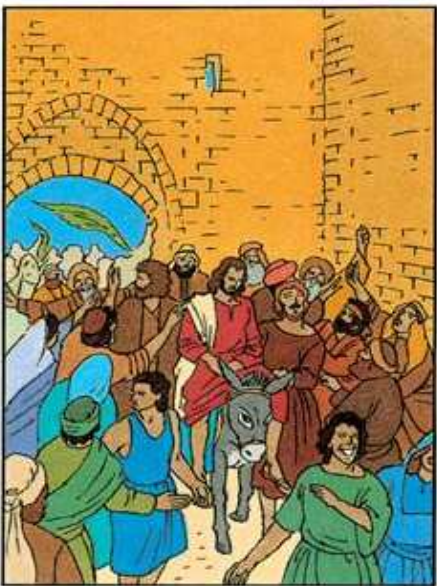
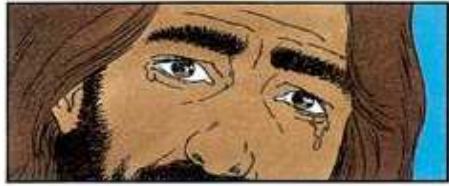
Hurray!

Hurray!



Long live the Man who comes in God's name!

The King of Israel!



The whole world is following Him.

We are not getting anywhere like this.

The temple in the capital city is the centre of worship.



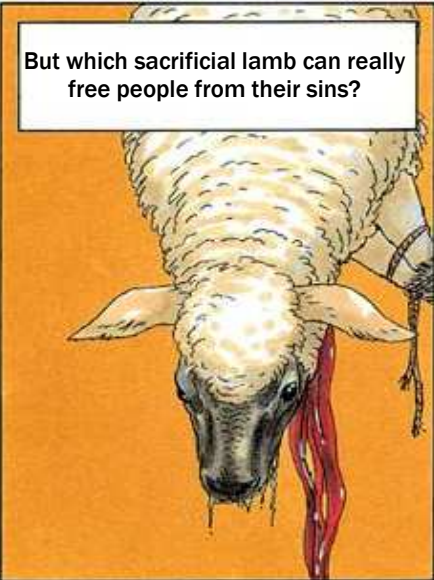
During the Feast of the Passover lambs are slaughtered.



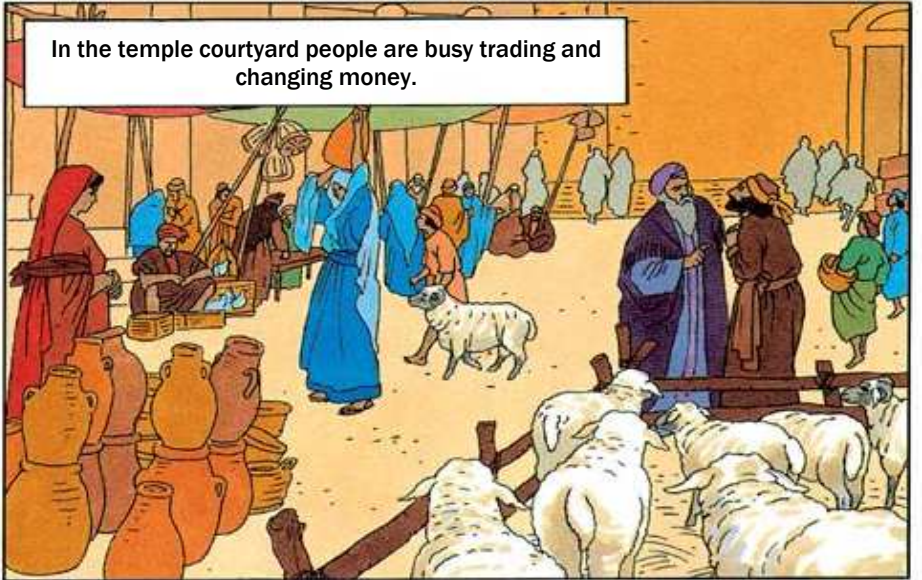
Lambs are offered in the temple to reconcile the people to God.



But which sacrificial lamb can really free people from their sins?

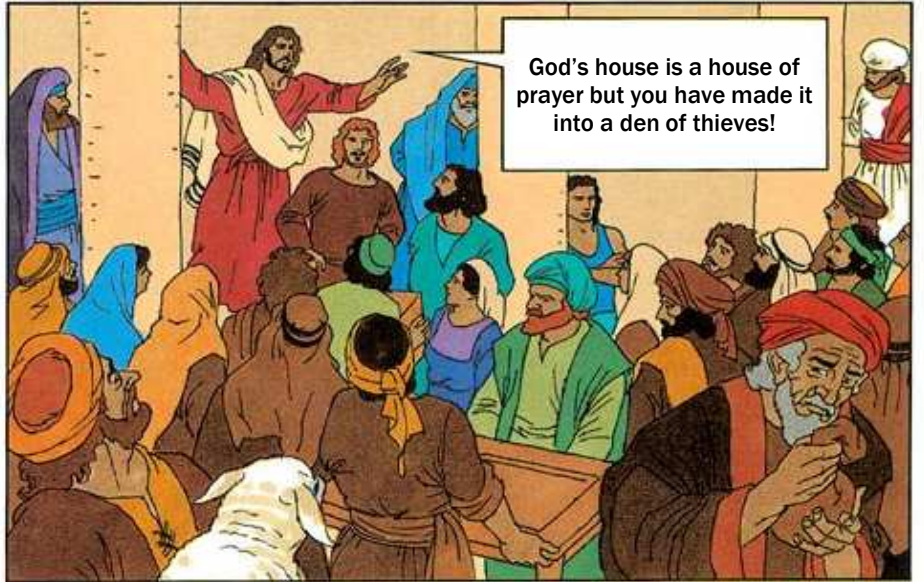
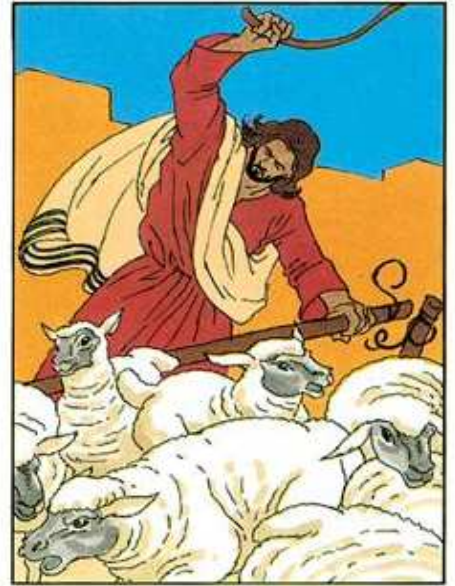


In the temple courtyard people are busy trading and changing money.

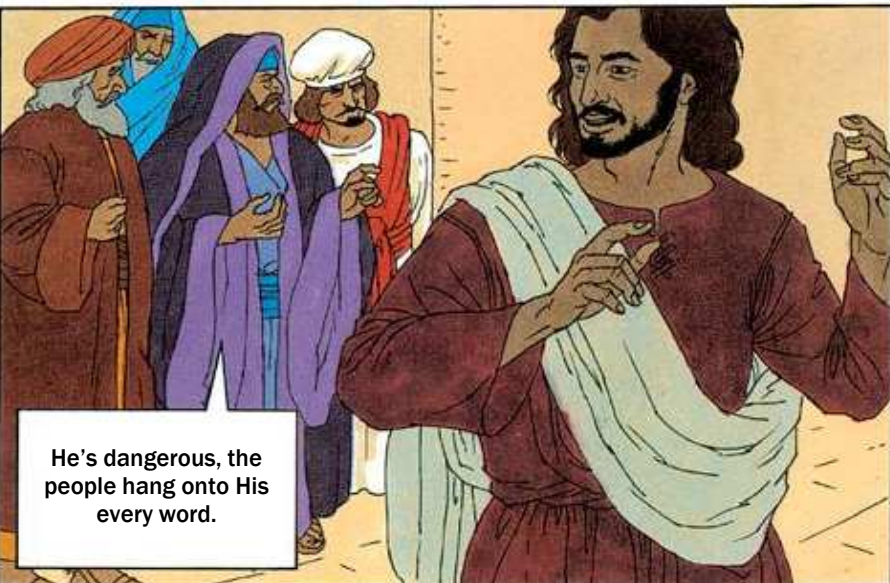


Jesus is also there...

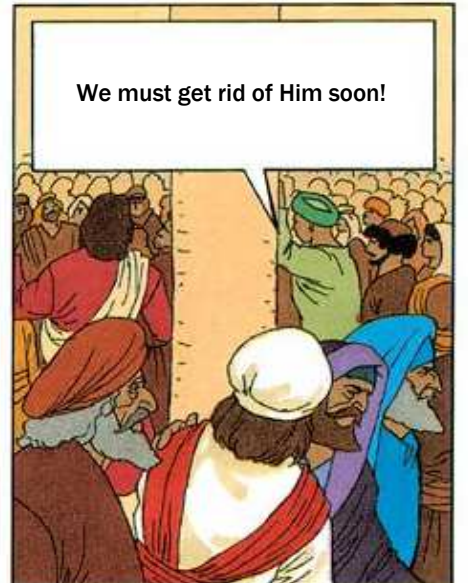




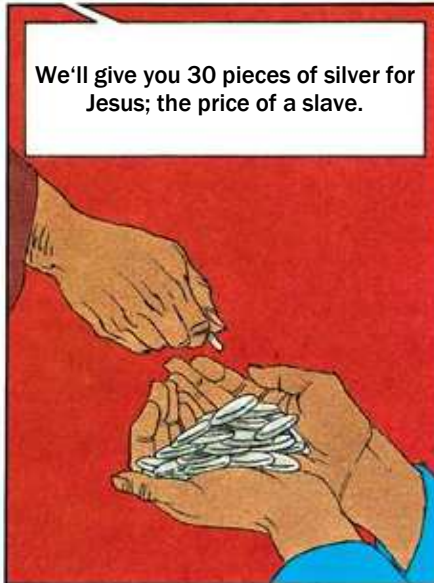
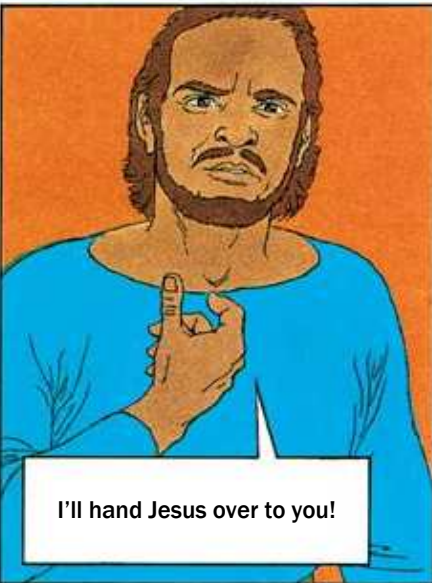
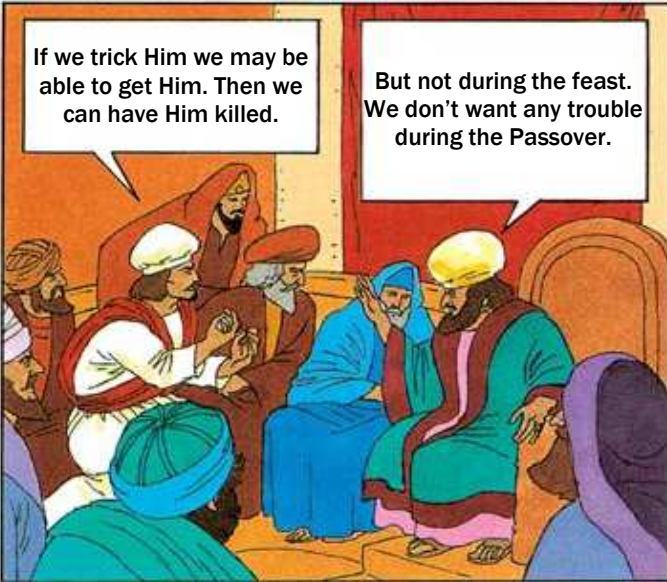
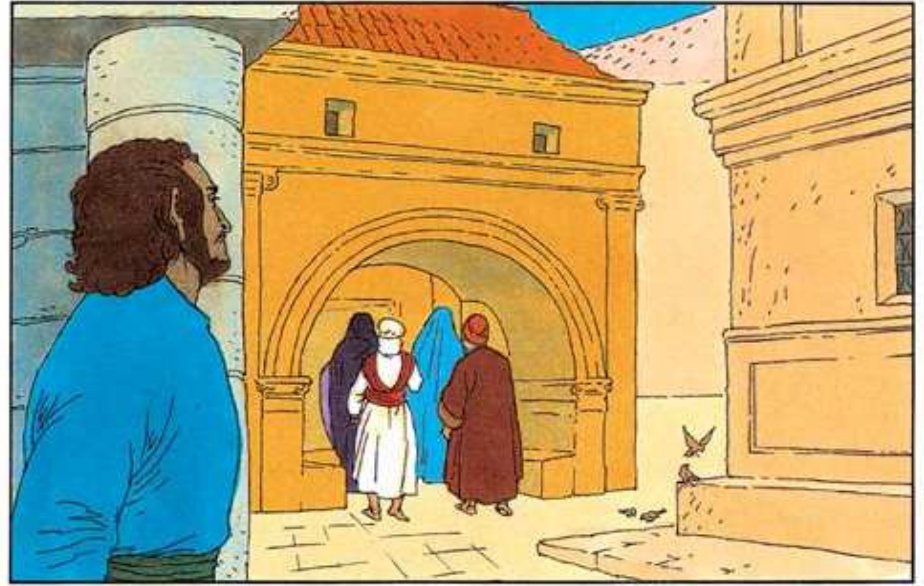
God's house is a house of prayer but you have made it into a den of thieves!



He's dangerous, the people hang onto His every word.



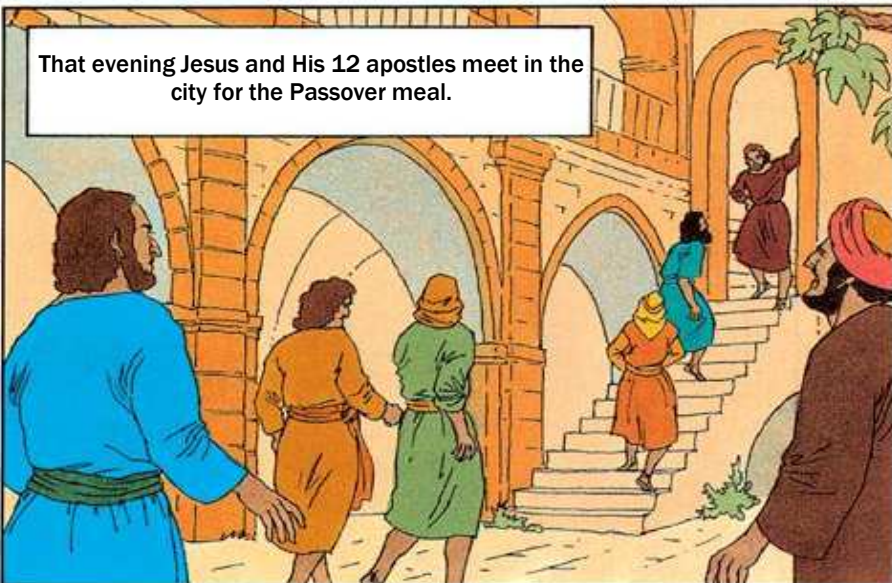
We must get rid of Him soon!



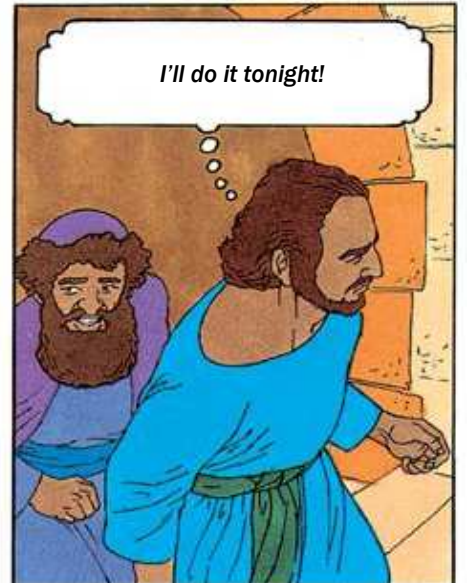
Jesus spends the days before the feast of the Passover speaking to the people in the temple, although the leaders continually try to make it difficult for Him.

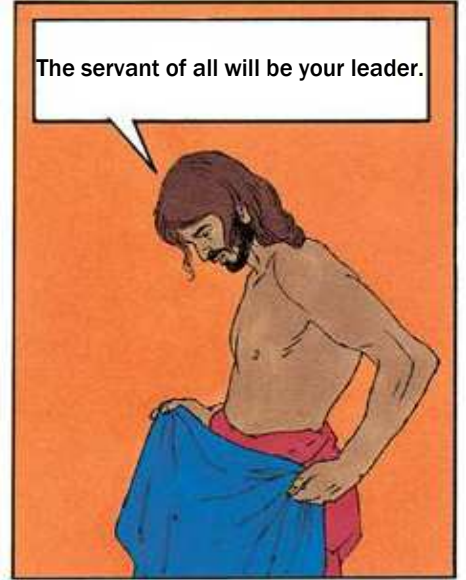
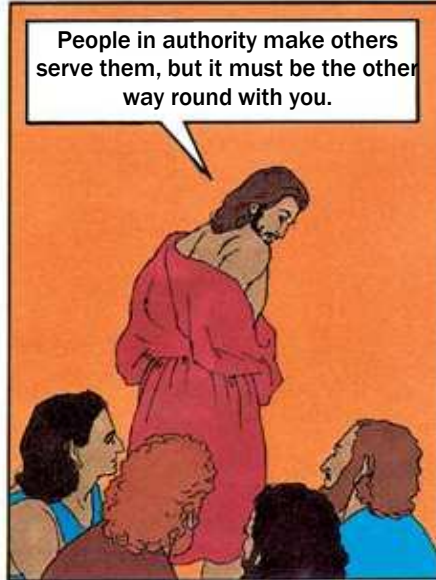
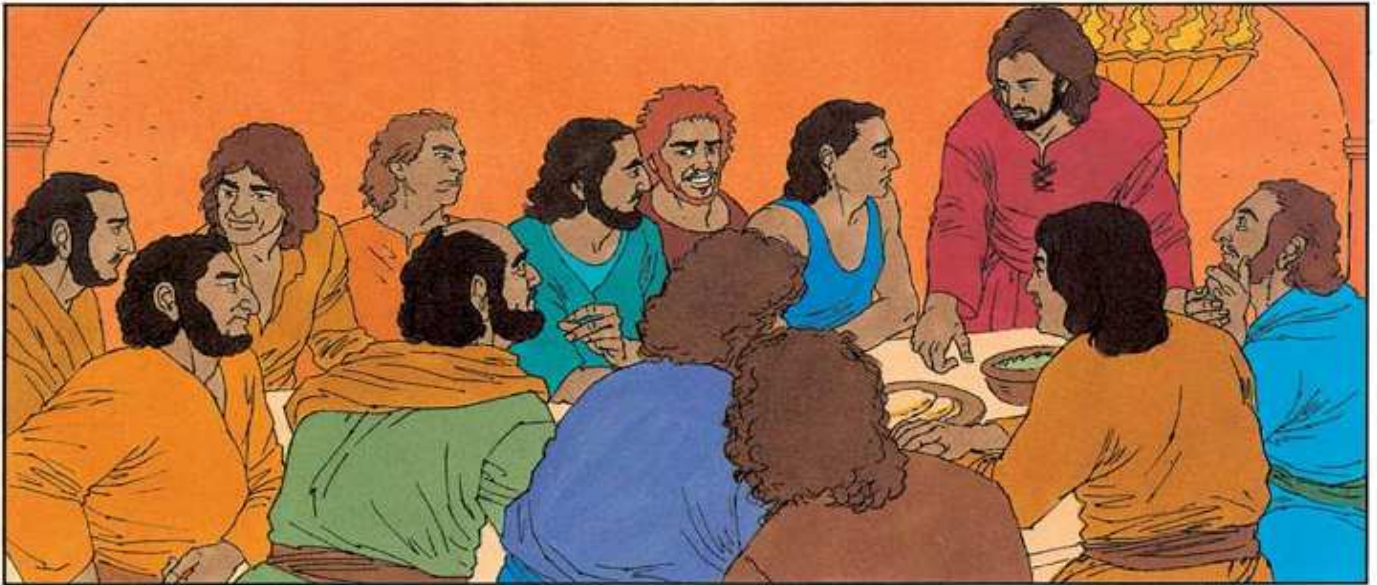


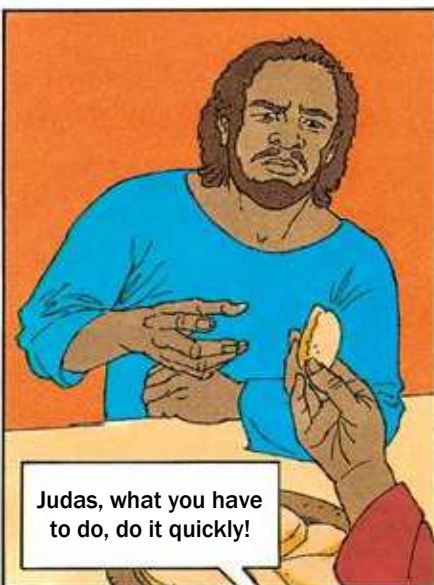
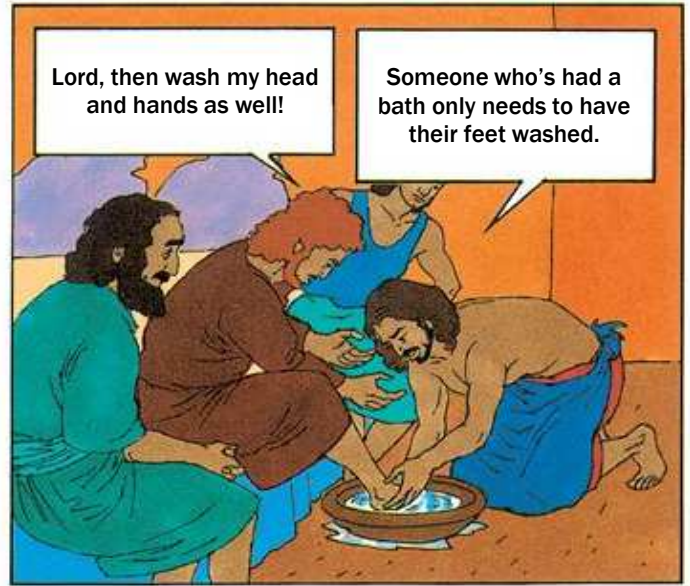
That evening Jesus and His 12 apostles meet in the city for the Passover meal.

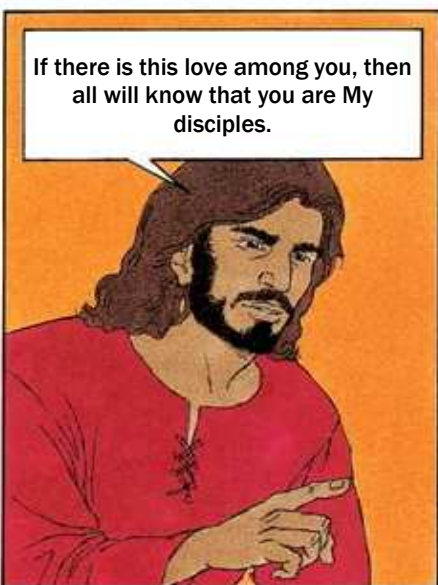
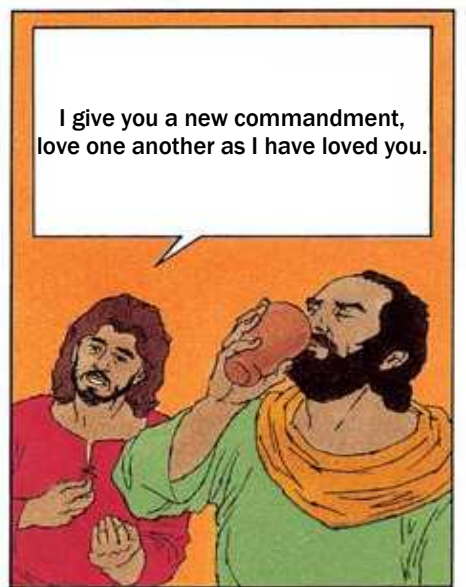
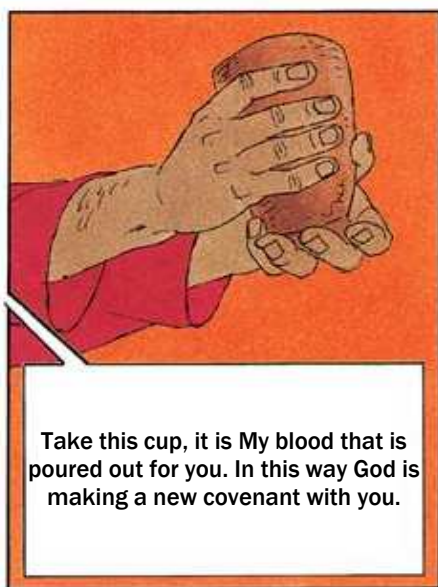
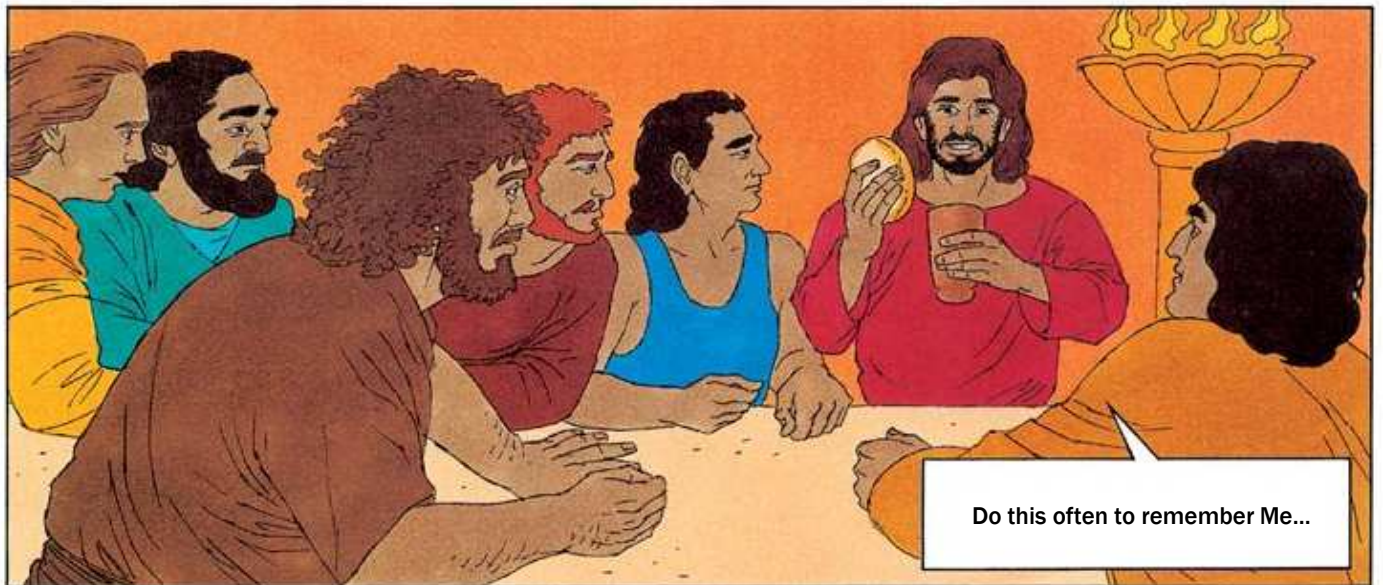


I'll do it tonight!









Later that evening, Jesus and His disciples leave the city.
Judas isn't with them...

I'm going to leave you, but the Father will send the Holy Spirit to you. He 'll help you and will always be with you.

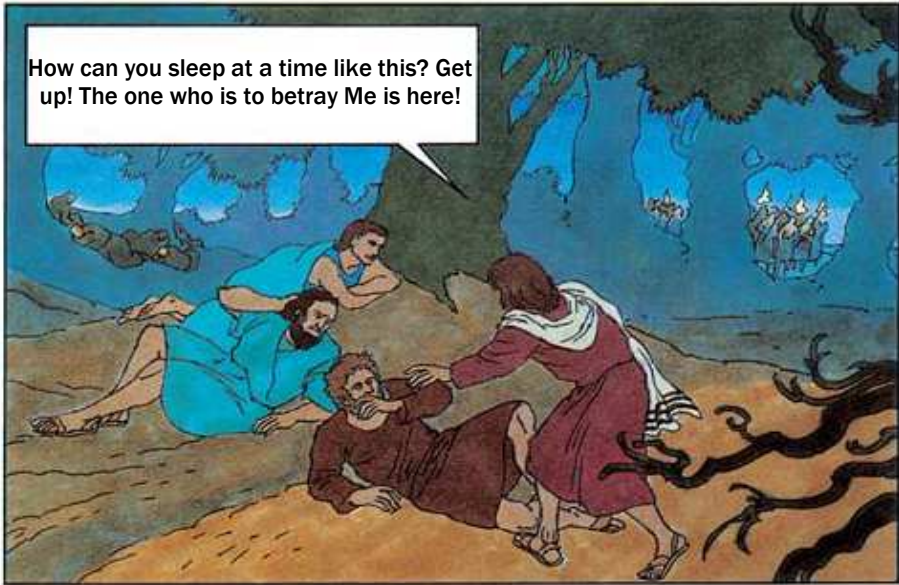
You know the way to the place I'm going.

I am the way, the truth, and the life.
No one can come to the Father unless he comes through Me.

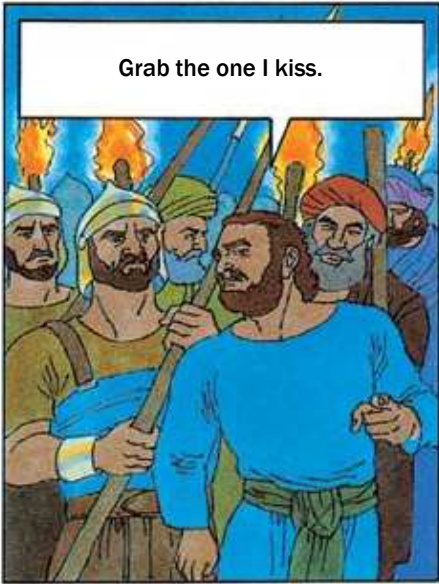
You stay here. I'm going a little further to pray.

Father, if it's possible, take this suffering away from Me.

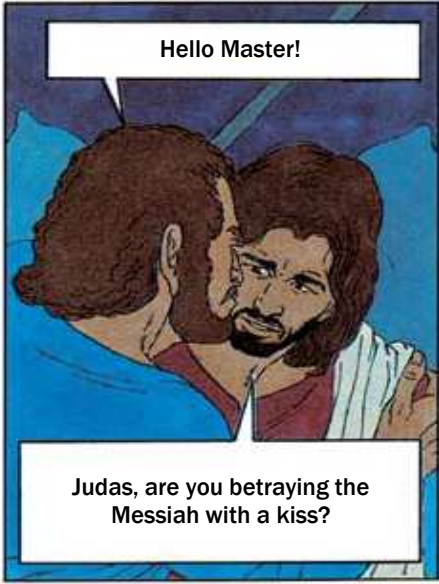
However, let not My will but Your will be done!



How can you sleep at a time like this? Get up! The one who is to betray Me is here!



Grab the one I kiss.



Hello Master!

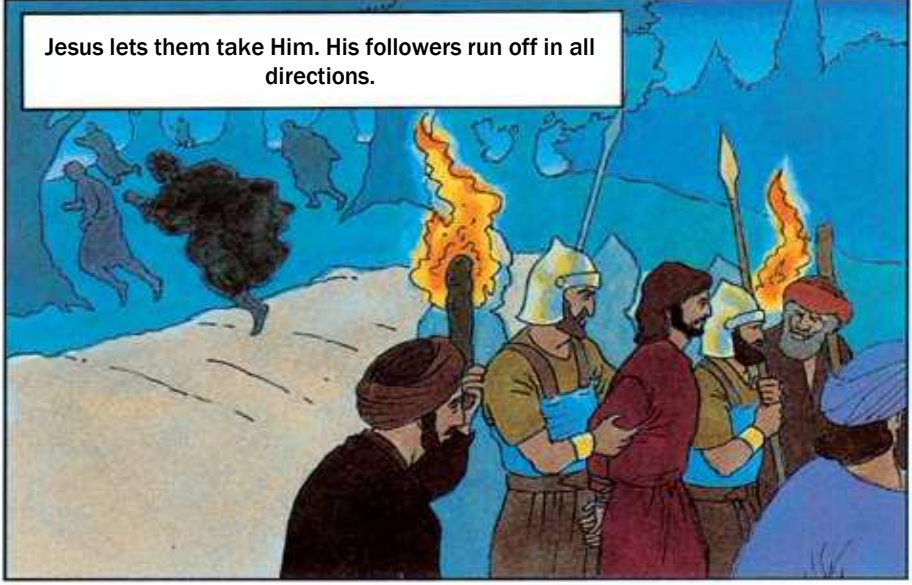
Judas, are you betraying the Messiah with a kiss?



Lord, shall we fight?

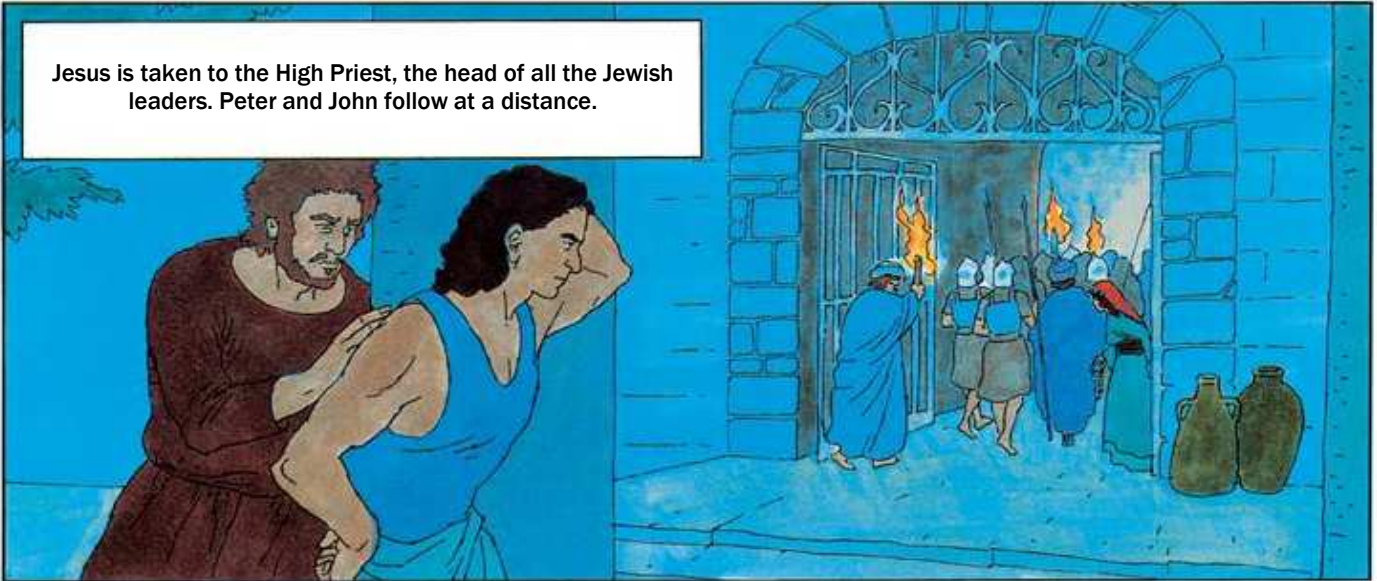


No!

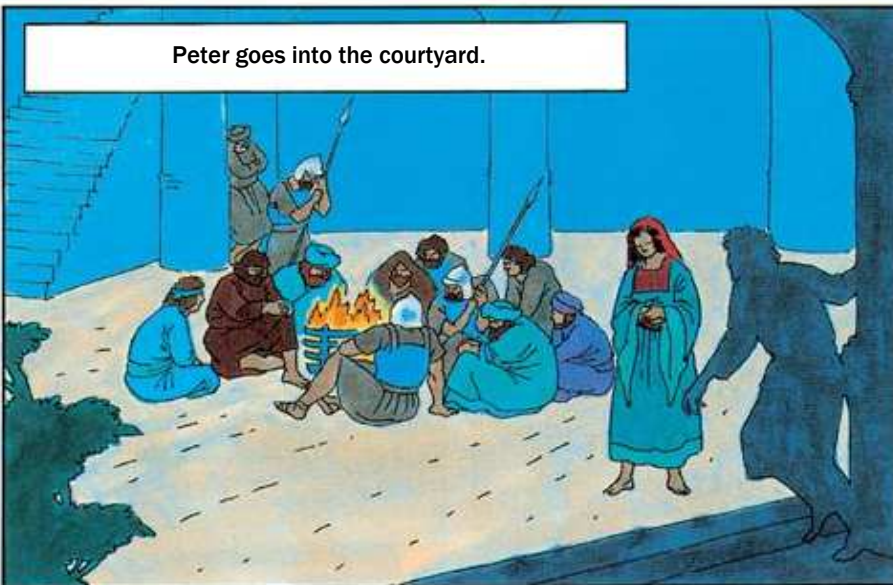


Jesus lets them take Him. His followers run off in all directions.

Jesus is taken to the High Priest, the head of all the Jewish leaders. Peter and John follow at a distance.



Peter goes into the courtyard.



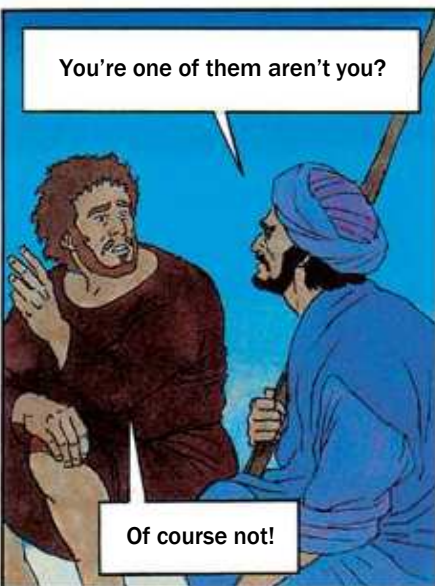
Weren't you with Him?

No! I don't even know the Man.



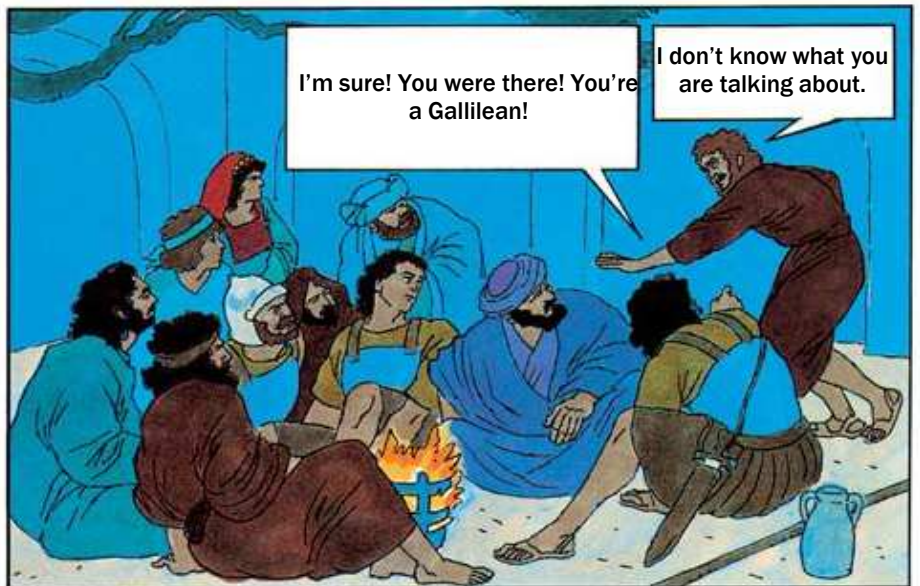
You're one of them aren't you?

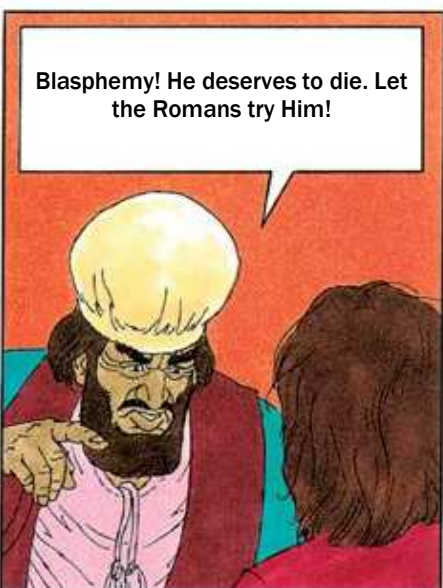
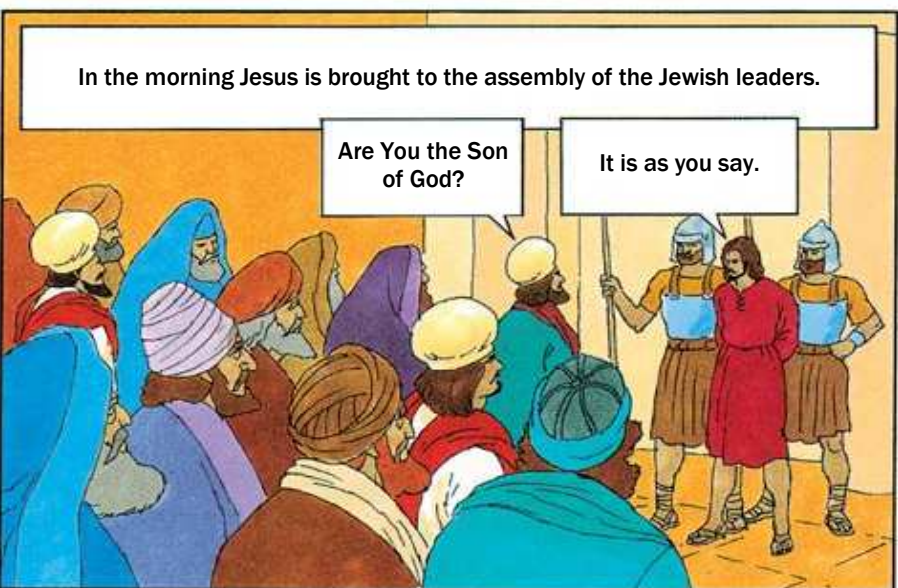
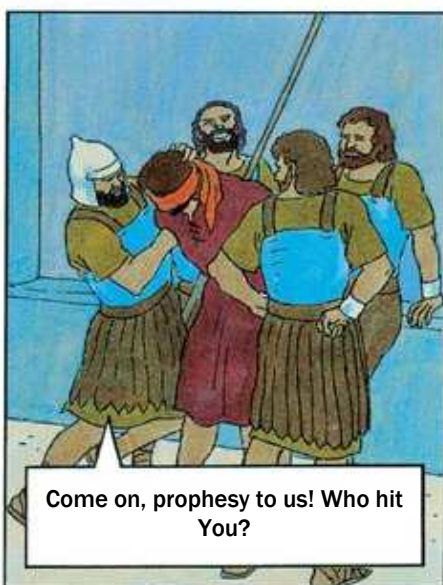
Of course not!



I'm sure! You were there! You're a Gallilean!

I don't know what you are talking about.





Jesus is brought to the Roman governor, Pilate. The Jewish leaders stir up those watching. They shout all kinds of accusations.



What do you say to all these accusations? Nothing?

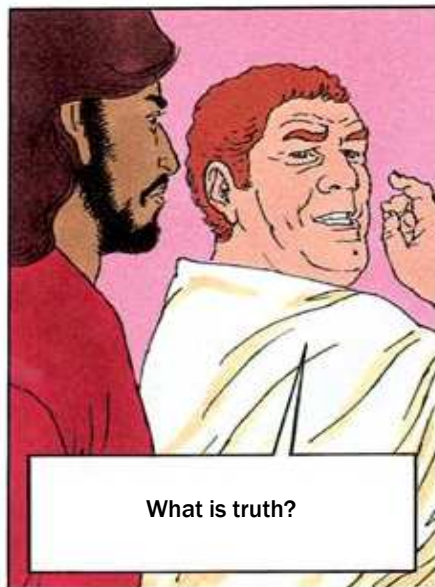


What have you done?

I've come to testify to the truth.

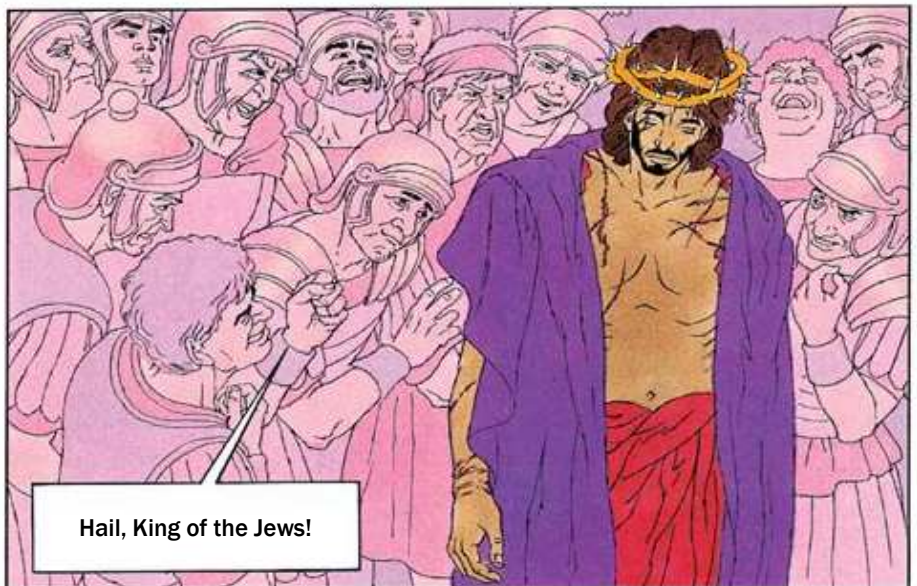
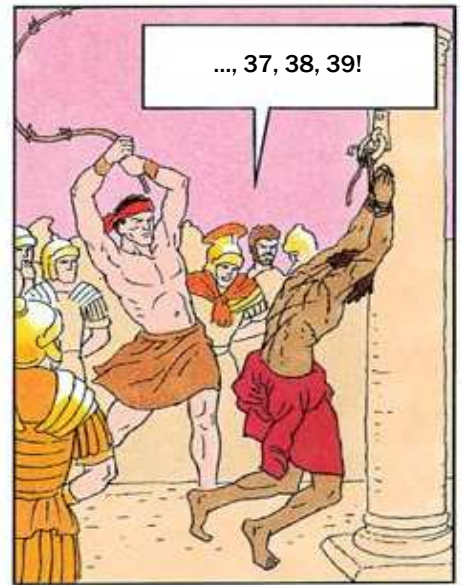
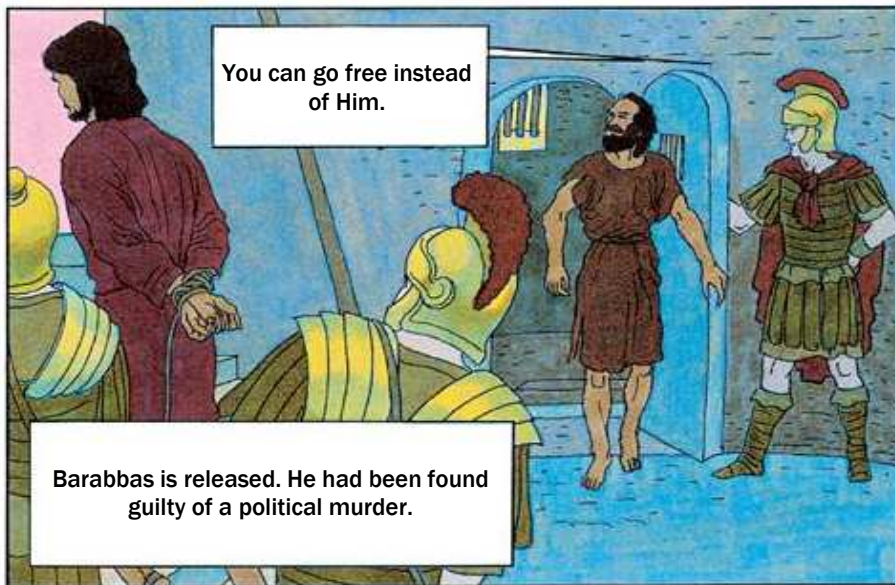
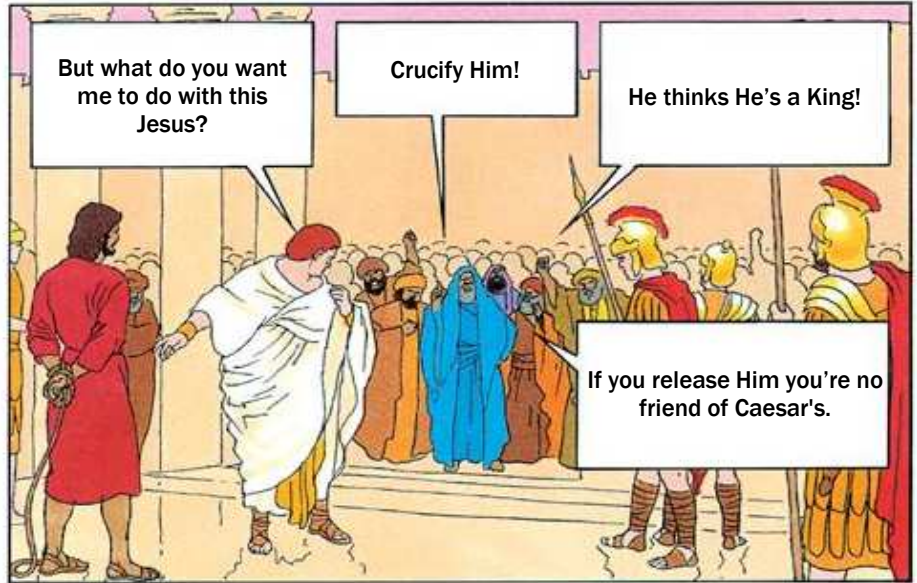
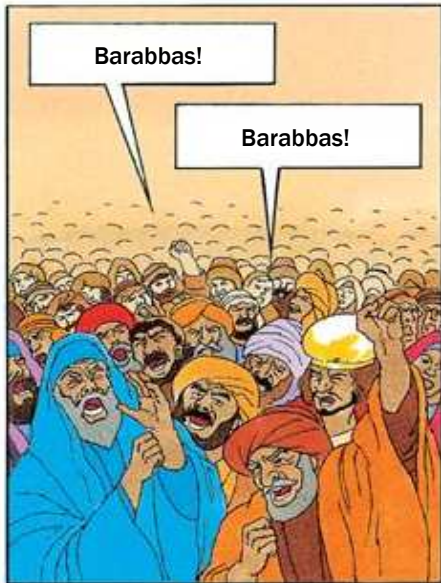


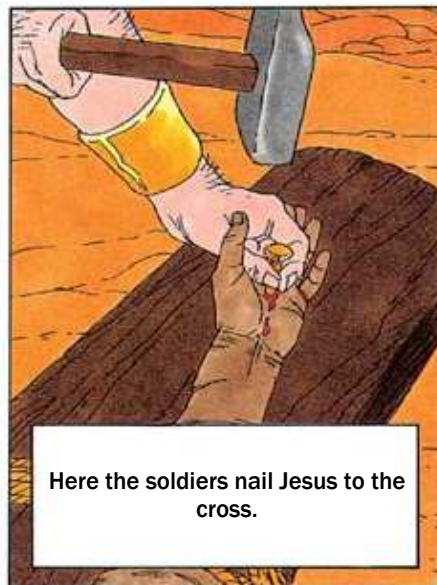
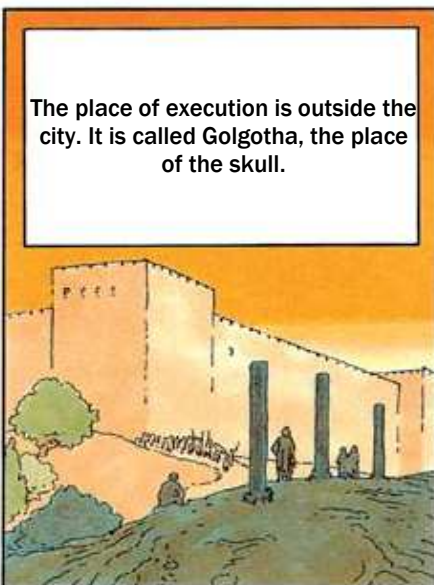
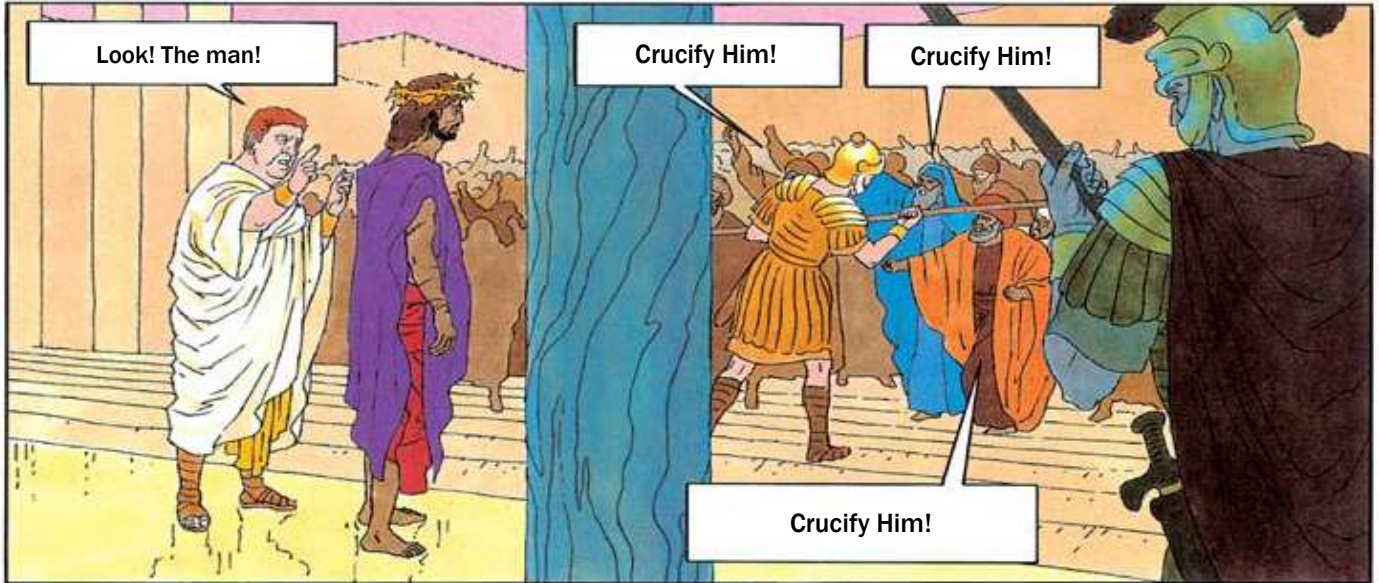
What is truth?

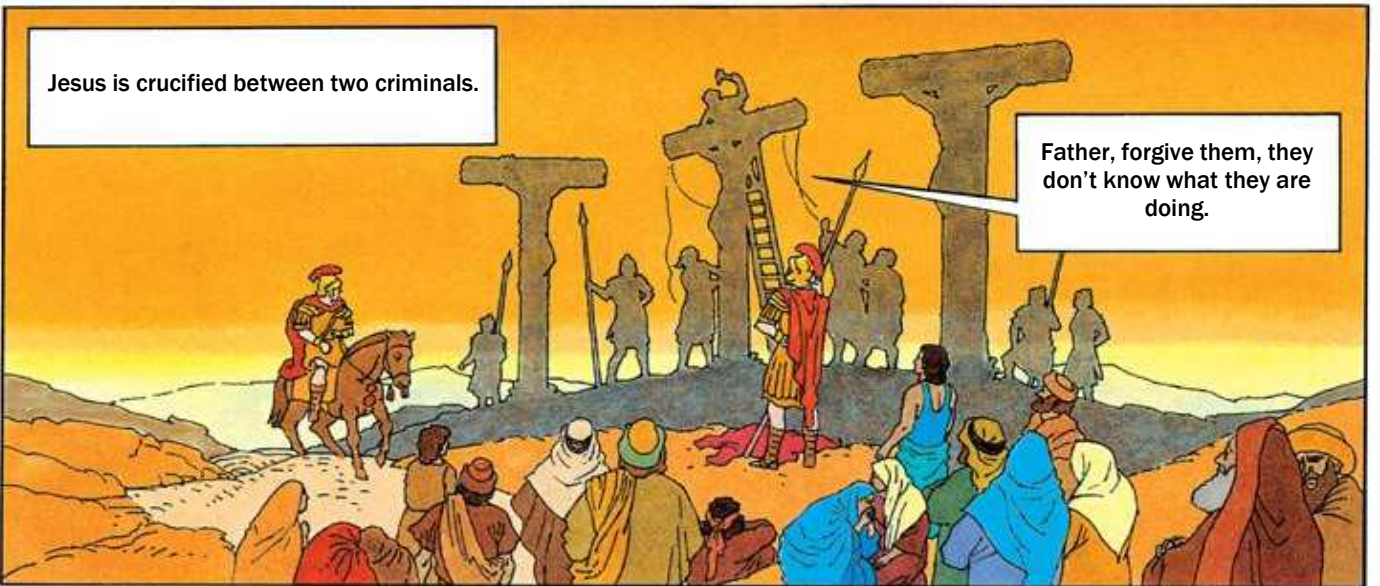
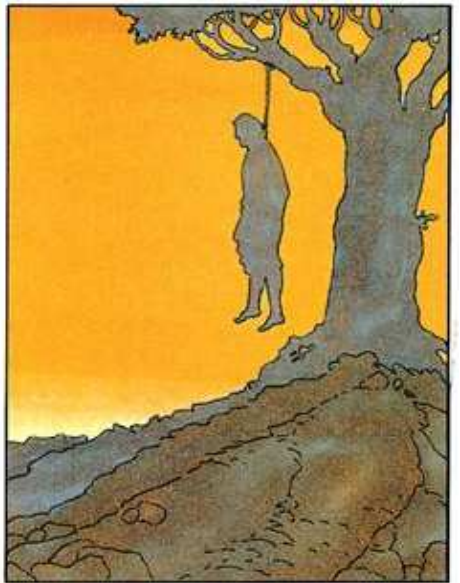
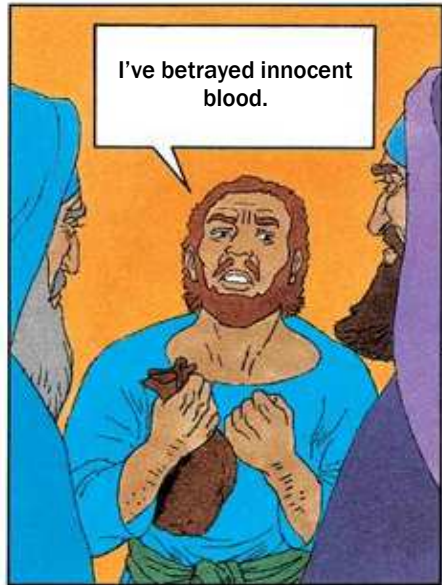


I find no fault with Him. It's the feast of the Passover. Who shall I release; Barabbas or the King of the Jews?





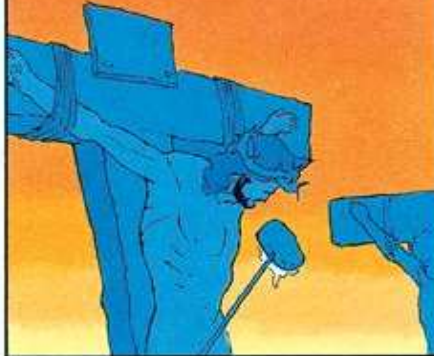




An inscription is placed on the cross in three languages which says: "Jesus, King of the Jews."



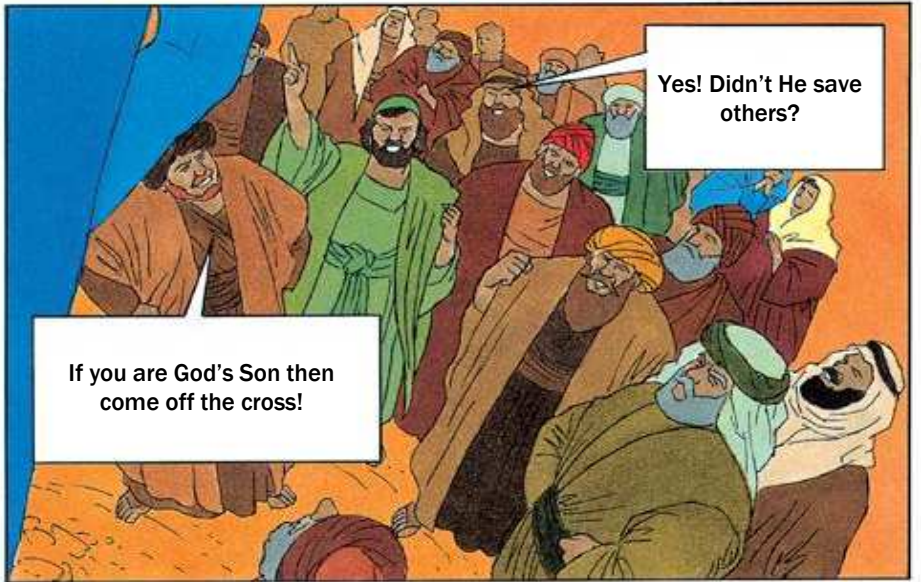
Jesus refuses a painkilling drink.



The soldiers gamble for His clothes.



Yes! Didn't He save others?



If you are God's Son then come off the cross!

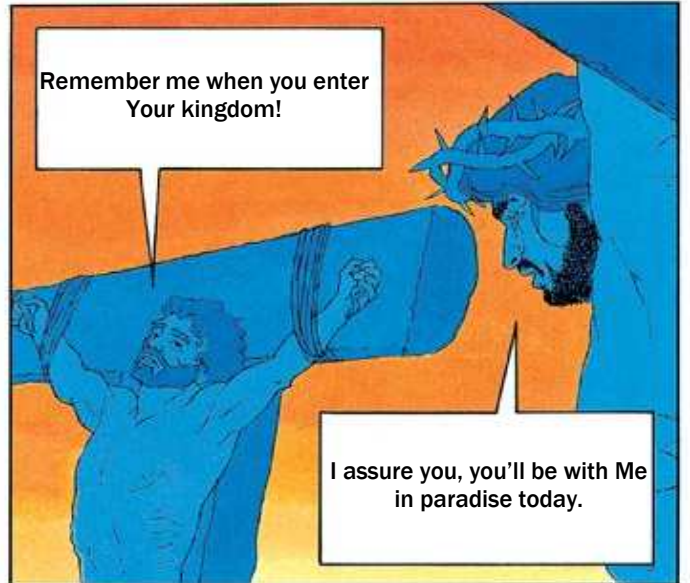
Save Yourself and us!

Show some respect for God. We've got what we deserve but this Man hasn't done anything wrong.



Remember me when you enter Your kingdom!

I assure you, you'll be with Me in paradise today.

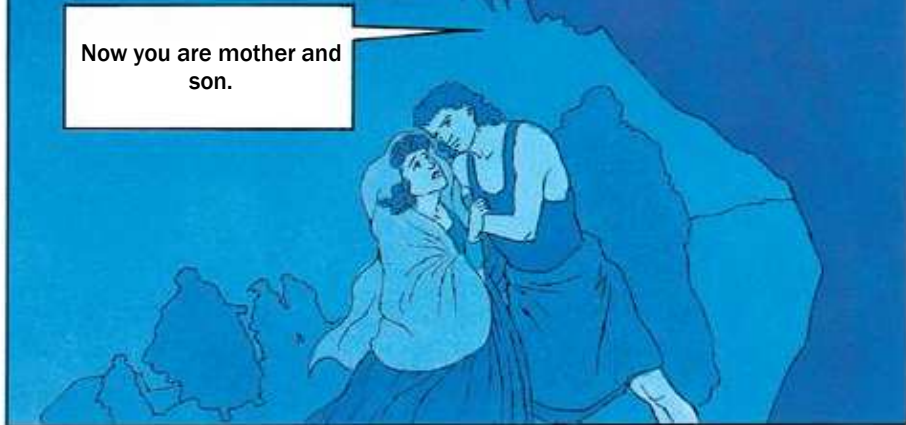


At about 12 there is an eclipse of the sun. Everything is dark.



Mary, the mother of Jesus, and John, His disciple, are standing near the cross.

Now you are mother and son.



My God, my God, why have you abandoned Me?



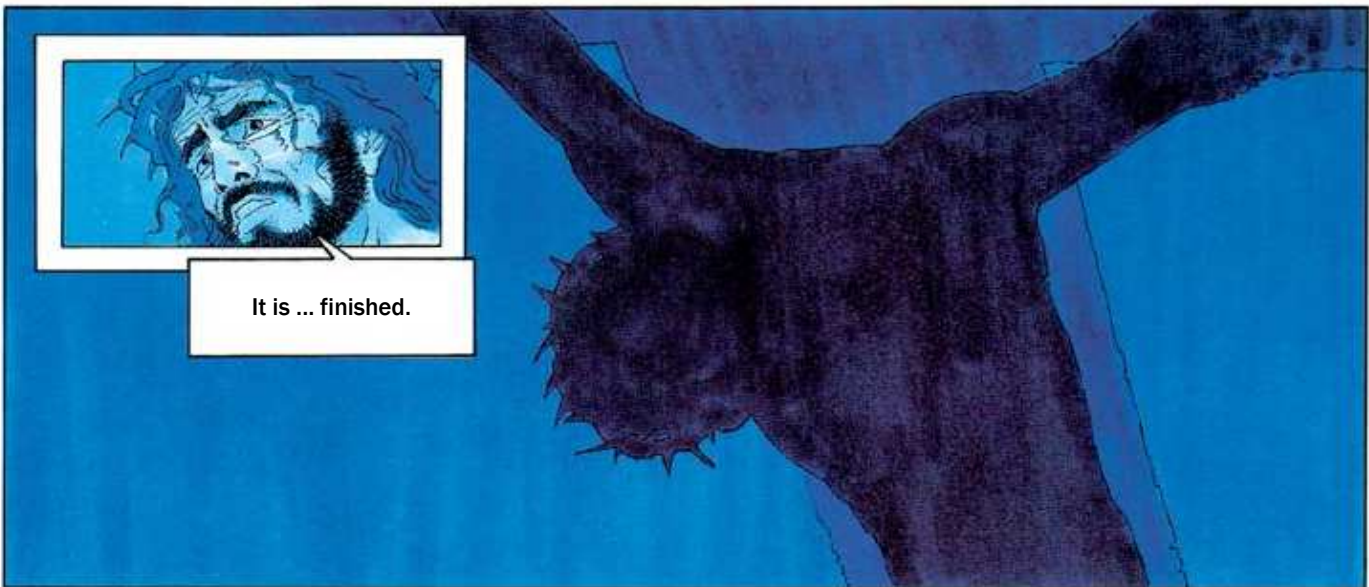
I'm ... thirsty!



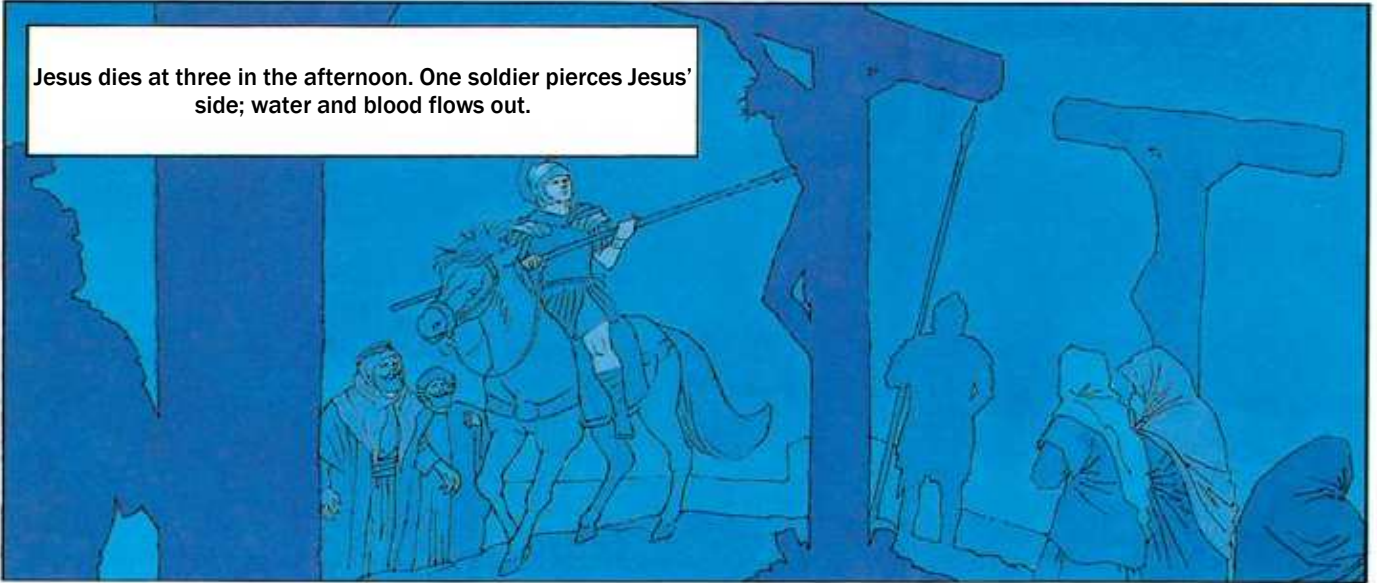
Father, I place My spirit into Your hands.



It is ... finished.



Jesus dies at three in the afternoon. One soldier pierces Jesus' side; water and blood flows out.



It says in the Books: "He was led like a lamb to the slaughter."



"He was pierced and crushed for our sins." But now He's dead.



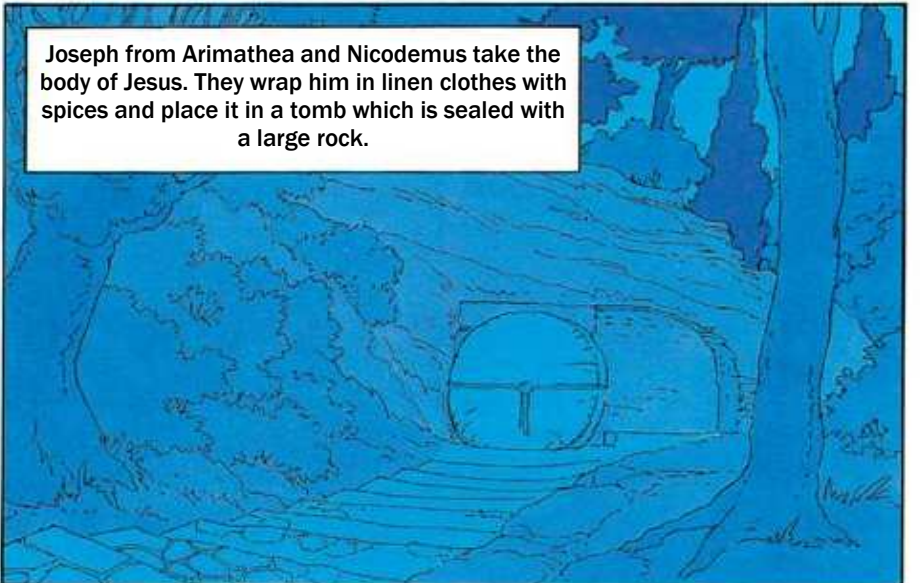
Was He the Messiah who was to come or not?



Come on, let's ask if we can bury Him.



Joseph from Arimathea and Nicodemus take the body of Jesus. They wrap him in linen clothes with spices and place it in a tomb which is sealed with a large rock.



After the period of rest, which is part of the Passover, several mourning women go to the sealed tomb...



The stone has been rolled away!



Why do you look for the living One among the dead? He has risen. Go and tell His disciples!



Peter and John run to the tomb when they hear this.

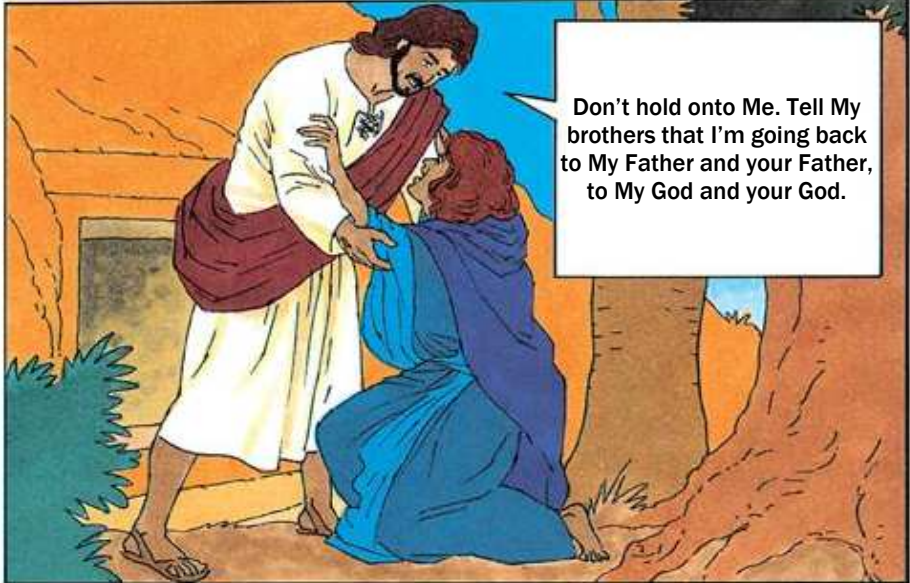
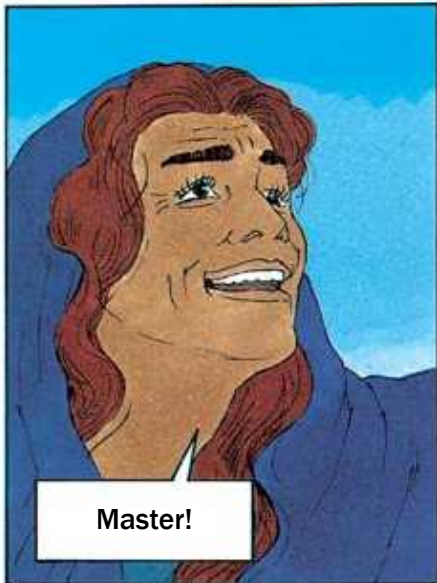
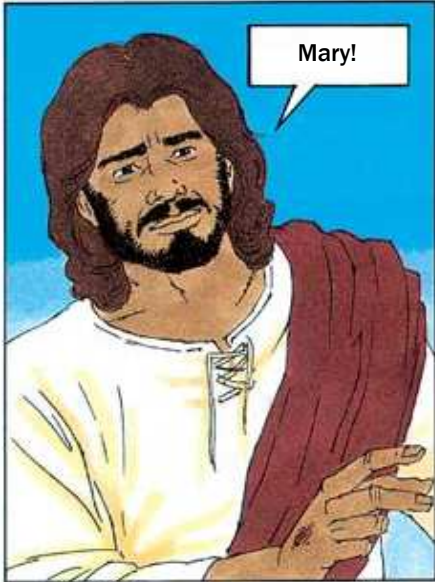
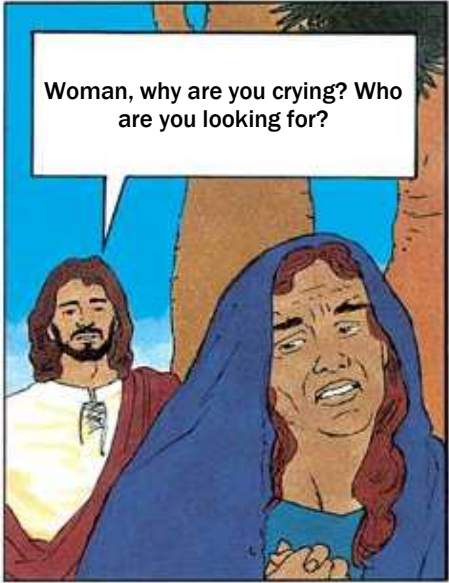


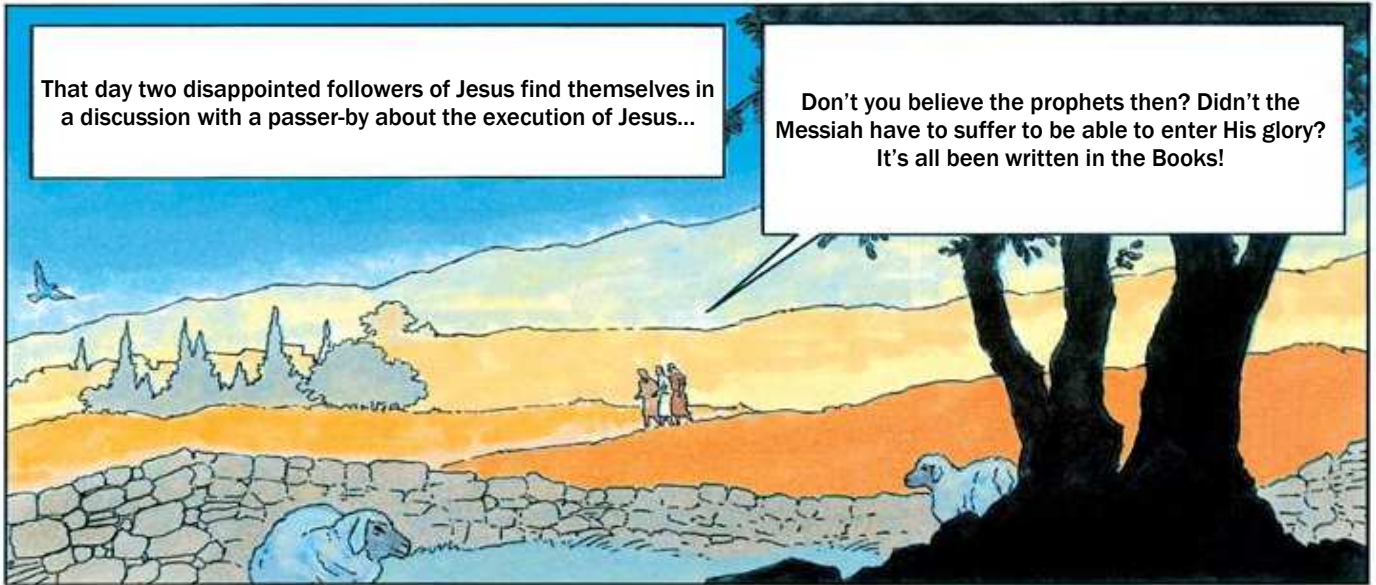
What's happened?



It's completely empty!







That day two disappointed followers of Jesus find themselves in a discussion with a passer-by about the execution of Jesus...

Don't you believe the prophets then? Didn't the Messiah have to suffer to be able to enter His glory? It's all been written in the Books!



Suddenly during the meal the guest vanishes...

But that was Jesus Himself!



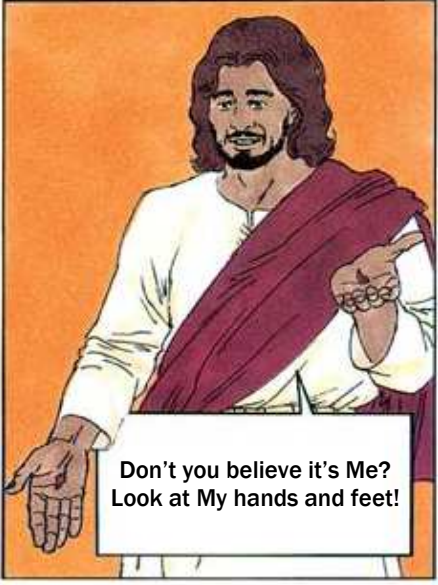
They leave immediately to find Jesus' other followers.

Mary and Peter have as well!

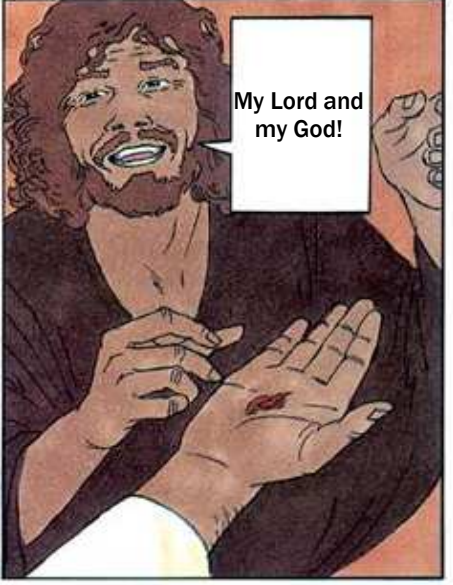
We've seen the Lord!



Suddenly... I wish you peace!

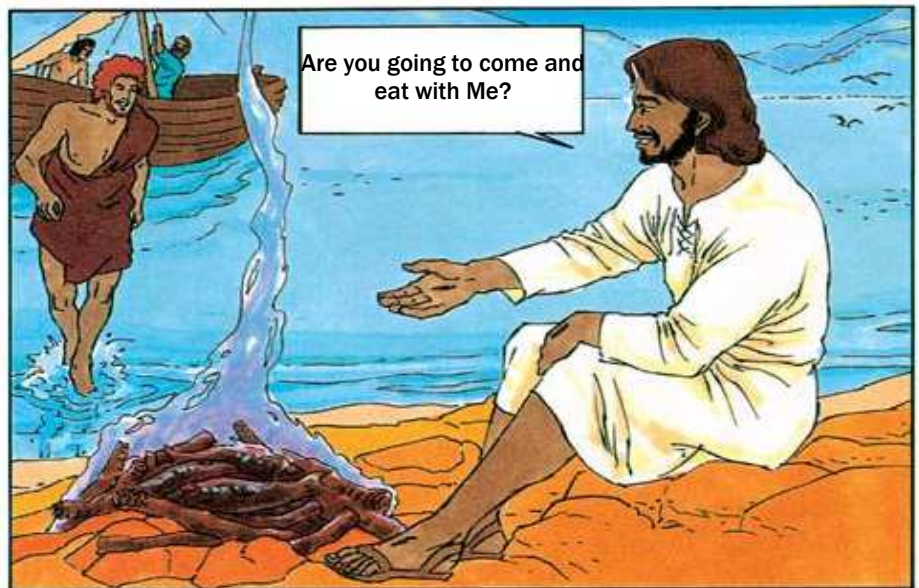
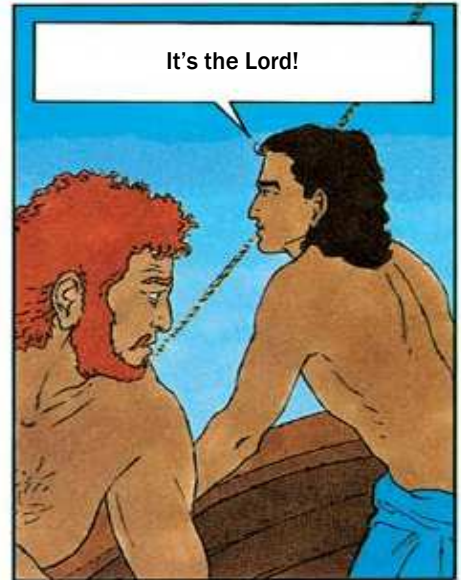
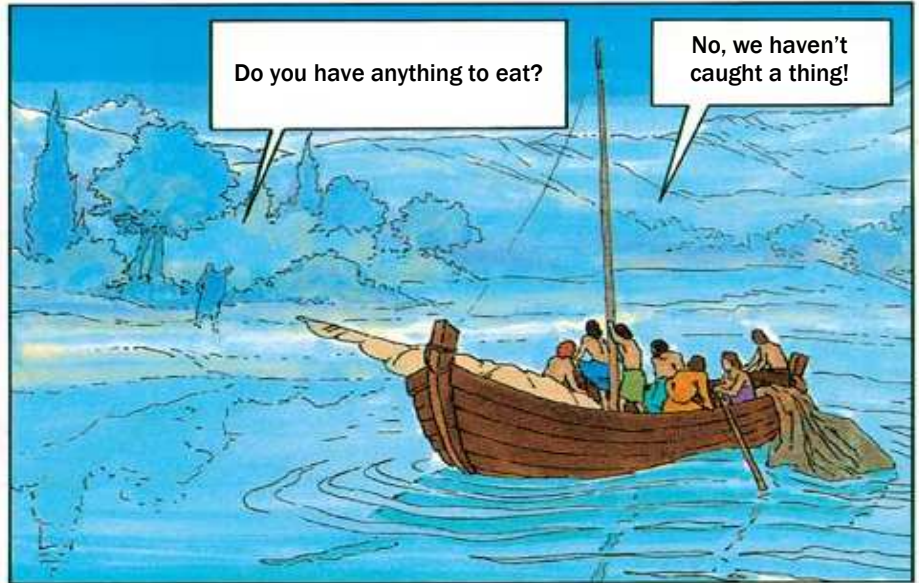


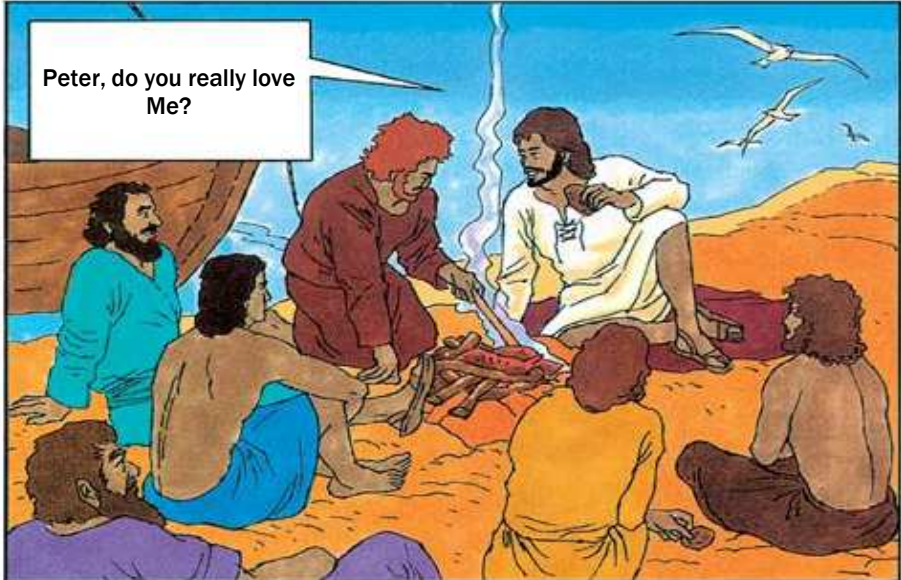
Don't you believe it's Me? Look at My hands and feet!



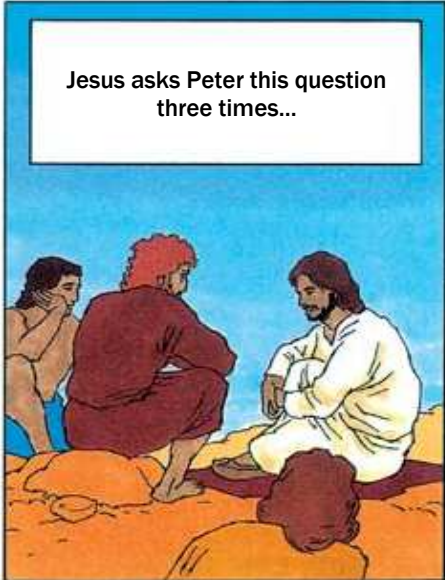
My Lord and my God!

Jesus appears to His followers over the next 40 days. He even appears to 500 people at once. One day some of the apostles are fishing in the Lake of Gallilee...

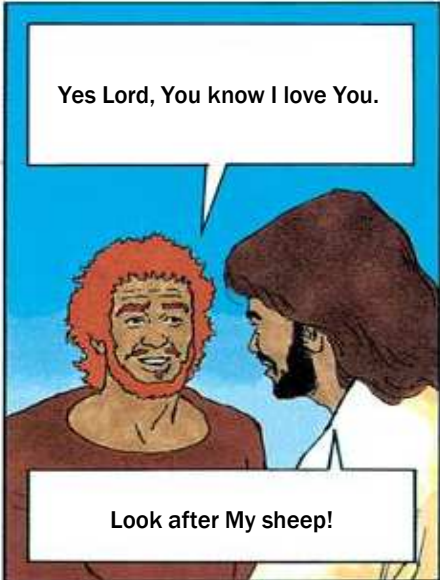




Peter, do you really love Me?



Jesus asks Peter this question three times...



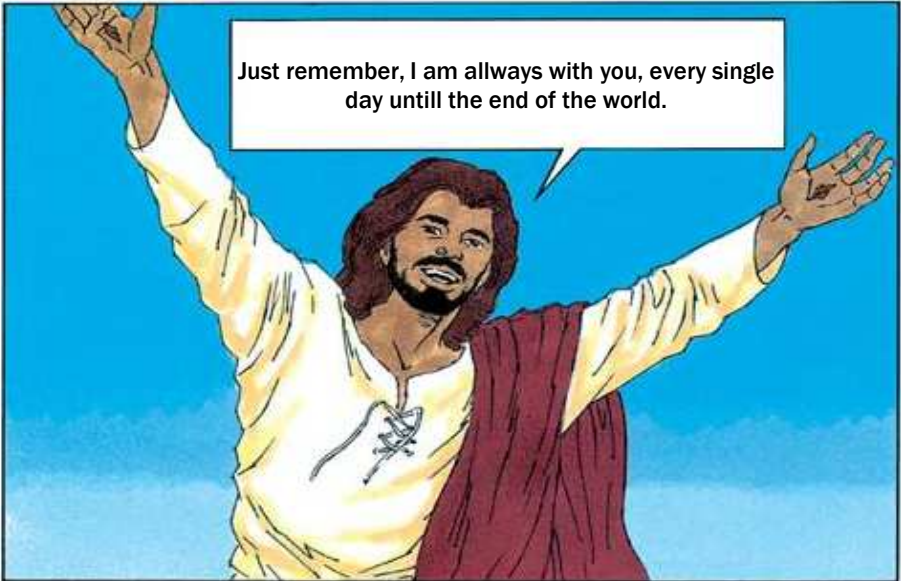
Yes Lord, You know I love You.

Look after My sheep!



Follow Me!

I've received all the power in heaven and on earth. Go into the world and make disciples of all nations. Baptise them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do all that I have told you.



Just remember, I am allways with you, every single day untill the end of the world.

After these words Jesus leaves the earth and is taken up into heaven. But He has also said that He will return to judge all people...

His followers wait in Jerusalem, praying. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, fills them. The same Spirit which was in Jesus now also lives in them. He enables them to become new people who testify powerfully about Jesus.

Death could not hold Jesus. God brought Him back to life and made Him Lord, the Messiah.



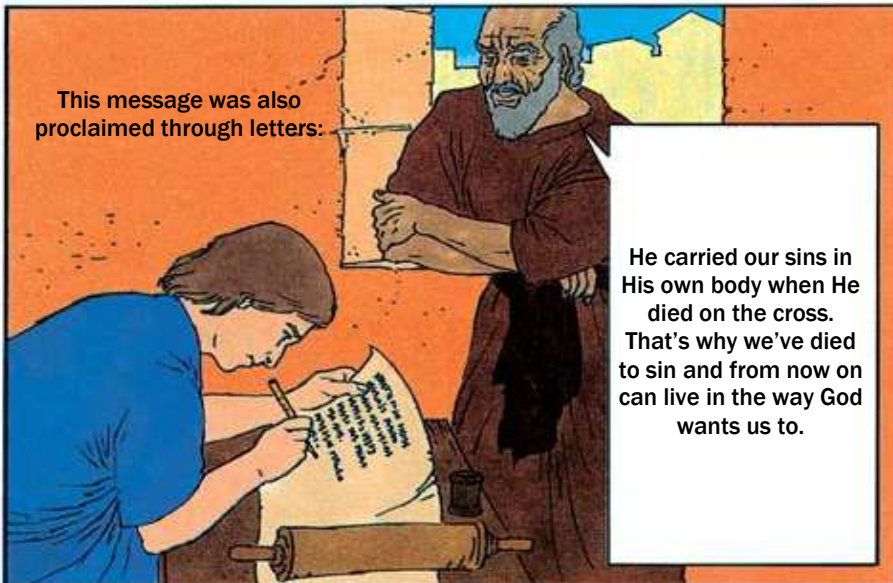
Jesus' followers go out despite great opposition.

Jesus is the Son of God!



This message was also proclaimed through letters:

He carried our sins in His own body when He died on the cross. That's why we've died to sin and from now on can live in the way God wants us to.



Now followers of Jesus all over the world meet to pray together and to read the Bible. They break bread and pass the wine around to remind them of the death of Jesus. It is God's desire that they will share His love, which lives in their hearts, with those around them.

Jesus has made God's purposes
for man possible.



Jesus loves us! Be thankful
and worship Him!



God loves the world so much that He
gave His only Son. Everyone who
believes in Him will no longer be lost
but will have everlasting life.

WILLEM DE VINK

The Bible

The story of Jesus is recorded in the Bible. No other book has been read, and is read, more often than the Bible. It is a book full of books. It took 1500 years to write all these books. The Bible was completed about 1900 years ago. It contains all kind of stories about how God is involved in people's lives. The story of Jesus shows most clearly Who God is.

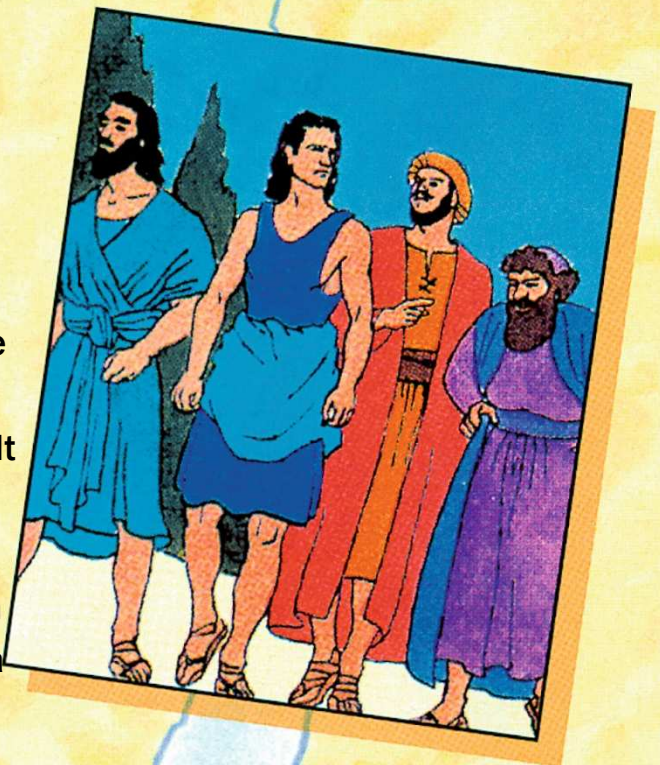
The History of Jesus

The Bible contains 4 books that describe the life of Jesus. They are named after the authors. The authors all lived in the time of Jesus.

1. Matthew – a disciple of Jesus. He used to work as a tax collector. He describes especially how Jesus dealt with the people of Israel (the Jews).

2. Mark – was still a teenager when Jesus did His work He writes quite a bit about the miracles which Jesus performed.

3. Luke – was a medical doctor. He did not personally know Jesus. Luke describes how Jesus dealt with people.



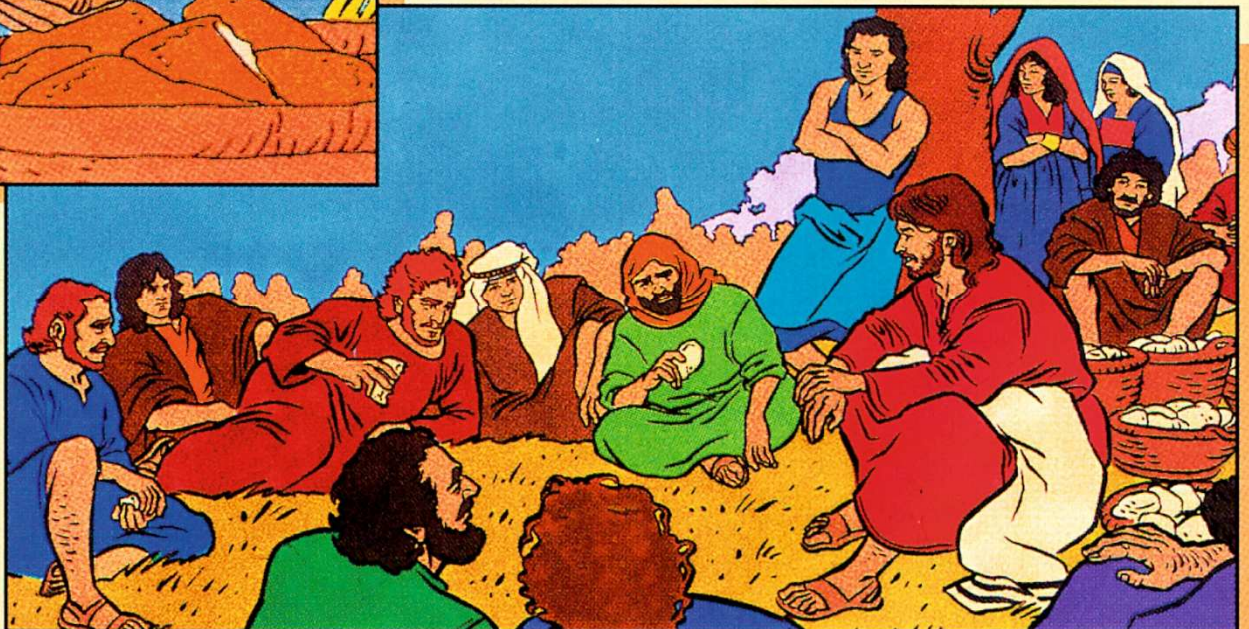
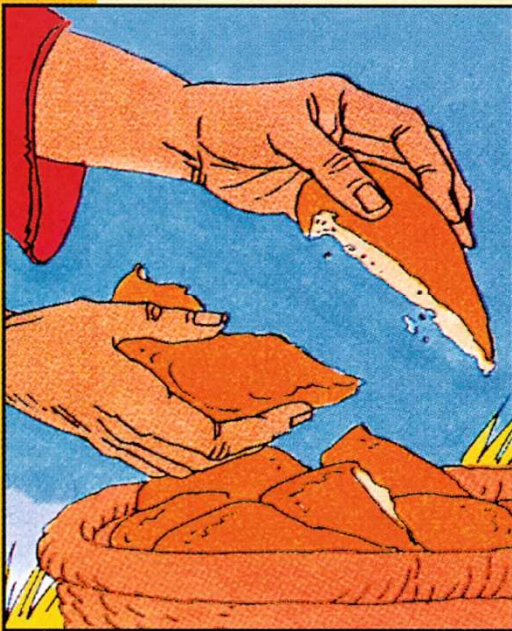
4. John – was also a follower of Jesus. He mainly shows Who Jesus is. Jesus is God, Who became man to free people from their sins.

Jesus' Birth

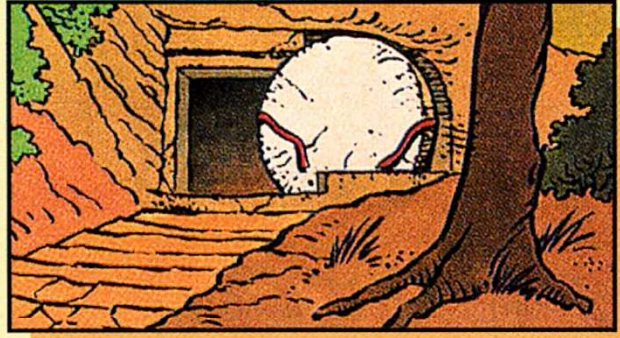
Jesus' mother, Mary, was not yet married when Jesus was born. She was still a virgin. Yet God arranged it that Jesus could be born. This miracle had been announced in the books written long before Jesus' time. Jesus was not born as a hero or something special. He was born in a stable as there was no other room available.

Jesus' Miracles

Jesus performed many miracles. The Bible mentions more than 40 healings. By means of these miracles, Jesus showed God's power and love and that He wants to help people and make them happy.



Jesus' Death and Resurrection



Why did Jesus die? The explanation is given in the Bible.

All people do wrong things sometimes. Things which God does not approve of and which make Him angry or sad. They are called sin. All those sins may prevent people from being friends with God. That is why Jesus came. Of His own free will Jesus took upon Himself the punishment for our sins. That punishment was death. Since Jesus died for us, we can become friends again with God. But we do need to be sorry about what we have done wrong.

Jesus rose from the dead. God made Him live again. By this God showed that He is more powerful than death.

Jesus now lives with God. And because He lives, He can always be our friend. He wants to help us live in a way that brings joy to God.

Prayer

If you are sorry for the wrong things you have done and if you want to be friends with God, you could pray a prayer like this:

*"Dear God, You love me.
You gave Jesus, Your only Son.
He died on a cross for all the wrong which I have done.
Please forgive me for what I have done wrong. I am sorry.
Thank you, that Jesus is on my side.
I always want to belong to you.
Will You please help me live the way You want me to live?
Will You always stay close to me?
Thank You for answering my prayer.
You do what You promised!"*

Jesus and you

The story of Jesus has an open end. Jesus became the Friend of a great many people, then and now. The world has changed. Many people do not travel on donkeys or on horseback but travel by car and aeroplane. But this makes no difference to Jesus. He can be just as near to us as when He walked about in Israel. He may be invisible, but He is just as real. He wants to be a Friend for you today. You may listen to Him and you may love Him.

Do you want to know more about Jesus and about life with Him?

Do you want to know more about Jesus and about life with Him? Then you may do the following:

1. Start to read the Bible for yourself (start for example by reading the part written by Luke).
2. Start to pray (speaking with God and listening to Him – you don't need to use special words).
3. Talk to other people about Jesus and the Bible. Jesus wants His followers to meet together and encourage each other as they learn more about Him.

Text and illustrations: Willem de Vink.

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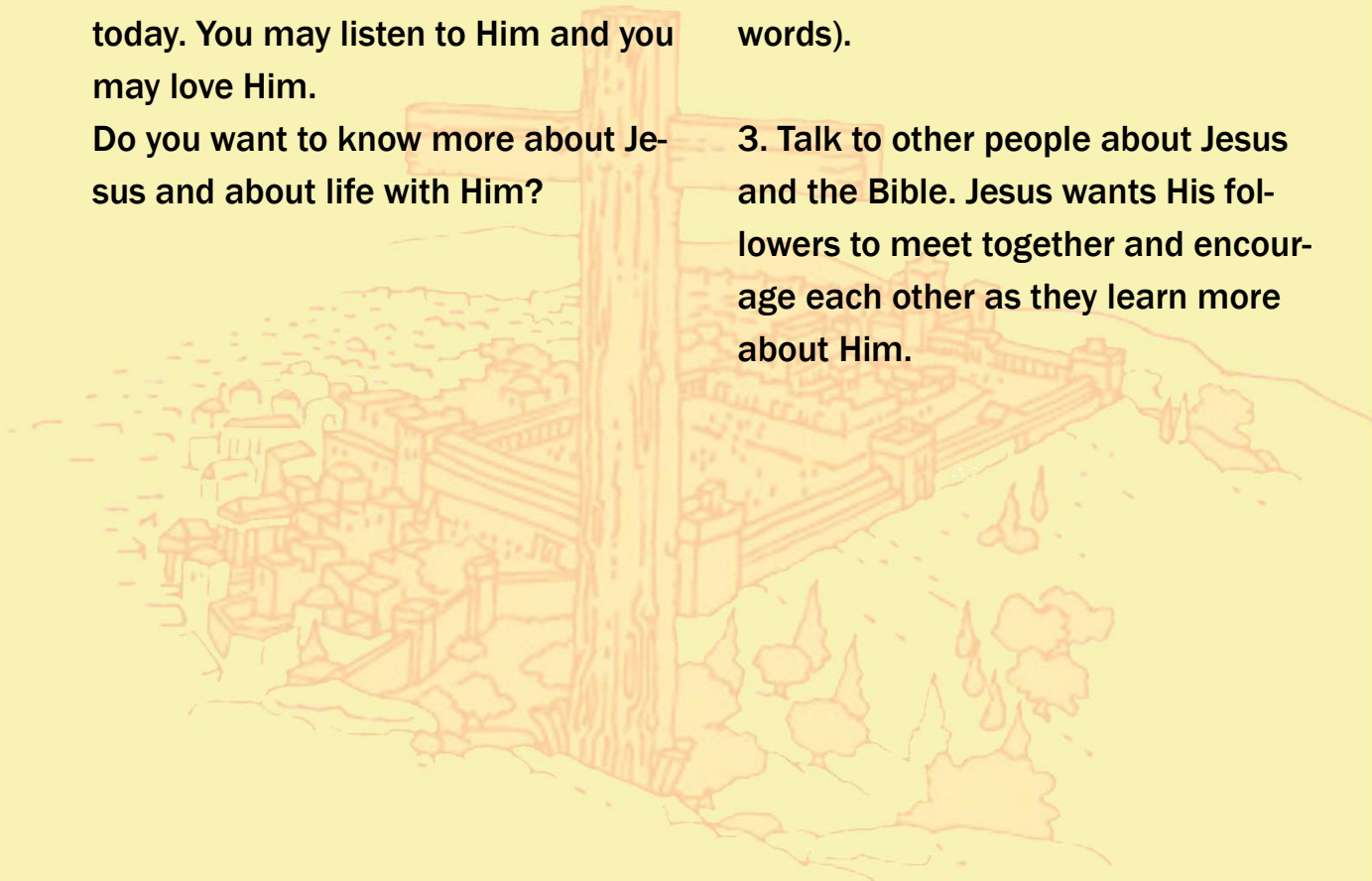
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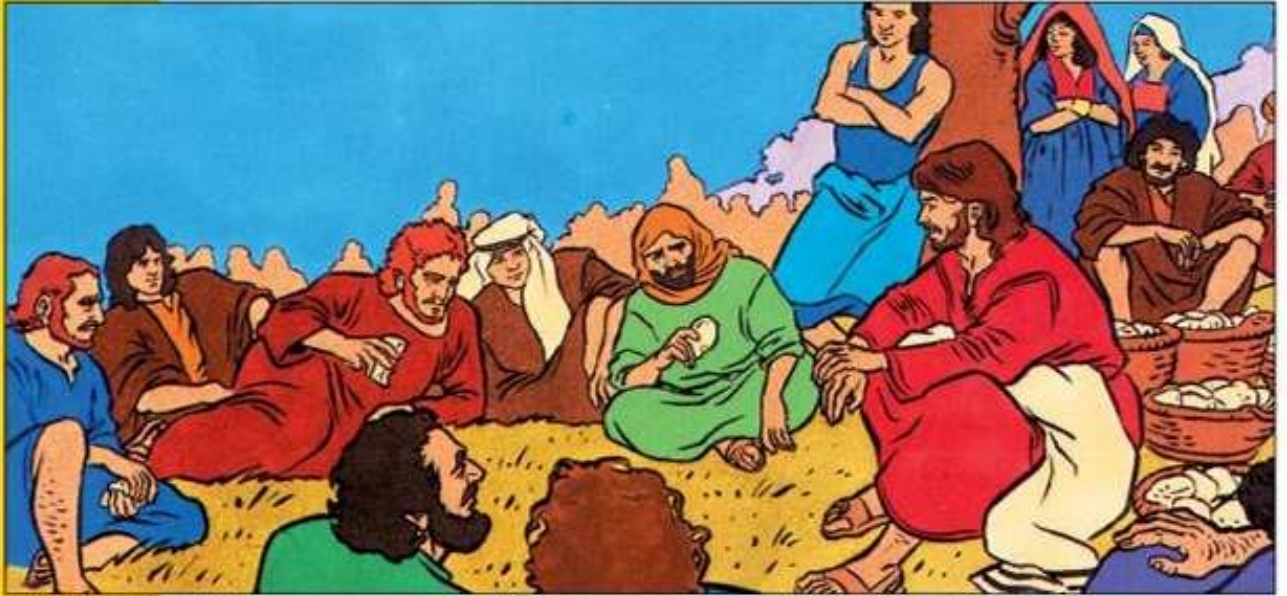
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JESUS MESSIAH

This is the true story of Jesus Messiah. He lived in Israel about 2000 years ago. Everyone who met Him was astonished. Nobody had ever done what He did. Nobody had ever said the things He said. Miracles kept occurring where Jesus was. And He brought joy and happiness to all who cared to listen to Him. Yet suddenly it came to an end. His enemies had Him executed. But that was not the end. Read for yourself how it happened and see how the story of Jesus Messiah continues!

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