

# HE LIVED AMONG US

magnificent  
illustrations  
with dialogue



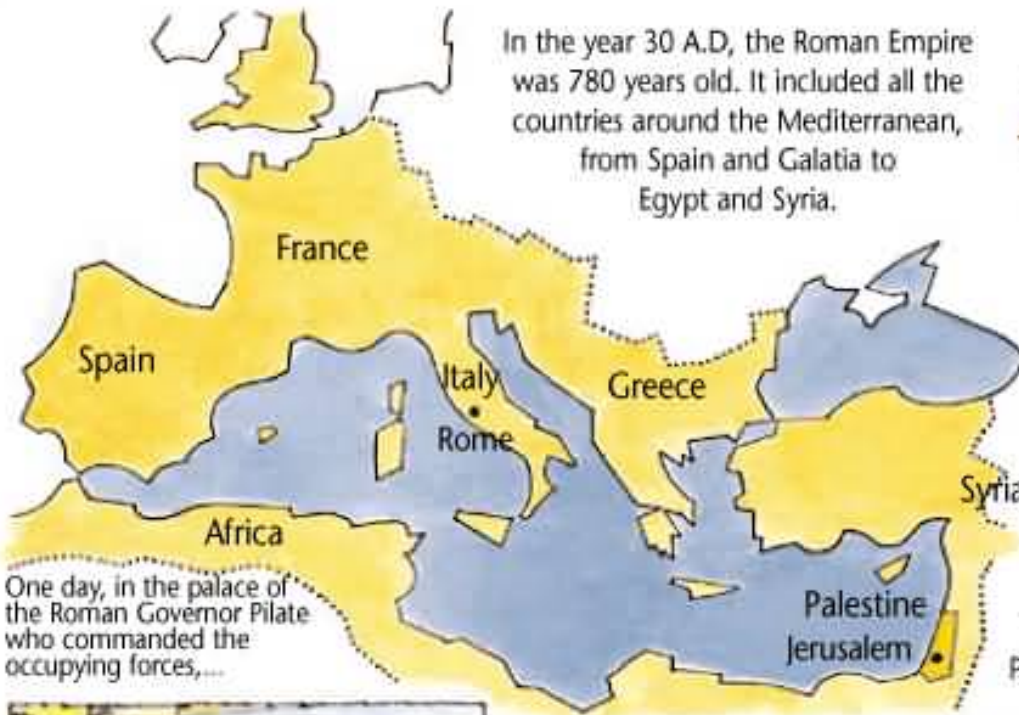
**It will touch your heart**

and it can change your  
life and eternal future



over **18 million**  
copies printed  
in 27 languages





In the year 30 A.D., the Roman Empire was 780 years old. It included all the countries around the Mediterranean, from Spain and Galatia to Egypt and Syria.



...located in Jerusalem; which was the capital of Judea in Palestine, and belonged to the Roman province of Syria.

One day, in the palace of the Roman Governor Pilate who commanded the occupying forces,...



Captain, what kind of news do you have in your weekly report?

Governor, I saw a large crowd of people at the Jordan river, where a certain John the Baptist is preaching. He's believed to be a prophet...



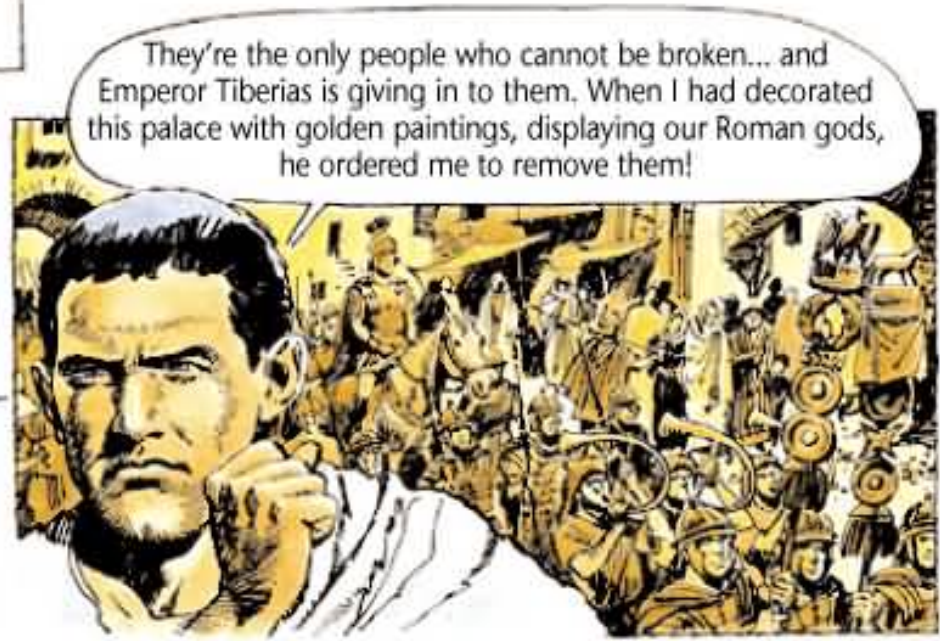
He baptizes people and talks about the coming of a new leader called the Messiah.

Mm...I see another leader, who'll recruit an army and try to drive us Romans, away...



It's not the first and won't be the last leader. But none has succeeded yet in driving us out!

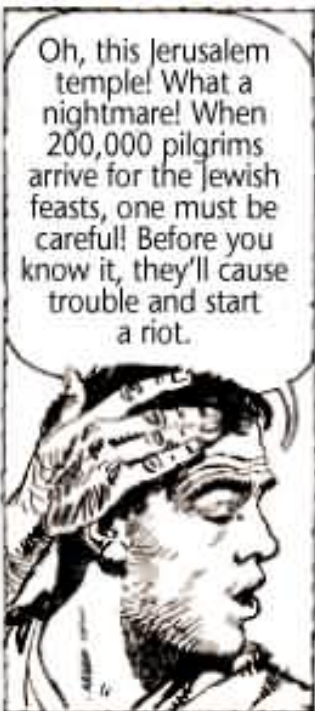
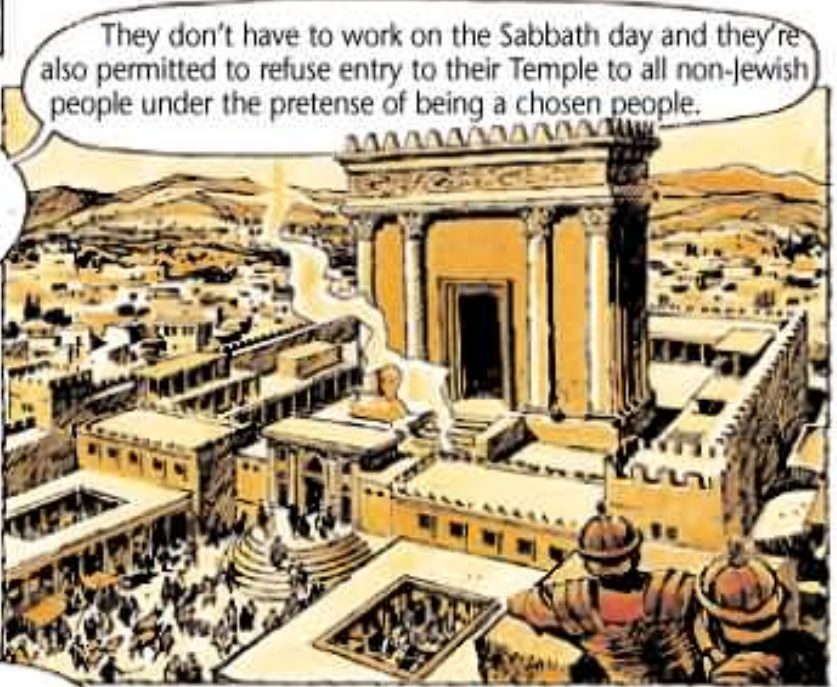
Yes, these Jews are indeed a special people



They're the only people who cannot be broken... and Emperor Tiberias is giving in to them. When I had decorated this palace with golden paintings, displaying our Roman gods, he ordered me to remove them!



considered blasphemous. Therefore, they made a complaint to Emperor Tiberias... and they won the case!



We're watching their movements from the Citadel Antonia and can prevent any trouble in time.



The following day, at the Jordan river.

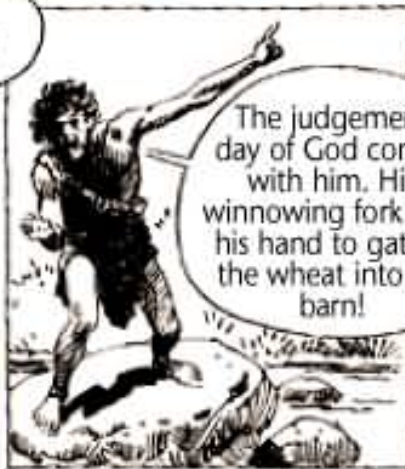


This prophet from the desert really attracts a lot of people... Let's find out why.

Listen, all of you: Good News! The Messiah, the Christ has come!..He will soon reveal himself and appear in public...



The judgement day of God comes with him. His winnowing fork is in his hand to gather the wheat into his barn!



But he'll burn the chaff with unquenchable fire! Prepare the way and remove all obstacles and make a straight way for Him.



What? Has the Messiah come? He'll drive away the Romans!

Liberation at last! The Golden Age shall soon begin!



We haven't had a man of God like John the Baptist for a long time.

He leads the hard life of the prophets of old...He wears clothing made of camel hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He eats roasted locusts and wild honey.



If I understand correctly, everyone should change his heart and serve God and not himself.





I immerse you into the water.

And I will lift you up, which means cleansing and renewing.



Meanwhile...

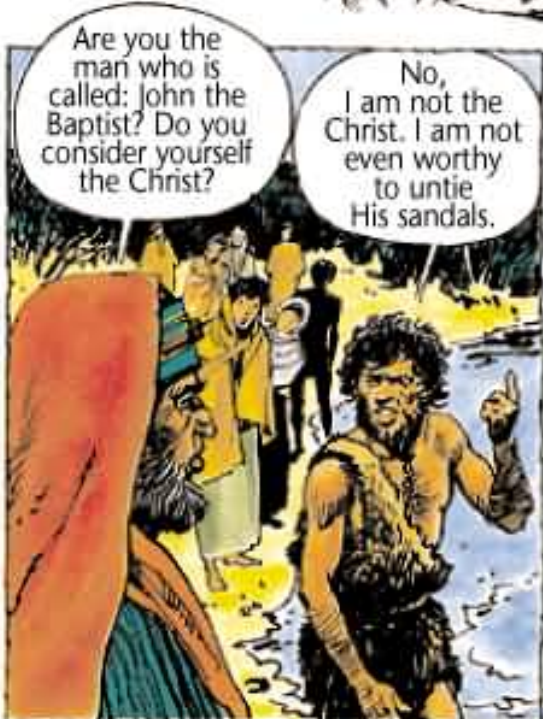


Are you not affected by what the prophet proclaims?

We don't need to change ourselves!



We are here to investigate for the Jewish authorities in Jerusalem, the High priest and the Pharisees.



Are you the man who is called: John the Baptist? Do you consider yourself the Christ?

No, I am not the Christ. I am not even worthy to untie His sandals.



Who are you then? Where do you come from? In whose name do you speak?

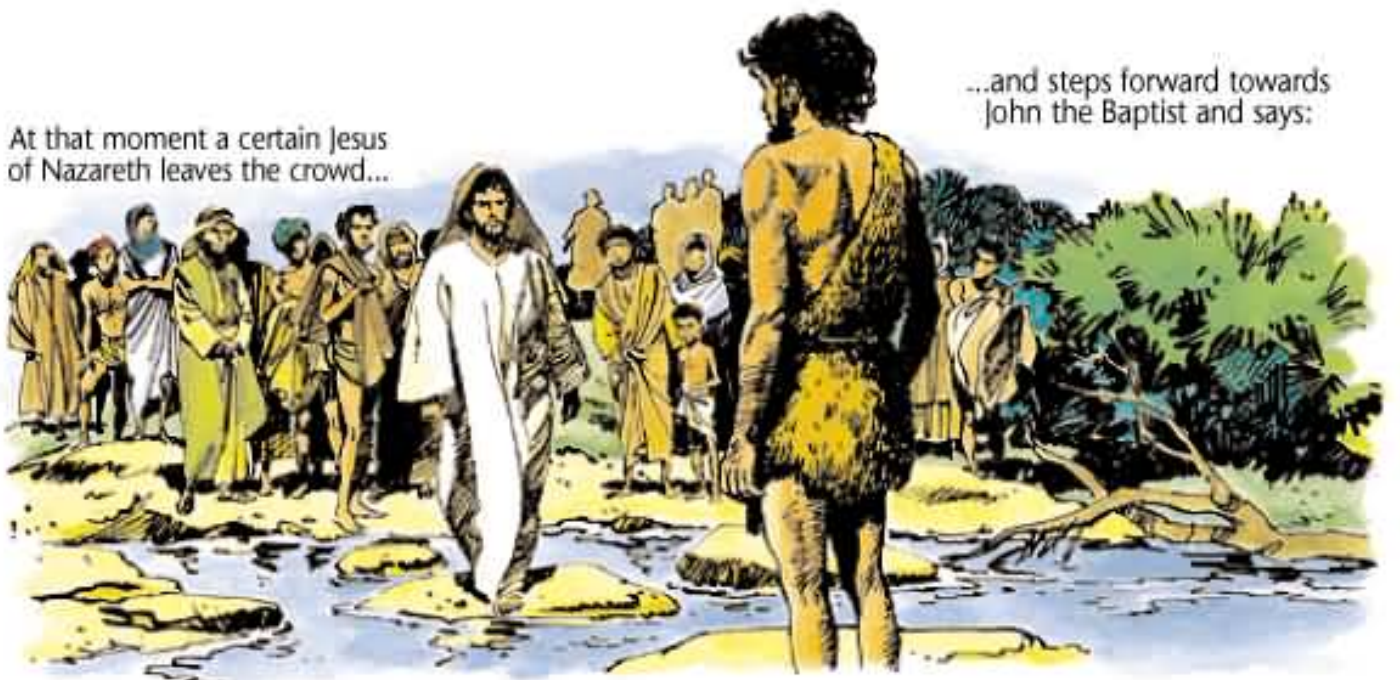


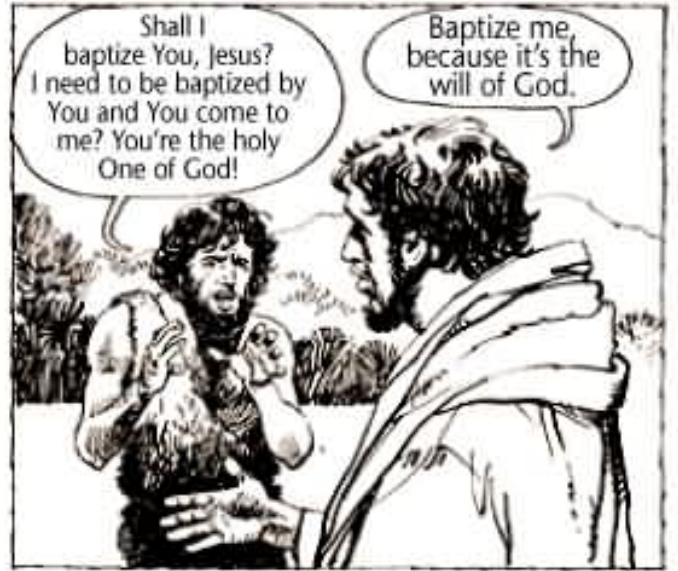
I am the voice of one calling in the desert: "Make straight the way for the Lord!"



At that moment a certain Jesus of Nazareth leaves the crowd...

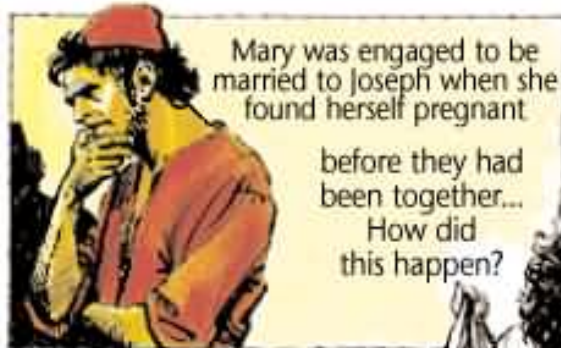
...and steps forward towards John the Baptist and says:



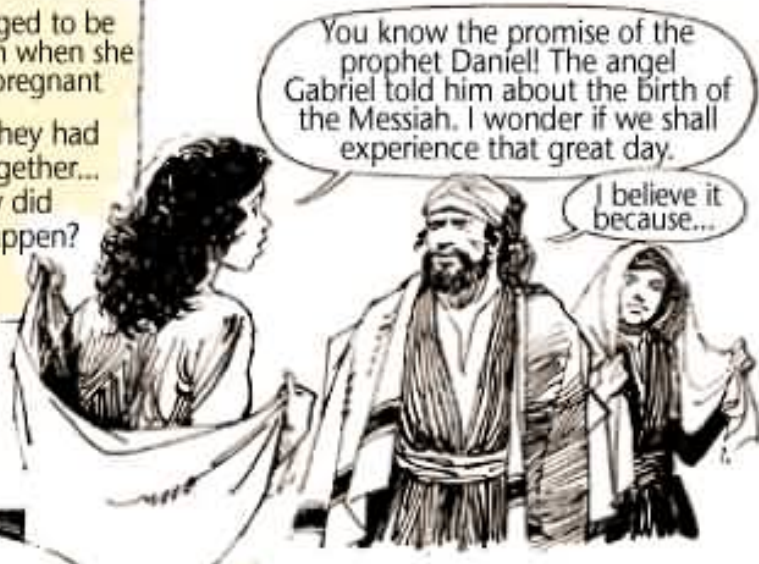




Jesus was baptized in the Jordan river at the age of 30. Who was He? He was called the son of Joseph, the carpenter of Nazareth. His mother's name was Mary, a relative of the mother of John the Baptist. His parents could tell some wonderful things about the divine happenings which surrounded His birth.



One Sabbath day, Mary's parents return home from the synagogue.



Fear not, Mary! You will be with child and give birth to a son and you are to call him: Jesus. He is the Messiah!





The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God. To prove that what I announced to you will happen: Elisabeth, your cousin is going to have a child in her old age. She, who was said to be barren, is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God!



A few days later...



Soon afterwards Mary is on her way to Judea.



When Mary arrives...



Cousin Elisabeth, joy and peace from God to you!

Mary from Nazareth, what a surprise!



What's happening to me? Suddenly the child I'm carrying starts to jump up inside of me!



Mary, what's the reason for your visit...

Oh, Elisabeth! How wonderful to see that you are expecting a baby...

...for that proves that all what was told to me has come from God and will come true

...so unexpectedly?



First, I would like to tell you my secret...

Mary how good that you believe what God told you.

I confess to you...



... at hearing your voice, my baby jumped in my womb. That is a sign!

Why am I so favored, that the mother of the Messiah should come to me?









Finally, there comes Zacharias!

He looks upset. Why does he make signs to us? As if he cannot speak all of a sudden...

..he must have seen a vision...

...or he received a revelation.



And now I'm six months pregnant.

How great is our God. He has taken away my disgrace...

Mary stayed three months with Elisabeth and returned home to Nazareth. The day came that Elisabeth gave birth to a son. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. At that occasion the child receives his name.



So, the circumcision is finished.



What name do you give this child?

He shall be called John.



A nice name! It means: The Lord is merciful.

But no-one in your family has that name!

Name him Zacharias like his father...



Zacharias, since you are his father, what's your decision?

Write down his name, please...



...His name is John.

His name is John!



Praise the Lord! He's sending the Messiah to rescue His people!



And you, my child, will go before the Lord to prepare the way for Him!

Zacharias' mouth is opened and he can speak again!

No doubt, this child John is a very special child.



After several months of Mary's return to Nazareth...



No doubt! Mary, my fiancée is pregnant. Has she been unfaithful to me? I have to ask her!



Joseph, you have to believe me! I received a message from heaven.

...my condition is God's work! I have to give birth to the Messiah!



Mary...how can I believe that?...

...such an impossible thing!

...but I don't want her exposed to public disgrace. So I shall separate from her secretly.



Because I'm not the father of this child, I shall leave Mary...

Upon waking one morning...

What a strange dream!...

No doubt God has spoken to me through His angel!

I know Mary isn't lying. The child she expects is from God...

...and will be the Messiah,...

...who should be a descendant from King David!

Since Mary and I are descendants from David's royal family...

...this child will be the fulfillment of prophecy.

Now I understand what God wants me to do!

I've made up my mind. I'll take Mary as my wife as soon as possible!

Soon after that, the wedding of Joseph and Mary is celebrated...

Mary, my beloved, welcome to this house. From now on it's yours too!





Some months later in Nazareth...

Caesar Augustus has issued a decree that a Census should be taken of the entire Roman Empire, every family head has to go to his native town to register.

Again? Another trick of the Romans! I think they want to raise the taxes...

..or they want to find out how many men could rise up to rebel against them!



Some days later...

David's family, to whom I belong, came from Bethlehem. I must go there!

It won't be long before Mary will give birth, so I'll take her with me.

Finally! Bethlehem!



So many people! Joseph, where do we find a room?

With some of my relatives. You can count on that. But first let me fulfill all the formalities.

In the census office....

Line up! Pay attention! False statements will be severely punished!

Jesse, I'm furious! I, as a descendant of King David is being forced to give account to these Romans!

Believe me, their power won't last much longer!



A new star has been found. What if that means that the Messiah is coming?

Remember Balaam's prophecy: "A star shall come out of Israel and he will be a great ruler."



At the house of the relatives...

God bless you, my brothers!

Joseph! Welcome here, welcome!

May I introduce Mary, my wife? She expects her child soon. Where can we find a room for her?

I'm sorry! Our house is overcrowded. We have no place for you!



Joseph, follow my advise: Go into the stable. With the animals you'll be warm.

That's a good idea. It will also be quiet there.



That night Mary gave birth to her first-born son...

She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger...



In Bethlehem's field, there were shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night...



Good News for you all! A child is born to you-the Saviour! You'll find him in a manger in Bethlehem.

Let us go and see!

Born in the night of the new star-in a stable-and in Bethlehem, David's native town! Exactly on the day the entire family is here!

That is a sign! He'll be the future Shepherd of our people-the promised Messiah!



God comes to us. The whole sky is full of light. I hear singing: Glory to God in the highest!

Certainly, this is the chosen Child!



On the eighth day the child was circumcised. Circumcision was given to all Jewish male children as a sign and a seal of God's covenant with Abraham.

The next day the news spreads around quickly.

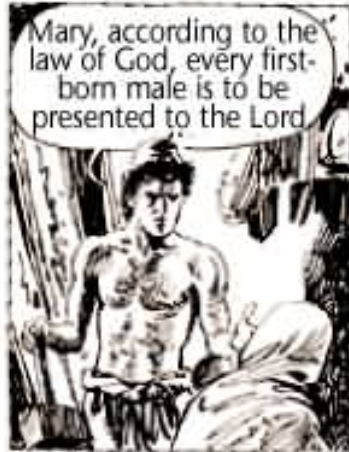


Joseph, what name do you give this child?

His name is Jesus!

Which means: God saves us!

Jesus' parents had many memories of his early youth; one of them was the 40th day after his birth.



Mary, according to the law of God, every first-born male is to be presented to the Lord



The temple in Jerusalem is not far away. Let's go there and present our son to God!

Oh, Joseph, I'll do that with joy!

In the temple court....



A fine sheep for a proper sacrifice.

No, it's too expensive for us. I'll buy that pair of doves.

At that moment, an old man enters the temple. His name is Simeon, well known to many...



Simeon, what brings you to the temple today?

Anna, I sense that I'll meet someone today! The Holy Spirit sends me...

Simeon. He often said that he will not die before he has seen the Messiah.

Who's that old man overthere?



Simeon... look at this child!

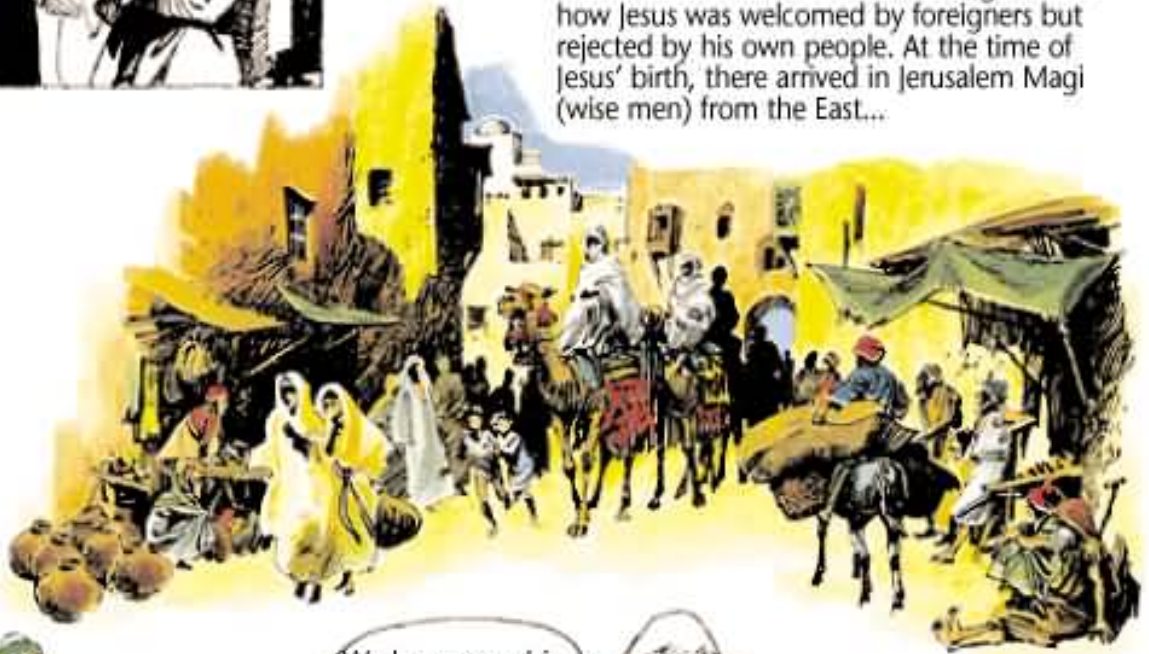
Oh, what a joy is overwhelming my soul!

Now I can die, for my eyes have seen the Lord's salvation. His light will shine on all the nations of the world!





Jesus' parents also remembered the events with the astronomers. That meeting showed how Jesus was welcomed by foreigners but rejected by his own people. At the time of Jesus' birth, there arrived in Jerusalem Magi (wise men) from the East...



Where's the new-born child, who'll be King of this nation?

We have seen his star appear in our countries.

What? Has the Messiah come?

Impossible! We would have known it in Jerusalem! But nobody has heard anything.

The King should hear this news immediately!



Majesty! Some foreigners are looking for a child, who is the promised Messiah!

They say that his birth has been shown through the position of the stars!

What? A child will be the Messiah and I was not informed? Secretly a rival to my throne is raised.



I have to be clever to uncover this new conspiracy!

Call the Pharisees at once!

I hear rumors about the arrival of the Messiah. I'll have to prepare for it. What do you know about his family and his birth-place?



The Holy Bible says: The Messiah will be a descendant of King David.

...and King David came from Bethlehem.

It is written: "Bethlehem, out of you will come the ruler who will be the shepherd of my people."



Quick, go and bring the wise men from the Orient here!

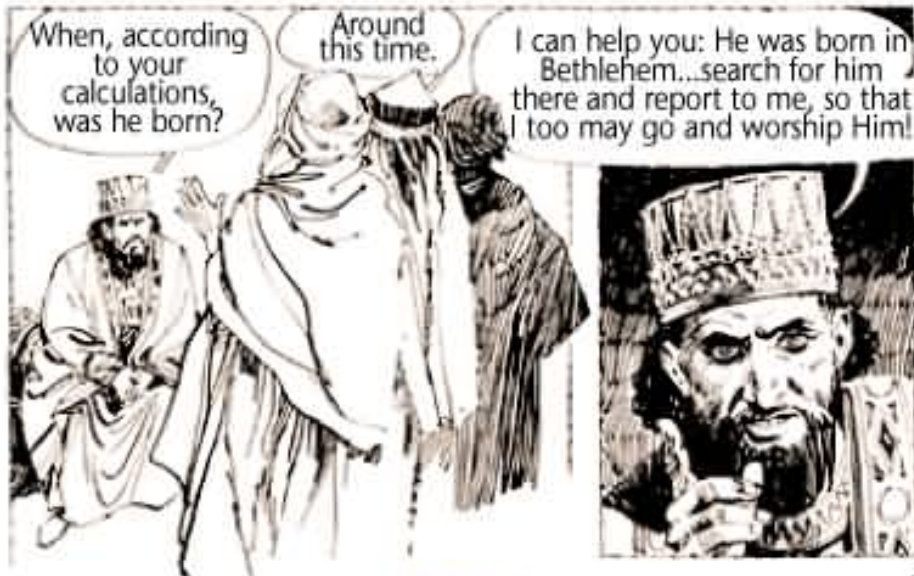


A little later...

I understand you're looking for a child, the Messiah?

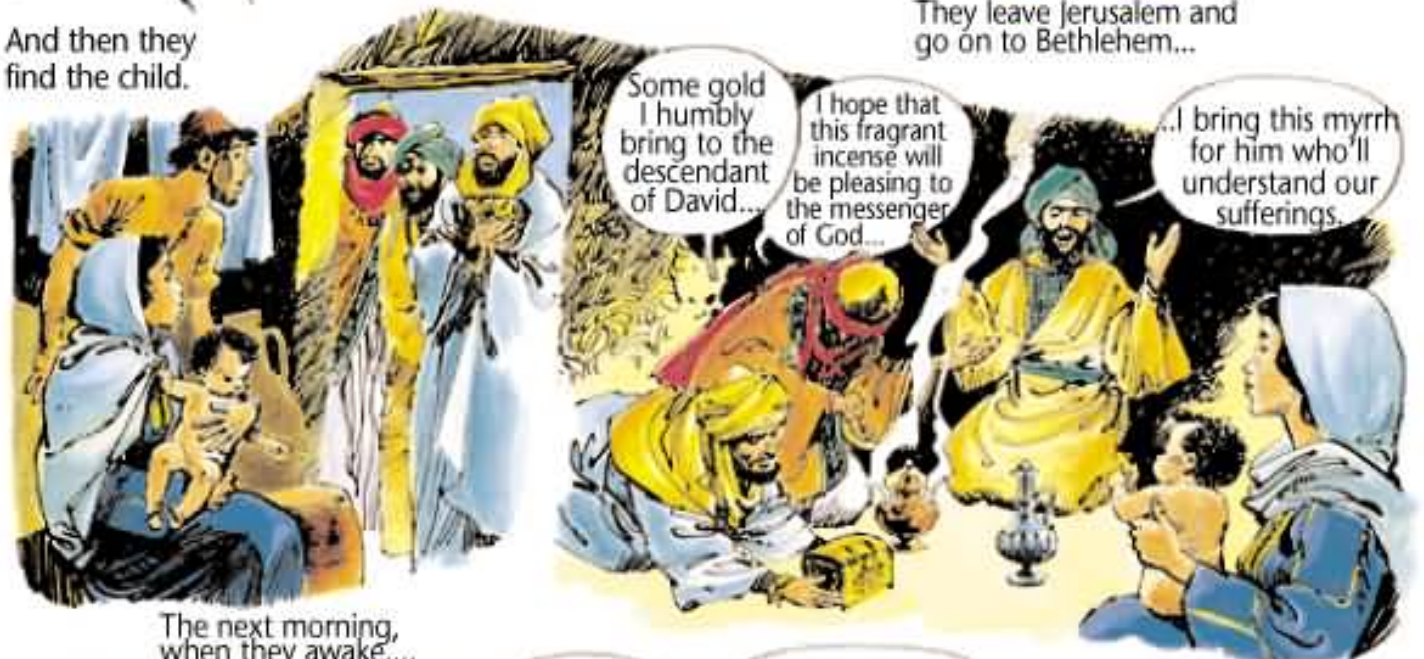
Yes, we've seen his star!





They leave Jerusalem and go on to Bethlehem...

And then they find the child.



The next morning, when they awake....



While the days pass... King Herod is waiting in his palace...



No doubt, they hid this descendant of David from me to rob me of my throne!



Go with your soldiers to Bethlehem... Look for all boys under two years in that town and surroundings. Show no mercy..kill them!



We'll take the baby and leave immediately for Egypt!



After having been in exile for some time, Joseph and Mary returned to Nazareth in Galilee. There Jesus grew up and gained in wisdom while being obedient to his parents. At the age of thirty, he went to John the Baptist and was baptized.

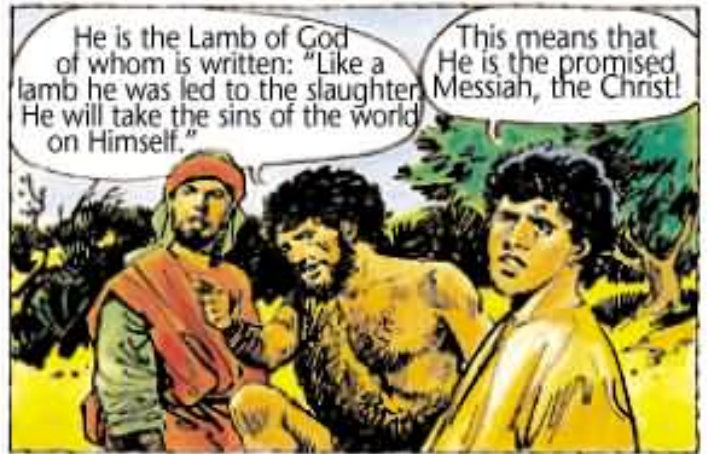




One day, John the Baptist sees Jesus passing by....



I tell both of you, my disciples, do you see that man?



He is the Lamb of God of whom is written: "Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter. He will take the sins of the world on Himself."

This means that He is the promised Messiah, the Christ!



Yes, I saw the Spirit of God come down from heaven on him... That is why I testify that He is the Son of God!

Come Andrew, we'll follow Him!



What do you look for?

Where do you live? We want to speak with you..

Come and see.



They spent considerable time with Him...

That was a heart-touching conversation.

I have to tell my brother Simon at once!



Simon! Simon! We found the Messiah! The Christ! Hurry up. I'll lead you to Him!



What? The Messiah? The Christ? Impossible!



You are Simon, the fisherman. You shall be called Peter. Follow Me!



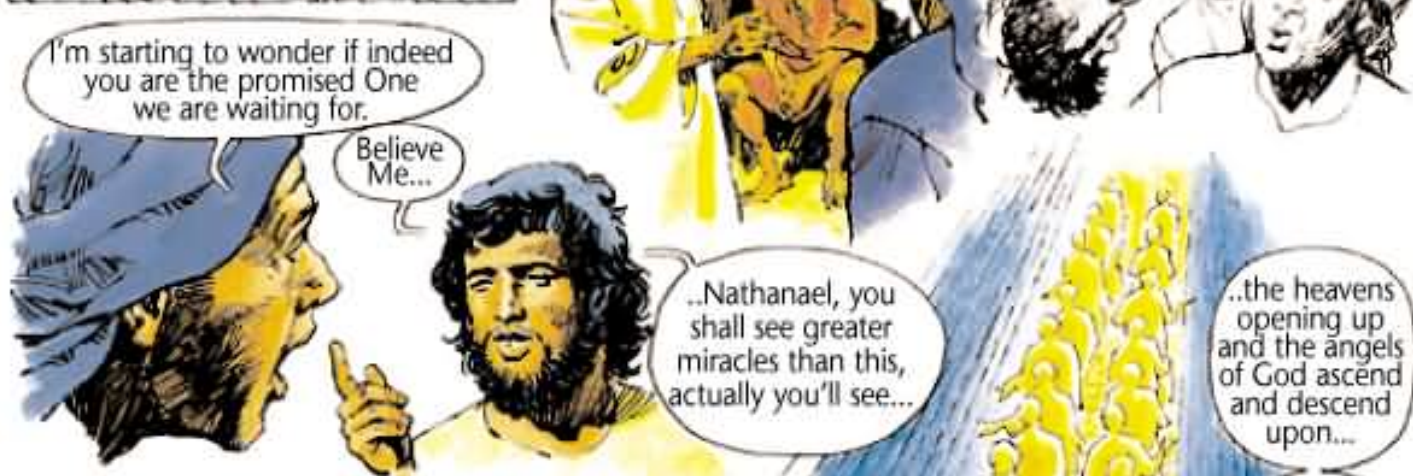
Jesus, this is Philip, he's a friend of us... he's also from Bethsaida...



Philip, follow Me and become my disciple.



Philip went on his way, to tell a friend.





Jesus, you've come to the wedding. I am so glad to see you!



However I should say that there's no more wine left! Can you do something?



Dear woman, why do you involve me? My time has not yet come!

My jar is empty!



And there's no wine left!



I know, but listen to me... when Jesus asks you to do something, do as He tells you!

Over there are six big barrels for ceremonial washings...be so kind and fill them with water...



As you wish, Jesus.



They're all filled!





Now let the master of the banquet drink of it!

He'll laugh and think that we're playing a joke on him...

Do what Jesus wants! His mother told us not to ask questions.

You should try this...

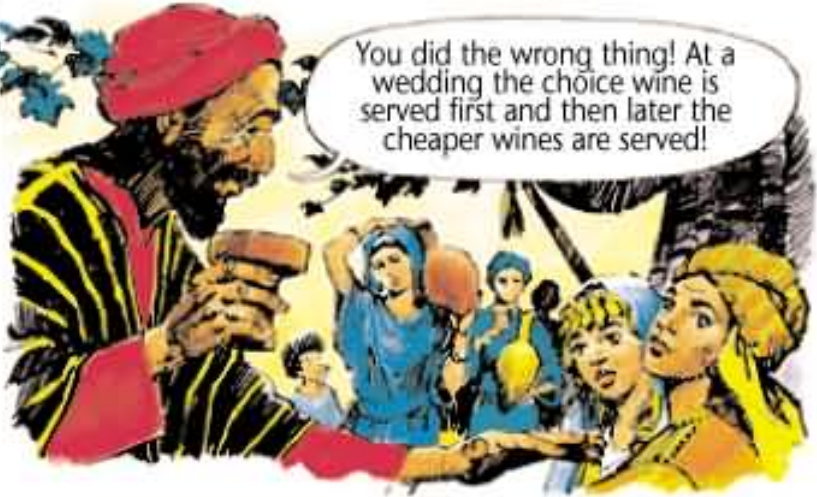
Where did you get this first class wine? What kind is it?

There are six barrels of it!



Say, bridegroom,

you served the cheaper wine first and kept the best wine for now!



You did the wrong thing! At a wedding the choice wine is served first and then later the cheaper wines are served!



The master of the banquet doesn't know...but we have seen that Jesus of Nazareth changed that water into wine

A miracle! Water changed into wine! Unbelievable but true!

And the wedding feast can continue.

Let's be happy and sing another song to the couple!



Believe me, no man can do such a miracle, only God can do that; could it be that Jesus is the long awaited Messiah?



Wine symbolizes the joy of life. This new, perfect wine points to a new, joyous life as promised by God through His Messiah.

Jesus travels to Capernaum on the shore of Lake Genasareth. John, Andrew and Peter work there as fishermen.



There are our fishing boats. This boat belongs to Simon...Peter.



My brother James and I, John, know the fishermen's trade.



You, fishermen, shall be my first disciples! Follow Me!



Everything is ready to start fishing tonight.



Jesus, you can spend the night in my house... my mother in law is ill, in bed with a high fever.



Let's go, Peter... Believe me, your mother in law will be healed!



I feel better! Yes, I feel very well. I'll get up and prepare some food for you.



That night Peter and his crew go fishing...

The next morning....



What happened? My baskets are empty. Nothing for sale today?

We had an exhausting night, but caught nothing! Now we have to clean our nets.



There comes Jesus, followed by a crowd...

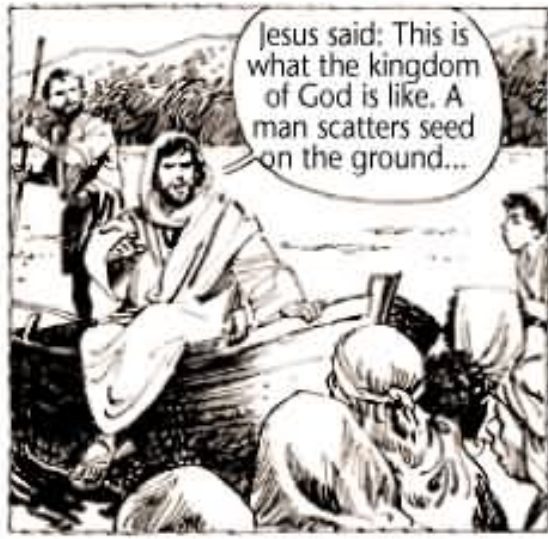


Peter, take your boat out a little so that I can talk to all these people who are eager to hear God's Word.

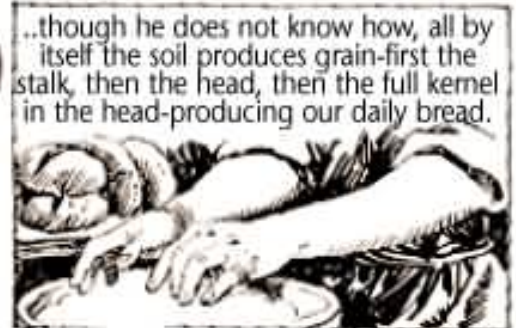


Night and day, whether he sleeps or is awake, the seeds sprout and grow...

..though he does not know how, all by itself the soil produces grain-first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head-producing our daily bread.

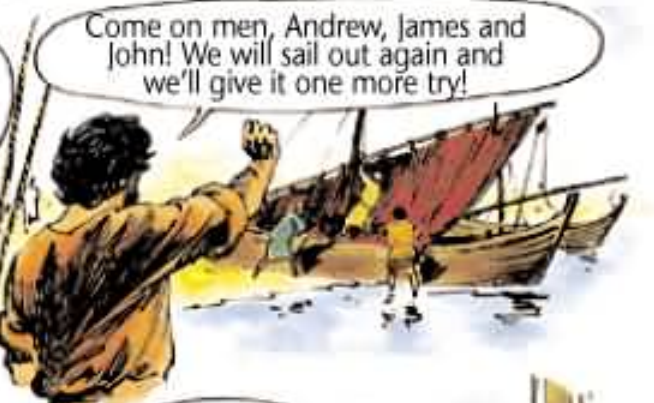


Jesus said: This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground...



All of you are invited to enter! But you must change your lives! Your hearts should not be hard like a rock or like the soil filled with thorns, overgrown with desires for.....possessions, money and comforts!...









Let's pull the boats over to the shore, otherwise we'll sink!



This is fantastic! I've never seen so much fish before!



Oh, Jesus, what can I say? Help me to trust You more!

I'm beginning to learn not to do it my way, but rather Your way.

Fear not, Simon Peter, from now on you'll no longer catch fish! But men!



Yes, friends, follow Me! I will make you fishers of men!

Then they left their boats and nets and followed Jesus!..



Jesus traveled through all of Galilee, preaching the Good News and healing the sick, crowds followed Him...



My time has come! The Kingdom of Heaven is near! It's knocking at your doors! Change your lives and turn to God and serve Him!



I wish it were true. We are fed up with kings and emperors, revolutions and changes of governments!

For ages all that came from men was disappointing. We really need the mercy of God.

All the prophets wrote about the coming Messiah and by what signs we could recognize Him! The blind would see and the lame walk!

Come, all to Me who are weary and tired and I shall give you rest! Learn from Me. I am gentle and humble in heart.

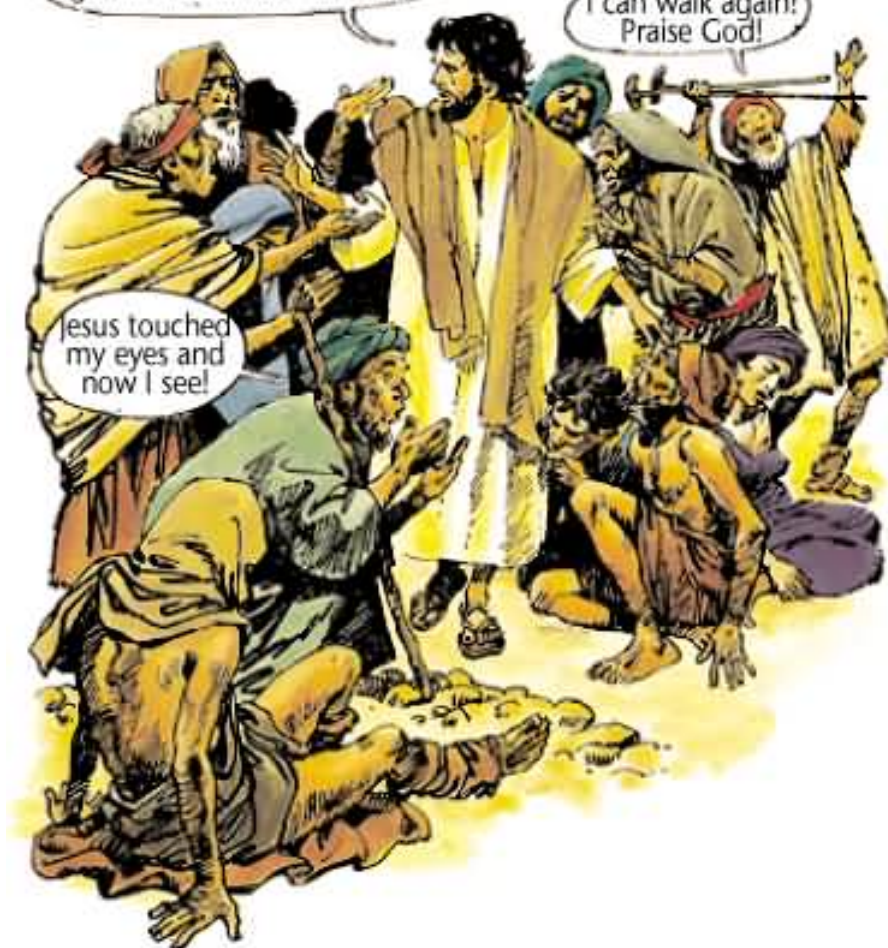
I can walk again! Praise God!

The people with contagious diseases have to live in isolation. They are waiting for Jesus at the city gate.

I hear the bell of a leper! Let's step aside.



Jesus touched my eyes and now I see!



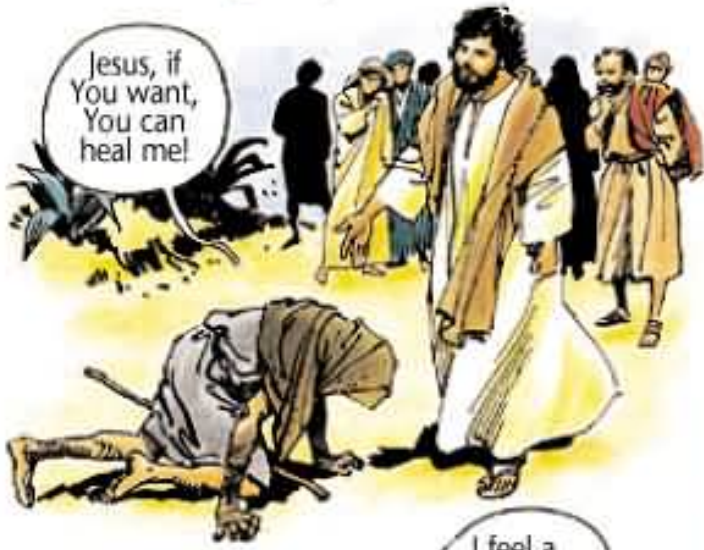
Stay away from us!  
Don't come near,  
you're unclean!



Don't touch him!  
He's contagious!



Jesus, if  
You want,  
You can  
heal me!



Because you  
trust Me...very well,  
be healed!

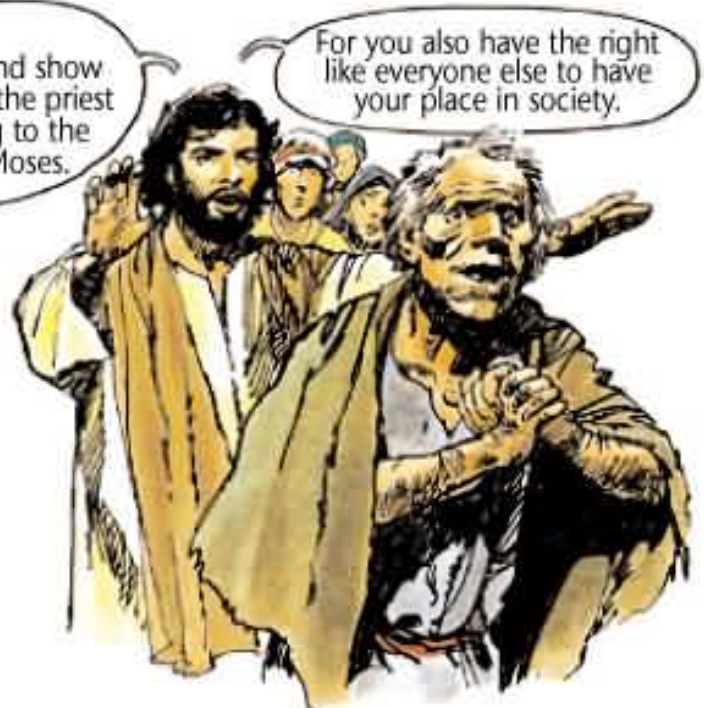


I feel a  
change  
within  
myself!



Now go and show  
yourself to the priest  
according to the  
law of Moses.

For you also have the right  
like everyone else to have  
your place in society.



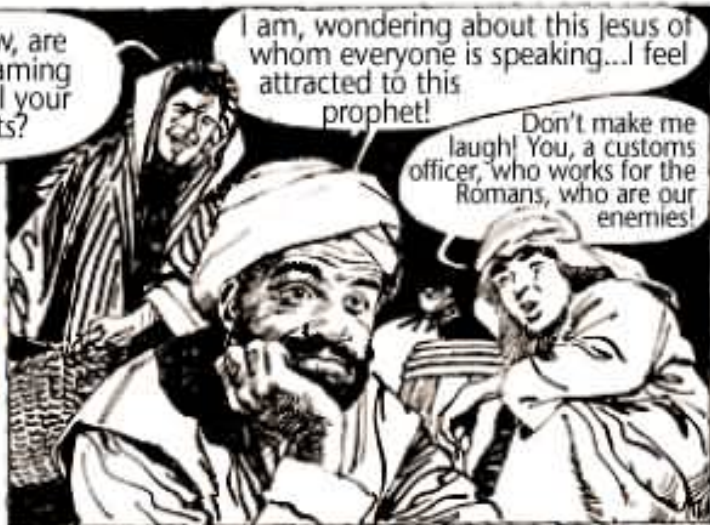
At the border near Capernaum, there was a customs office...



Matthew, are you dreaming about all your profits?

I am, wondering about this Jesus of whom everyone is speaking... I feel attracted to this prophet!

Don't make me laugh! You, a customs officer, who works for the Romans, who are our enemies!

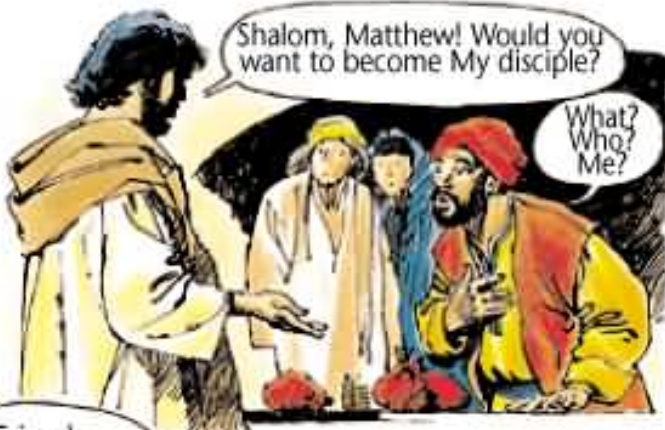


You? A man, enjoying life? Running after parties and women? He won't like you!

Maybe you're right, but, look here He comes!

Shalom, Matthew! Would you want to become My disciple?

What? Who? Me?



Then suddenly....

Jesus, I promise: I shall follow You!

Friends, great news....

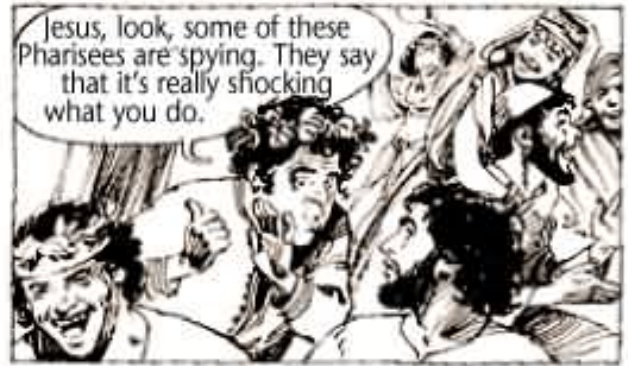
I'm going to leave you and follow Jesus! Are you surprised? But He really wants me to follow Him!



To celebrate my departure, I'm giving a great banquet and Jesus shall be present. All are invited!



One of the following evenings....



Indeed!



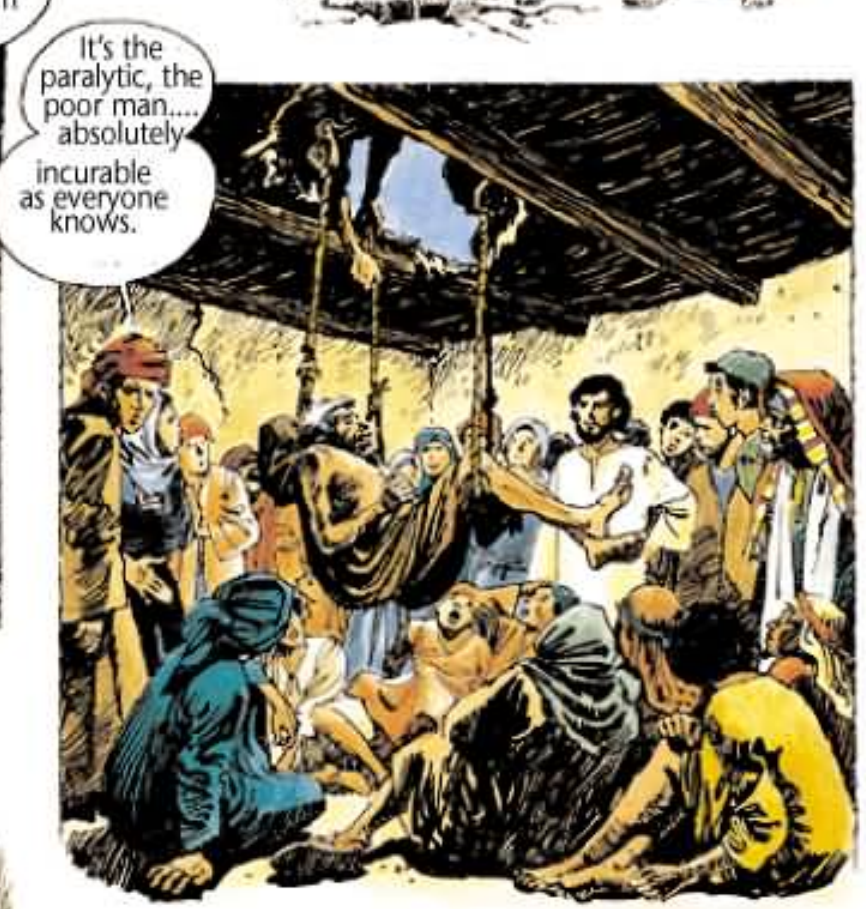
You understand nothing. It's not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick! Rather, think about what is written: God speaks....

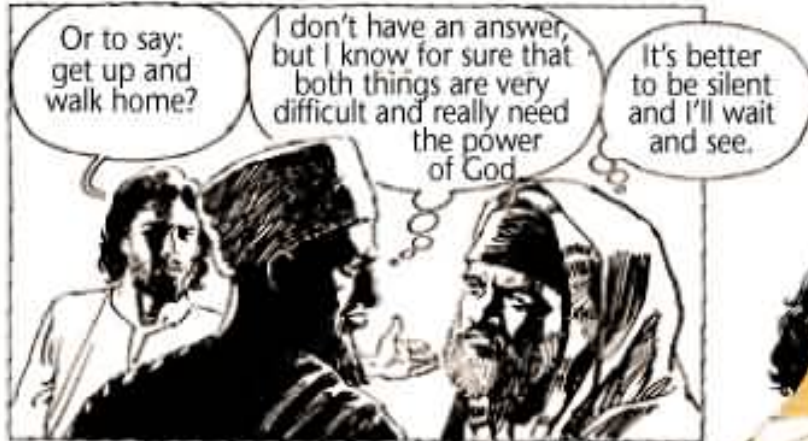
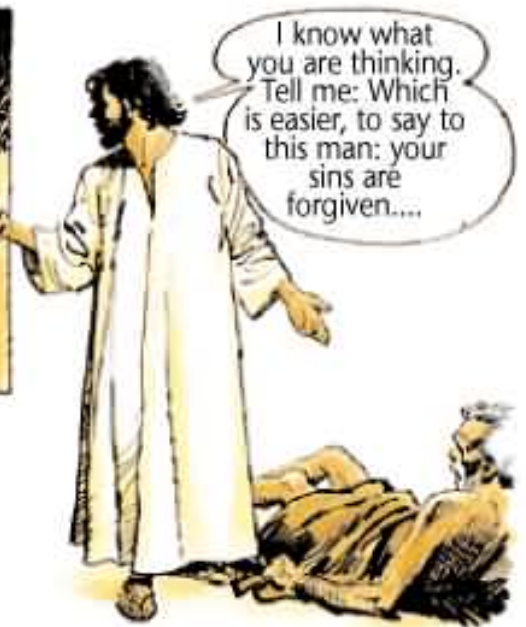
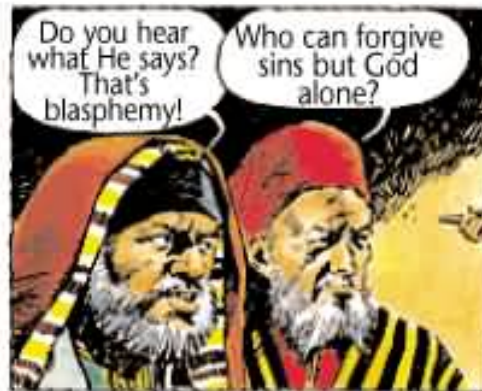


... "I desire mercy, not sacrifice!"  
He loves a man who is  
compassionate and merciful!

One day the inhabitants of Capernaum gather in the house of Simon, where Jesus is. Everyone wants to hear Him....







A few days later, in Magdala, a village not far from Capernaum, before the house of the rich man Simon....



Simon, this Jesus is coming here. We would like you to help us... listen carefully.

We are investigating Him. When you invite Him to dinner, we could observe Him more closely.

That's fine with me. Come in and rest from your journey.

When Jesus arrives, the whole village is waiting for Him.



Jesus of Nazareth, welcome to our village. Your fame travels ahead of you.

Here He is... the famous Jesus, who does not look down on anybody, not even on women of my kind! I feel irresistibly drawn to Him. I wish I could talk to Him privately.

I have invited all the prominent people for dinner. Please honor us with your presence.

I accept your invitation.



This evening He'll be with the Pharisees... I'll make myself ready. This day will be a very special one for me.





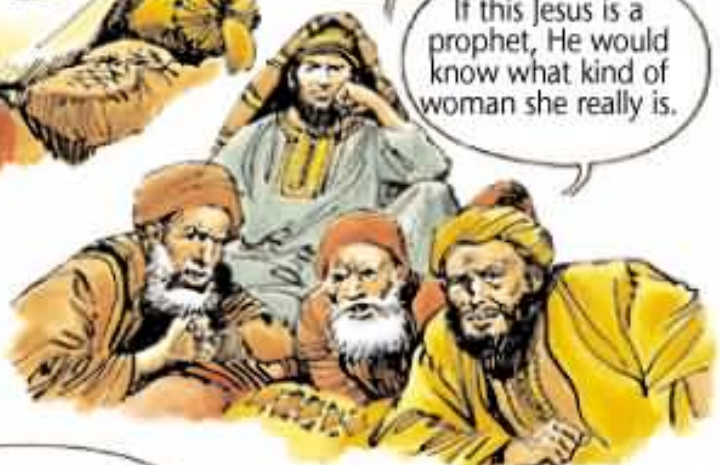


There He is, among the guests. My heart beats wildly...well, it's now or never... I'm going to throw myself at His feet... and kiss them. I don't care what they think about me! But one thing I am convinced of; Jesus will not push me away from Himself....



This prostitute is daring! Here she is weeping and drying his feet with her hair!

If this Jesus is a prophet, He would know what kind of woman she really is.



Yes, and He would give her a slap in her face!

But instead; He permits her to touch Him.

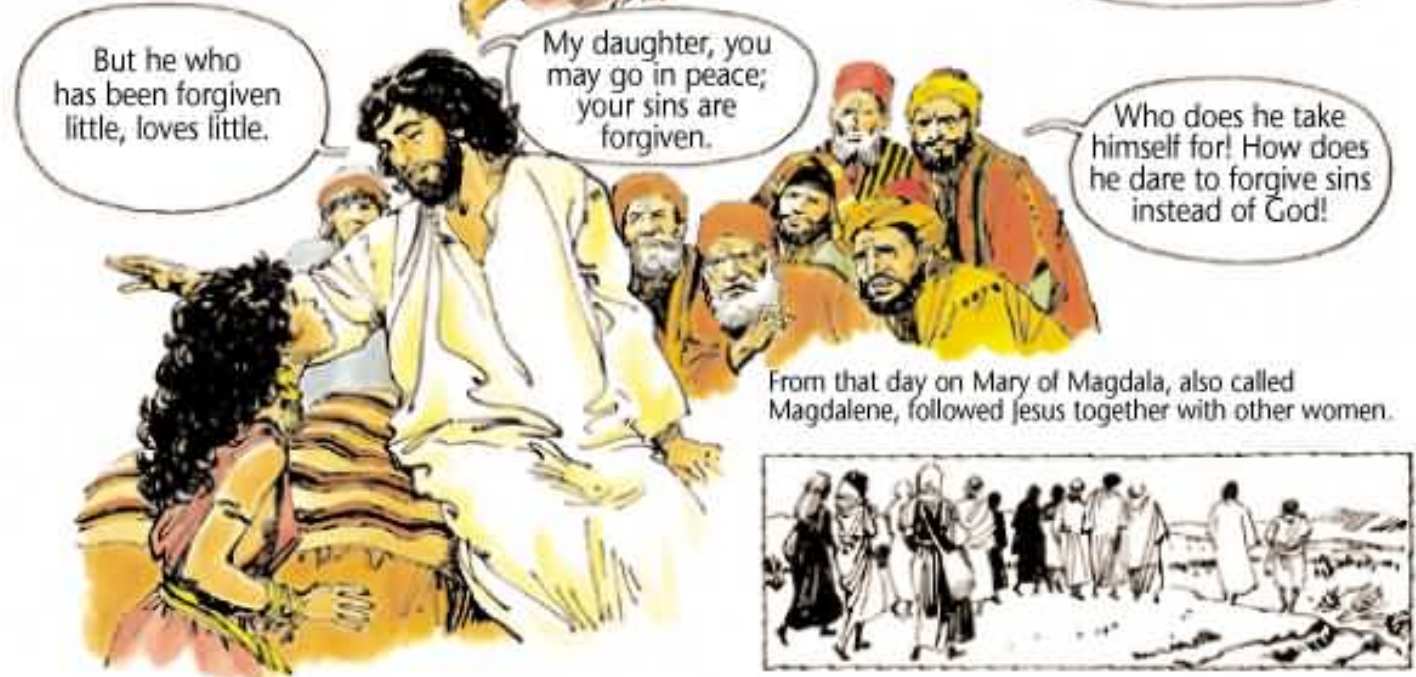
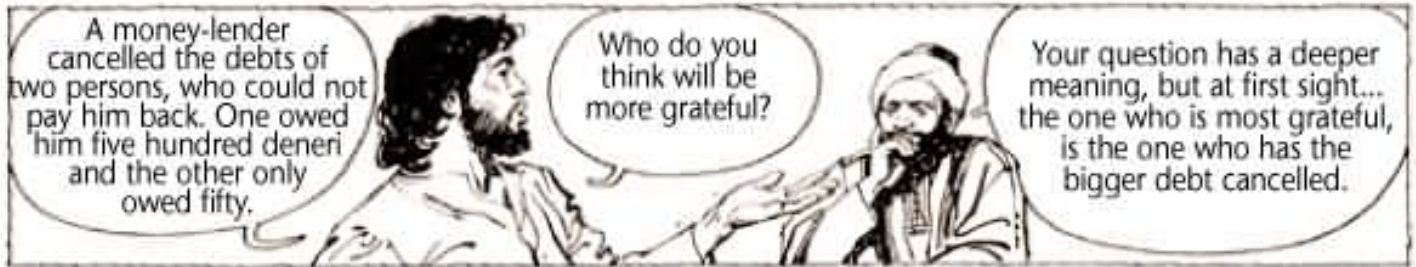


Simon... I have something to tell you.

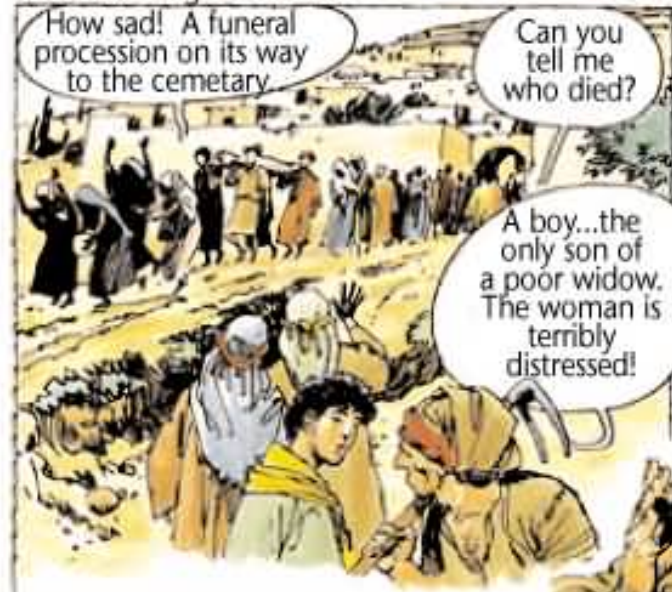
With pleasure, go ahead!



I'll tell you the following parable....



Traveling through Galilee, Jesus and His disciples enter the village of Nain...



On the shore of Lake Genesareth, Jesus meets the crowds, who wish to hear him... One day, He takes them to a remote place and speaks to them until evening...



Jesus, it is getting late and there's no village nearby. Send the people away... so that they can buy some food.

Philip, we should give them food!

Where can we buy so much food?

Jesus, you want to offer food to all of them?... That would cost more than 200 silver coins!



Everyone should have brought food just as this boy, who has five loaves of bread and two fish!

Call that boy and let's distribute the food.

But so little for so many people?

Have the people sit down on the grass to eat!



Blessed are you, oh God, for making the earth produce food.

Go and distribute these loaves and fish to all of them.



That was good! Look, I have food left!

Fantastic! What a great picnic!



Eat all of you, and enjoy it!

After everybody has eaten enough...

Gather the left-overs, don't waste anything.



Ten...eleven...twelve baskets full of bread.



Meanwhile, some are discussing the event...

Enormous, what this Jesus has done! Enough food for so many with so little at first!



That reminds me of the prophet Elijah in his days.

Yes, our holy books inform us that one day he fed a hundred persons with only two loaves and also had left-overs like we

had today. Could Jesus be the new prophet?



Sure! He must be the long awaited Messiah!

Pass the word around; we want Jesus to be our king.

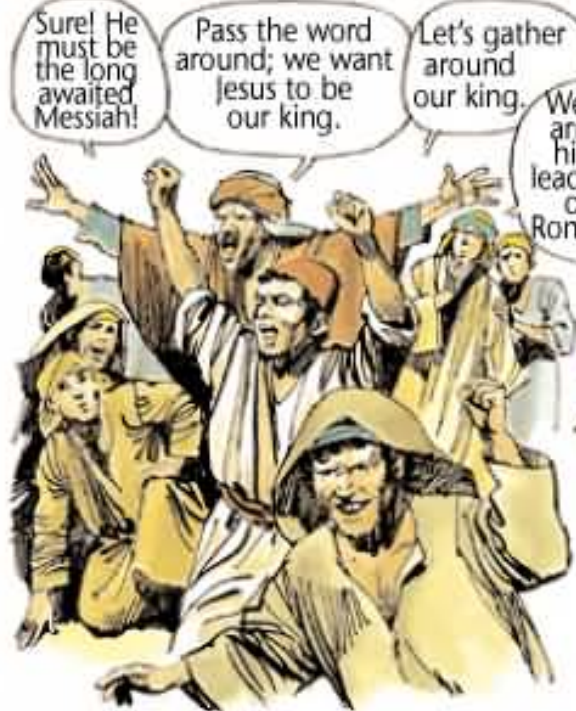
Let's gather around our king.

We form an army...with him as our leader and we drive the Romans away.

But Jesus recognized that they intended to make him their king by force...

I shall escape, they are beside themselves... misunderstood my message...dreaming

about a fighting Messiah... as the night approaches I shall go into the mountains!



Some time afterwards, Jesus leads His disciples to the north of the region of Caesarea (nowadays called the Golan Heights) near Mount Hermon.





We're far from the crowds now... here we can rest and meditate. I want to ask you this question: Who do the people say that I am? Who do they take me for?



Oh, opinions differ... King Herod is afraid you are John the Baptist whom he had beheaded and who might have risen from the dead.



Many think you are the prophet Elijah, who disappeared so mysteriously and who will return some day.

Many say that you are a new prophet, gifted by God with great power.



But who do you think I am?

To us: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!

Simon, this was not revealed to you by men, but by my Father in heaven!

God will reveal it to all men who trust in Him.



After the meal at the lakeside I spoke in the synagogue of Capernaum...many people have not accepted my message. They have left me. Do you want to leave me too?

Lord, to whom shall we go? We believe that you are the holy one of God! You have the words of eternal life!

My dear disciples, have I not chosen you twelve?

Yet, one of you belongs to the Devil!



Jesus meant Judas, who would betray him.

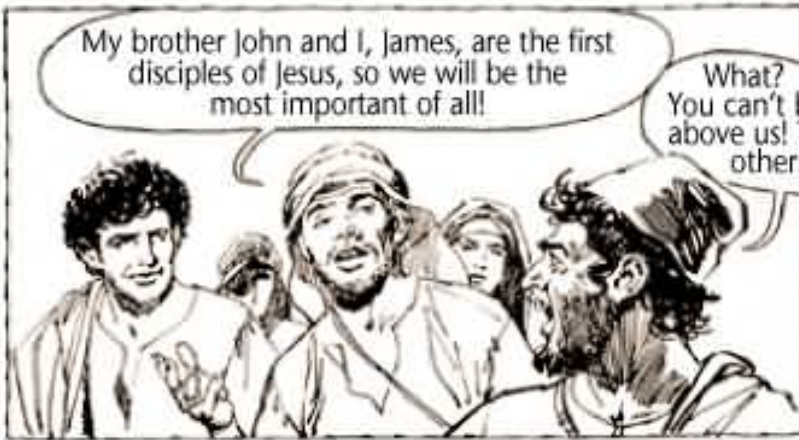


Finally, Jesus has decided to go to Jerusalem.

What will happen when He arrives there in the middle of

the feast... the people might rise in revolt and try to make him king by force!

And we also will have a part of the leadership!



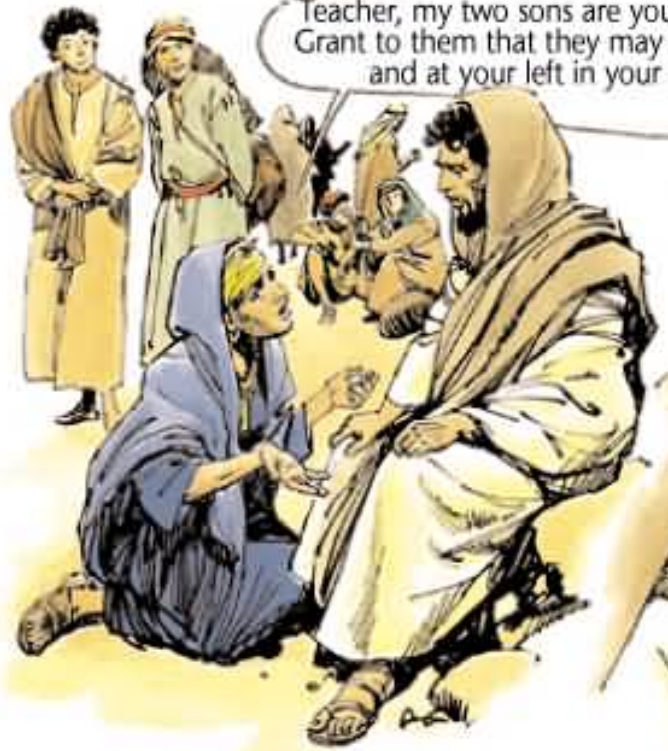
My brother John and I, James, are the first disciples of Jesus, so we will be the most important of all!

What? You can't be above us! There are others among us who are as able and clever as you!

Mother, you should ask Jesus to do us a favor.



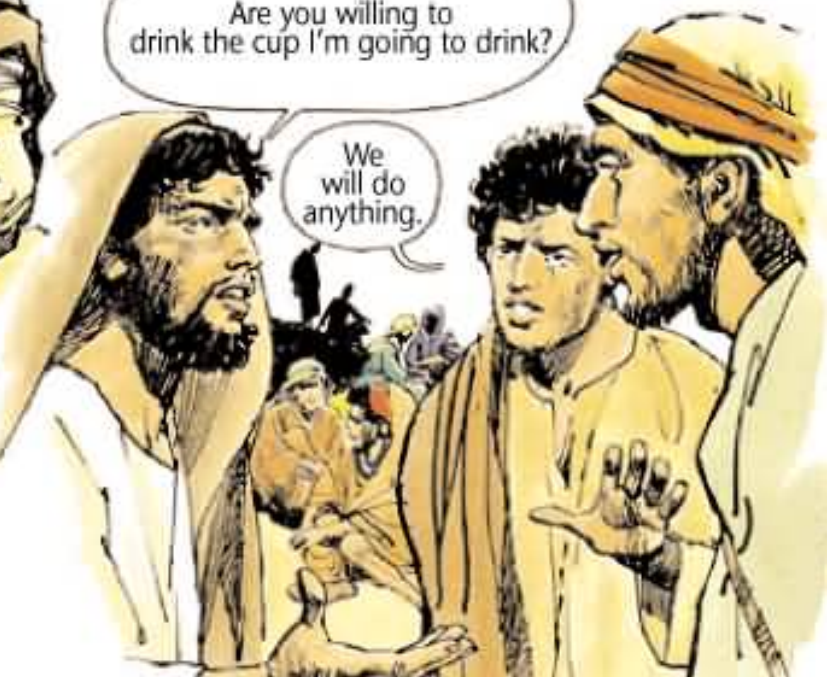
Teacher, my two sons are your first disciples. Grant to them that they may sit at your right and at your left in your kingdom.



You don't know what you are asking...

Are you willing to drink the cup I'm going to drink?

We will do anything.



My friends, you're having the wrong ideas... we are going to Jerusalem, but not to become political leaders.



I must go there and suffer many things and I must be killed... but on the third day I shall be raised to life!

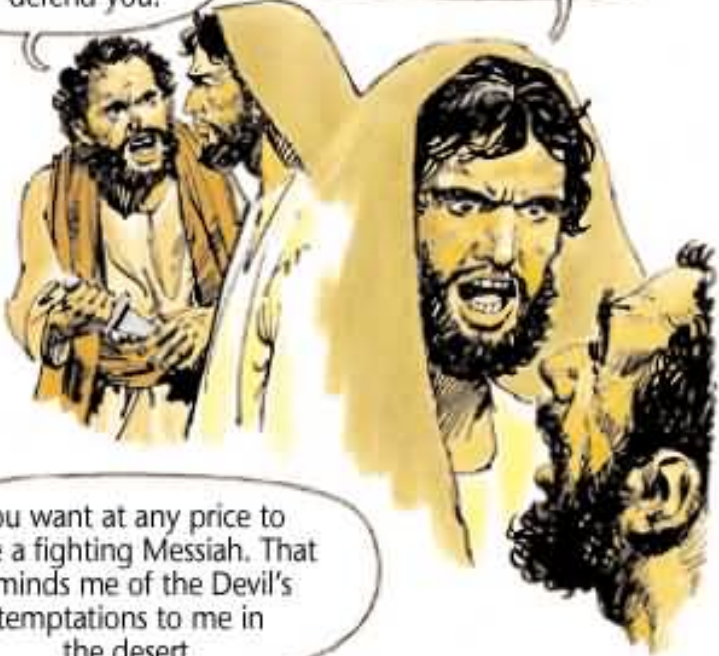


This will never happen to you! Impossible! We'll come and defend you!

Get behind me, Satan! You try to hinder me in fulfilling my mission!



Jesus, I tell you, don't be weak now.

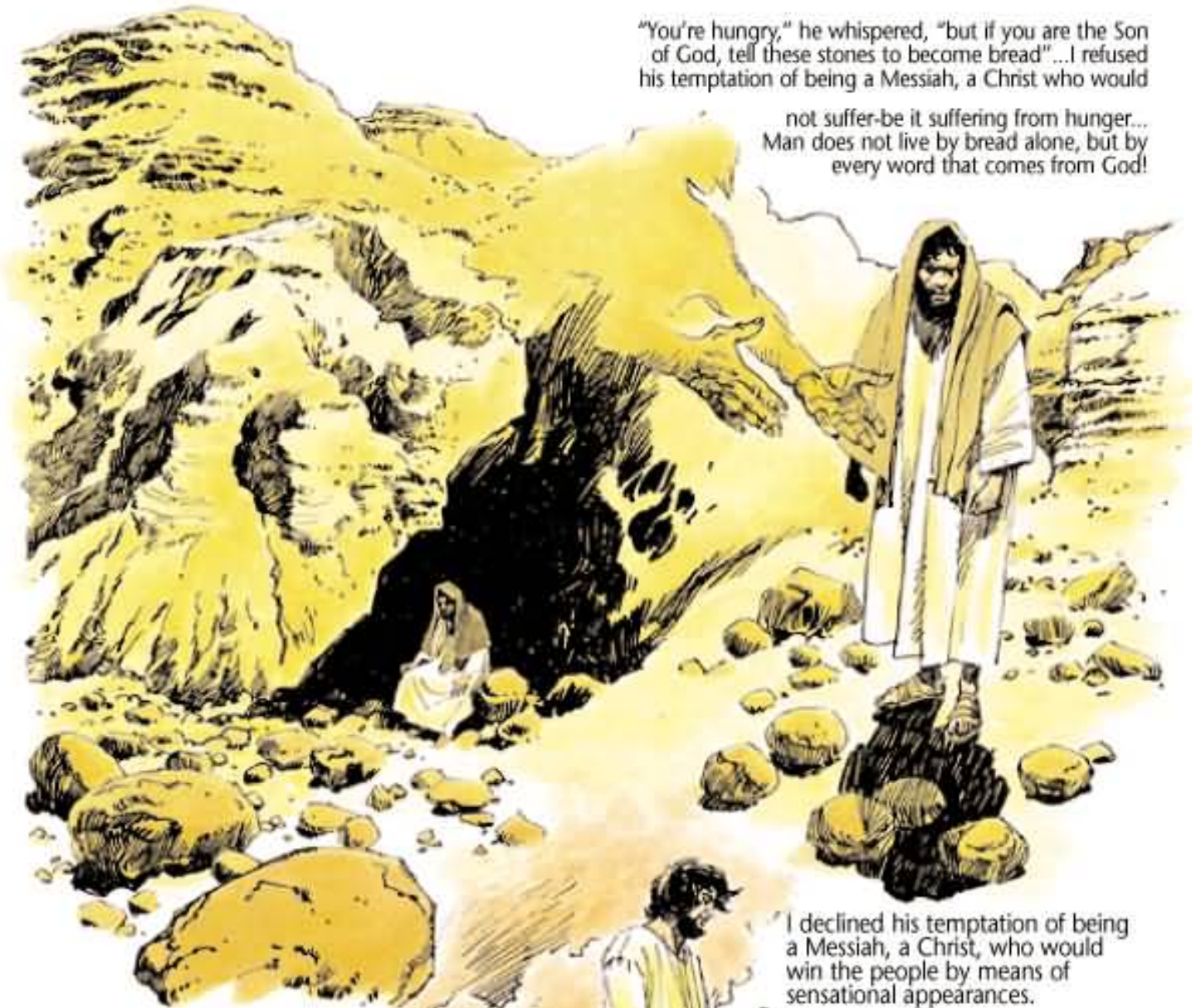


You want at any price to have a fighting Messiah. That reminds me of the Devil's temptations to me in the desert.



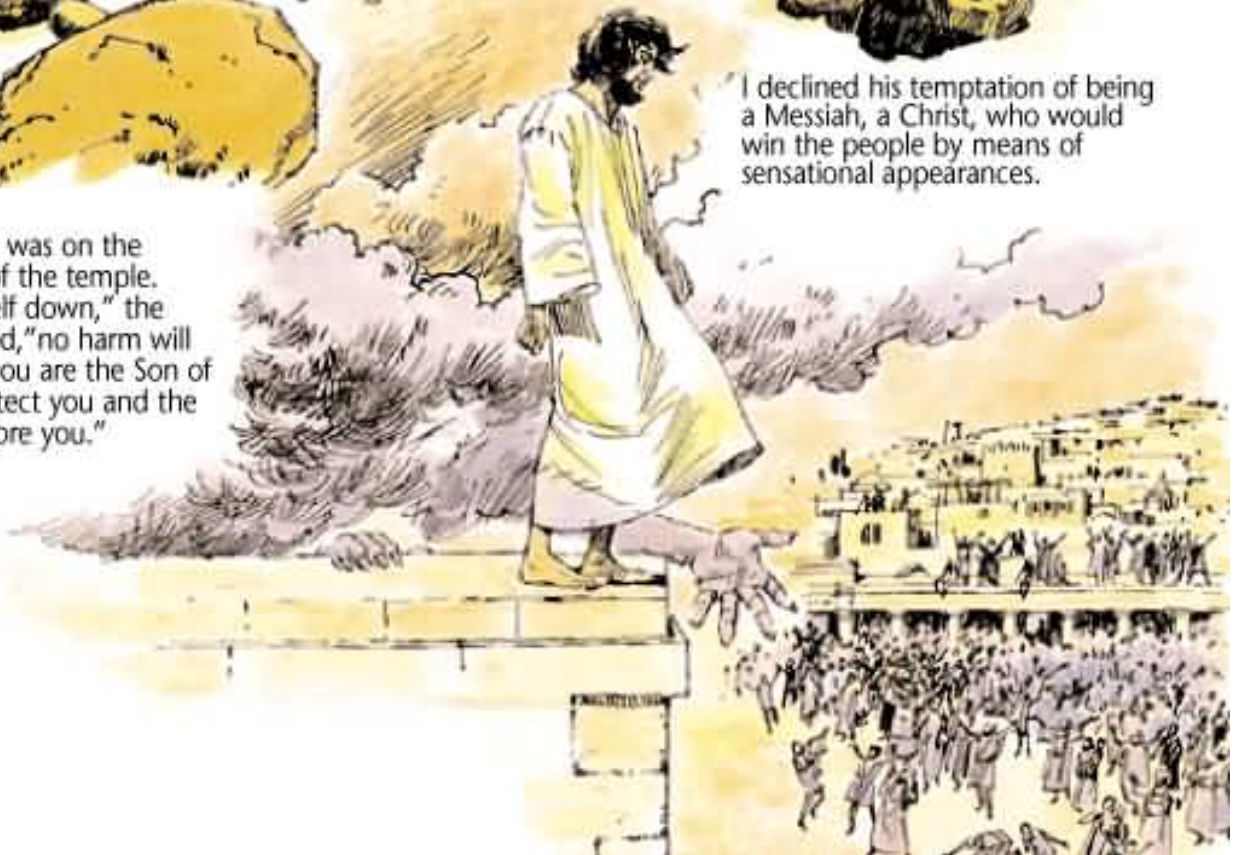
"You're hungry," he whispered, "but if you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread"...I refused his temptation of being a Messiah, a Christ who would

not suffer-be it suffering from hunger...  
Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from God!



I declined his temptation of being a Messiah, a Christ, who would win the people by means of sensational appearances.

Another time I was on the highest peak of the temple. "Throw yourself down," the Devil whispered, "no harm will touch you. If you are the Son of God, He'll protect you and the people will adore you."



After that I stood on a very high mountain... "Look at all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour," the Devil whispered again. "All this I will give you when you will bow down and worship me." I answered:

"Away from me, Satan! It is written: Worship the Lord, your God and serve only Him!"

Friends, don't fall for these temptations. I am God's servant of whom the prophet Isaiah announced:..."I shall give my life for my people!"

What a disappointing speech! I'm losing my time and chance with Jesus. I should have realized that before!

I'm confused. I don't understand it anymore....

My friends, prepare a camp at the foot of this mountain.

And you, Peter, James and John, come with Me! We'll spend the night together on the mountain.



I've taken you three apart to comfort you tonight.

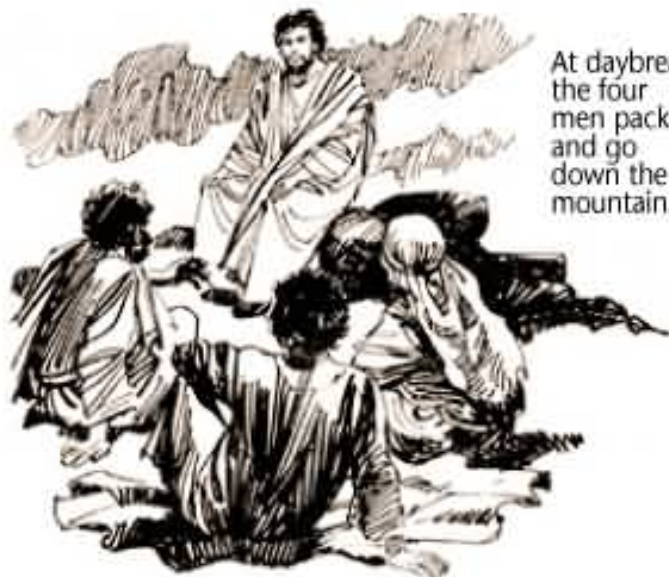
On a mountain Moses as well as Elijah met with God and took courage.



At midnight, a blinding light awakes Peter, James and John. Jesus appears in brilliant light to them and is talking with Moses and Elijah.



When the appearance ends, they see Jesus just as before.



At daybreak, the four men pack and go down the mountain.



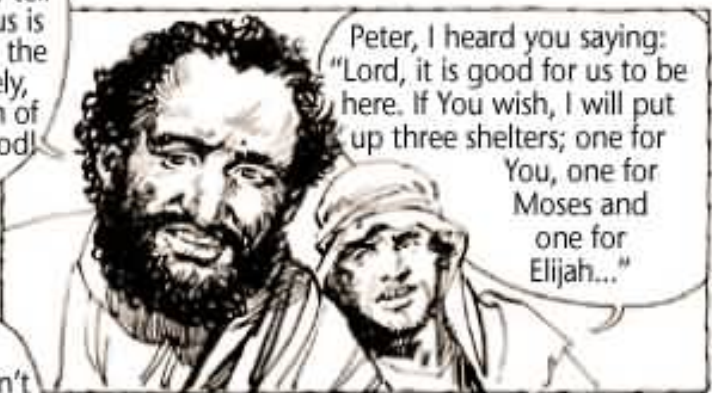
There are no words to express the events of last night... it's become very clear to me that Jesus is far greater than Moses and Elijah!

I saw the same, John, and I tell you that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ. Surely, He's the Son of the living God!



Oh, yes. They have only prepared His coming... He is part of God's glory Himself!

I heard the voice from heaven saying: "Jesus is My Son Whom I love... follow Him, listen to Him."

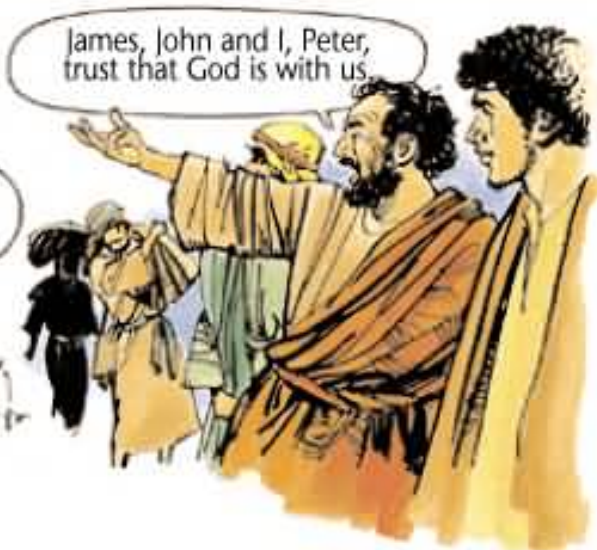


Peter, I heard you saying: "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If You wish, I will put up three shelters; one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah..."

My friends, I command you: don't tell anyone what you have seen...until the Son of man has been raised from the dead!



I don't fully understand, but we promise to remain silent.



James, John and I, Peter, trust that God is with us.



Come along, friends, let's go up to Jerusalem!

Jesus has decided to go up to Jerusalem for the Pass-over Feast...with His disciples He comes to the Mount of Olives.

Here they meet some pilgrims from Galilee, who are also going to Jerusalem...

Look!  
There's Jesus  
of Nazareth!

The famous  
prophet of  
our province  
of Galilee!

We must  
organize a parade  
when Jesus enters  
the city!

People of Galilee,  
let's gather around  
Him... we'll cheer  
Him on  
as the Messiah! That  
will be a real sensation!

Jesus, please  
for once accept  
this proposal!

I agree...

Go into that  
village where you'll  
find a colt. Untie  
her and bring  
her to Me... I will  
ride on her...





Who told you to untie this colt?

Jesus of Nazareth, the famous prophet. He needs her. We'll bring her back to you.

In that case you can have her.



Let's cut olive branches for the parade!

Here, distribute these branches!

When we enter Jerusalem, spread your coats on the road as a sign of honor. And you, children, look for flowers!



Long live Jesus of Nazareth!

The Messiah, the Son of David!

Hosannah!



To whom are you cheering?

Jesus of Nazareth, the new prophet!



What does this mean?

Mm...when the Romans find out about this, their army might very well take action...

The parade has arrived at the Temple area...beggars, sick and disabled people follow Him...



Get away, you dirty people! You're unclean and are not allowed to enter the Temple!

Never mind that I'm disabled; Jesus will heal me!



Now the children start cheering Jesus.



Long live Jesus of Nazareth!



Be quiet, this is the holy Temple!







Get out, everyone!

You too! You unholy people! You're doing business in the Temple and showing disrespect for the holy Scripture. "My house shall be a house of prayer for all people", says God, but you have made it...



..a den of thieves!



And who takes advantage? The high priest and the Pharisees who sell the places to the highest bidders...

Wonderful! Finally, a prophet who isn't afraid! It's a shame, all this business in the Temple of God!



Now all that we planned so carefully is a complete mess!

Our profits are gone and how will we manage?

Let's call this (so called) Messiah to order: He has to justify Himself.

So, who do you think you are? Creating a revolution and upsetting the well established order! Who gave you the authority to do this?

You want proof for My authority? Destroy this Temple and I will rebuild it again in three days!

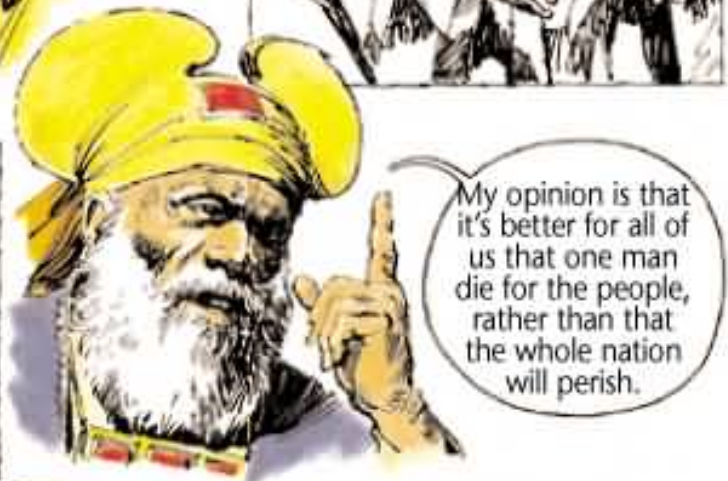
What do you want to tell us, a parable?

He's completely crazy! He's out of His mind. It took 46 years to build this Temple and He's going to rebuild it again in three days?



It was a parable indeed. Jesus spoke of His body, the new temple of God!...Destroyed, killed, He would rise again from the dead after three days. After Jesus' resurrection the disciples understood it.

Shortly afterwards, the Pharisees who were the enemies of Jesus, met together under the leadership of the high priest Caiaphas.





Jesus' cause is lost. I, Judas, had put my future on His success. I hoped that He, as Messiah, would lead the Liberation Movement ...instead of that He gives in...I've been deceived. If I don't watch it, all will be lost.



The only way to succeed now...

...is to go over to His enemies and to help them to arrest Him.



I believe the authorities might be right! Jesus might endanger our nation!

I've made up my mind!

Some days afterwards, at night....



It's me, Judas....

Good, Judas, you've kept your promise.



I've decided to hand Him over to you.

Judas...you do our nation a great service.. we're much obliged to you.



It's a deal! Thirty silver coins! That's the price... that we are willing to pay you for delivering Jesus to us!



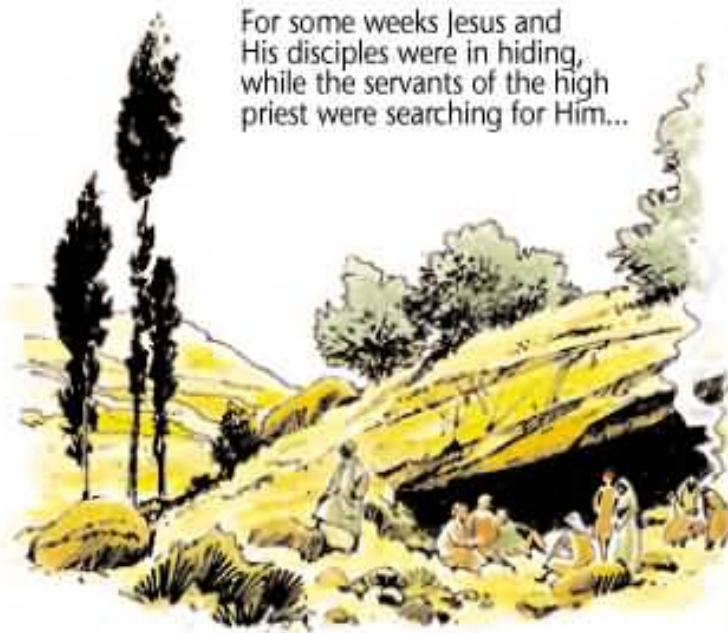
The money is here; now wait for the right moment.



Be careful: not in public, for the crowds might protect Him and then arresting Him will be impossible.

Preferably at night...that's our time!

For some weeks Jesus and His disciples were in hiding, while the servants of the high priest were searching for Him...



My friends, today the Pass-over is celebrated. Peter and John, go and make preparations for us to eat the Pass-over.

Yes, Lord. But where? With whom?

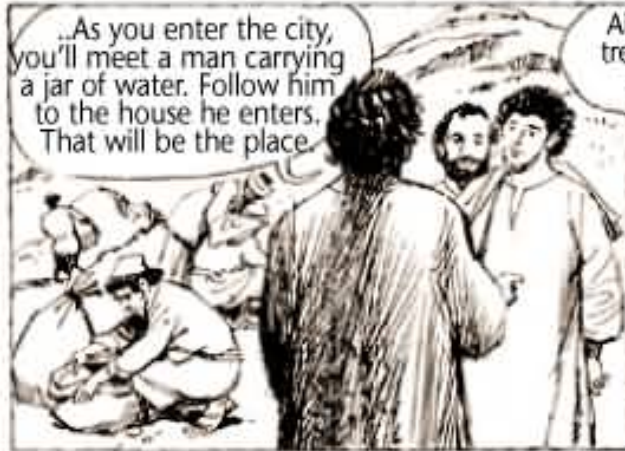


I've reserved a large room in Jerusalem. You must go and find it...



...As you enter the city, you'll meet a man carrying a jar of water. Follow him to the house he enters. That will be the place.

Aha, Jesus doesn't trust me anymore...but as the treasurer I have the right to prepare the Pass-over ...then I would've known the meeting place!



Then I could have informed the authorities so that they could have arrested Him

Some hours later...

Women carrying water jars, that's nothing special.

But there I see a man carrying a jar, which is unusual! Could he be the man?

It must be! Let's follow him!

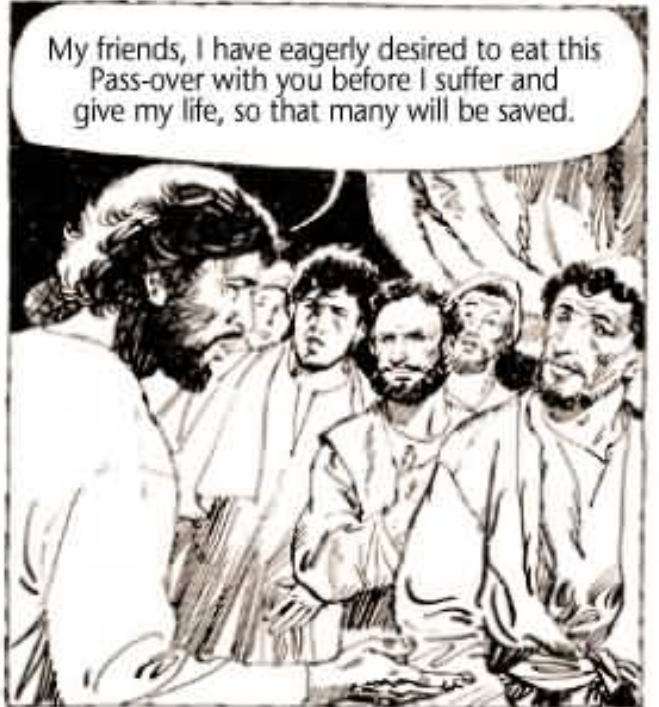




..and here's the large room prepared according to Jesus' wish...you see that all is in proper order.



That evening...



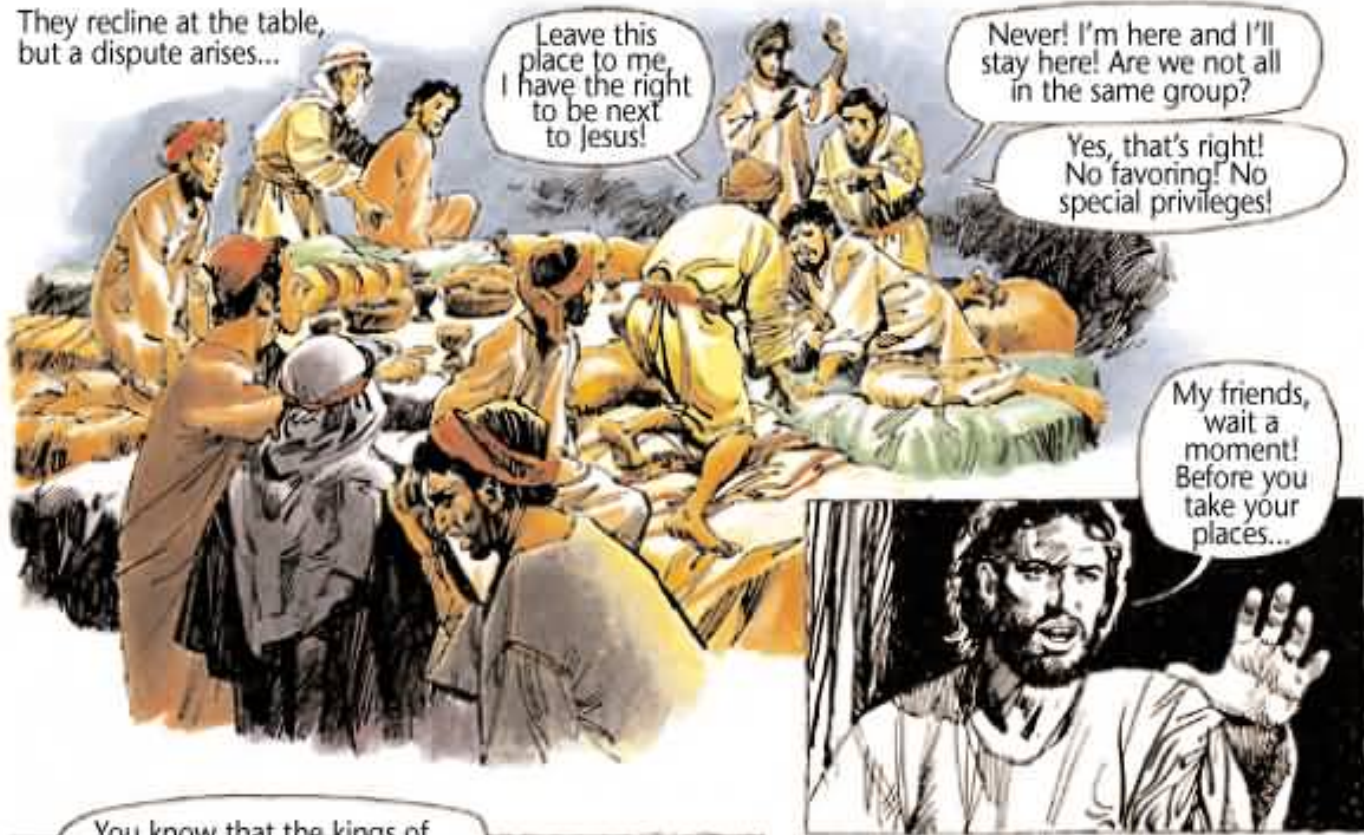
They recline at the table, but a dispute arises...

Leave this place to me, I have the right to be next to Jesus!

Never! I'm here and I'll stay here! Are we not all in the same group?

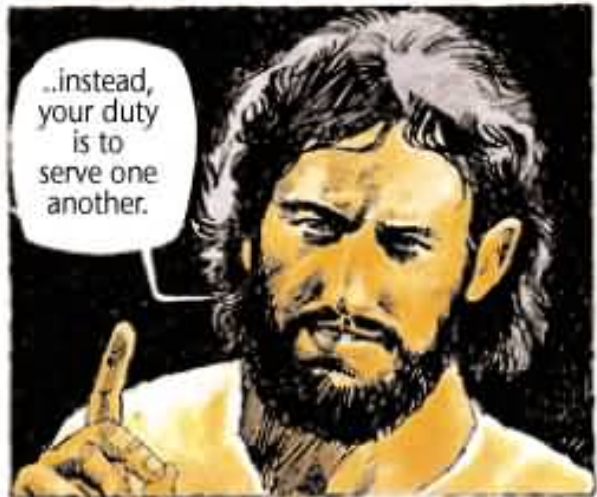
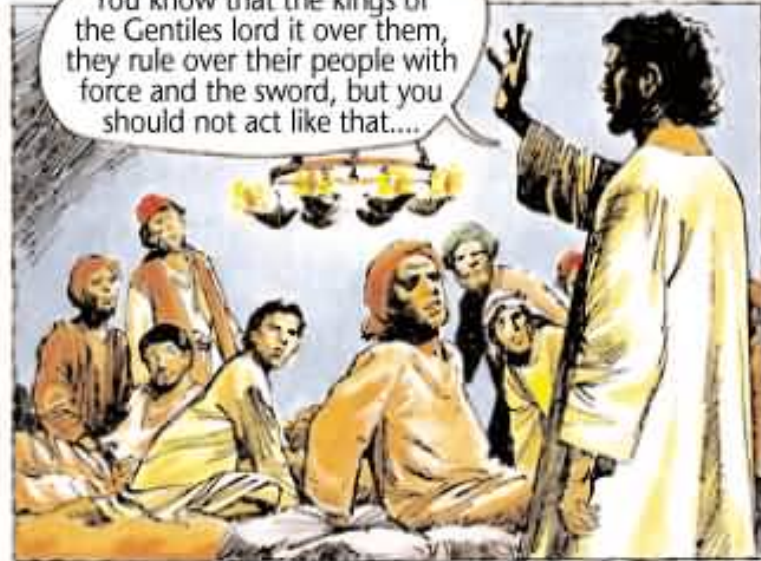
Yes, that's right! No favoring! No special privileges!

My friends, wait a moment! Before you take your places...



You know that the kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, they rule over their people with force and the sword, but you should not act like that....

..instead, your duty is to serve one another.



After that...

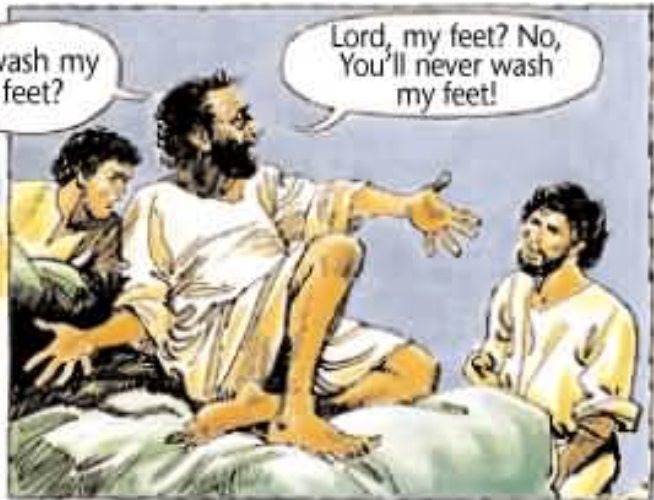
Look what He's doing!

I don't understand! It looks like he's getting ready to do some cleaning





What? But...are You going to...

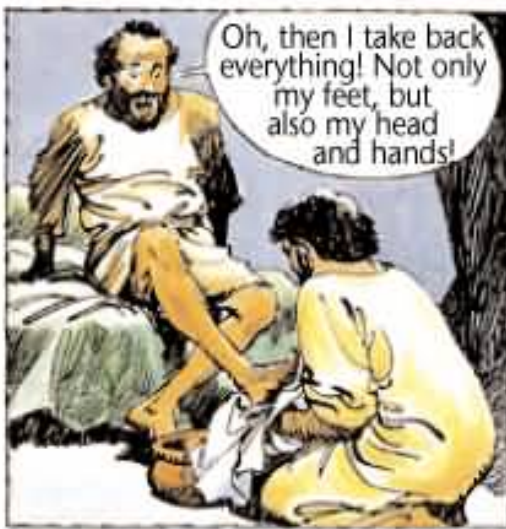


..wash my feet?

Lord, my feet? No, You'll never wash my feet!



You don't realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand... unless I wash you, you have no part with Me...and you cannot be My friend.



Oh, then I take back everything! Not only my feet, but also my head and hands!



A man who has had a bath, needs only to wash his feet: you are clean now...

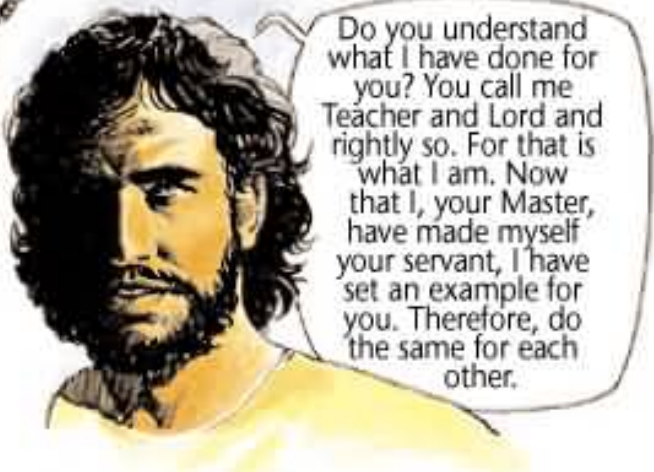


...though not everyone.

Saying these words, Jesus thought of Judas Iscariot...

Humiliating, what the Teacher is doing! That's the work of a slave!

When Jesus had finished, He said...



Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me Teacher and Lord and rightly so. For that is what I am. Now that I, your Master, have made myself your servant, I have set an example for you. Therefore, do the same for each other.



At the beginning of the meal, Jesus and the disciples eat the bitter salad, to remember the time of oppression which their forefathers experienced in Egypt before the great Exodus.

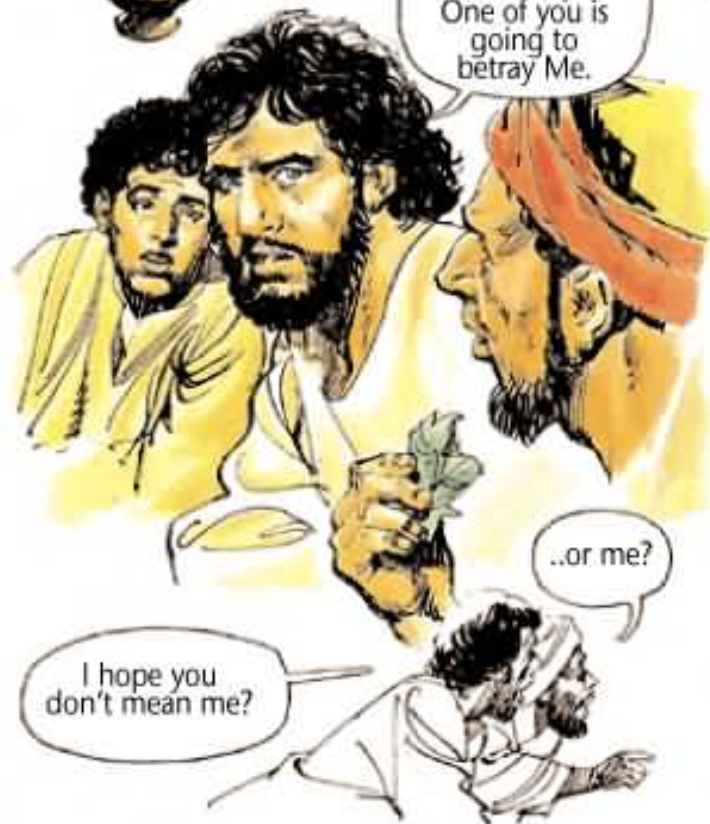


My friends, I have something sad to tell you. One of you is going to betray Me.

Yes, I mean it. One of you, eating at My table...

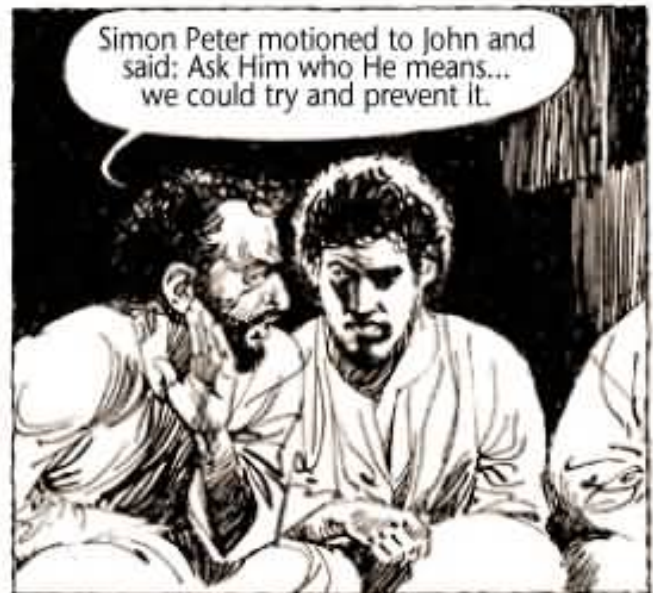
What? Is this possible? That would be horrible!

Who of us could do that?



..or me?

I hope you don't mean me?



Simon Peter motioned to John and said: Ask Him who He means... we could try and prevent it.



Jesus, tell me, who is it?

It is the one to whom I'll give this piece of bread...



...which I've dipped into the dish.

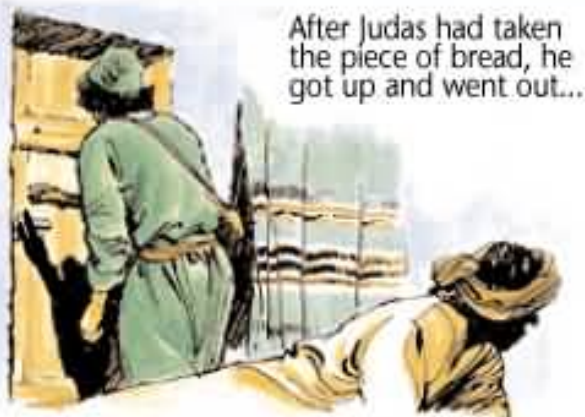


What you're about to do, do it quickly!



Did you see that? Such an honor!

Yes, that's a sign of honor to Judas, right?



After Judas had taken the piece of bread, he got up and went out...



...and it was night...

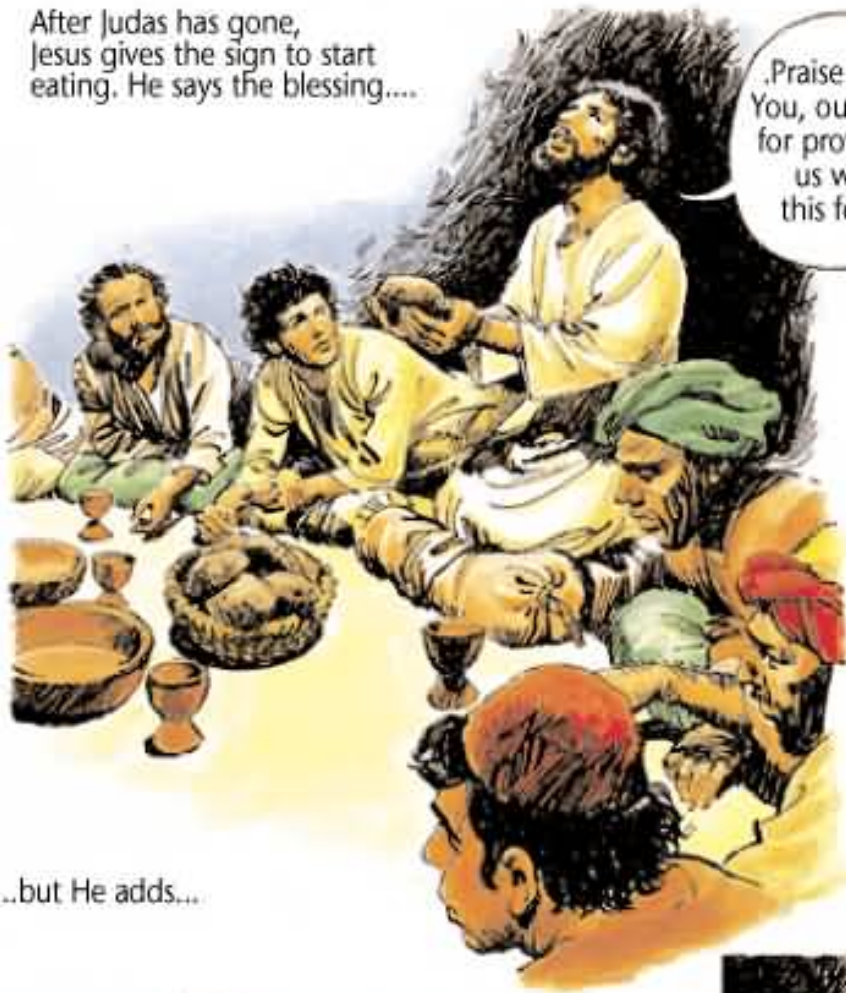


Where is Judas going?

I don't know. May be Jesus has instructed him to buy something...

...or to give something to the poor as we always do on the Pass-over.

After Judas has gone,  
Jesus gives the sign to start  
eating. He says the blessing....

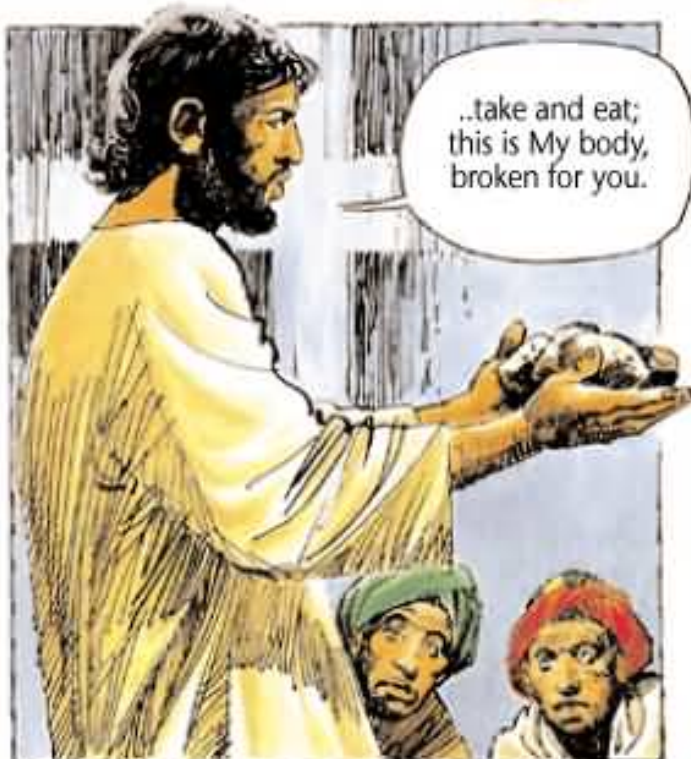


..Praise be to  
You, our God,  
for providing  
us with  
this food!

He breaks the bread  
and gives it to them...



..but He adds...



..take and eat;  
this is My body,  
broken for you.



After eating the bread, Jesus takes the cup and gives thanks...



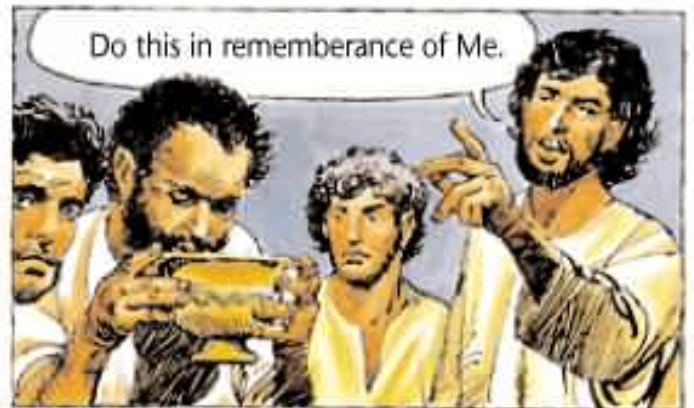
..Thank You, our God, Who gladdens us with the fruit of the vine...

..but He adds...



..Take this cup of the New Covenant in My blood, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of their sins.

Then Jesus and His disciples end the meal and sing the songs of Pass-over.



Do this in remembrance of Me.

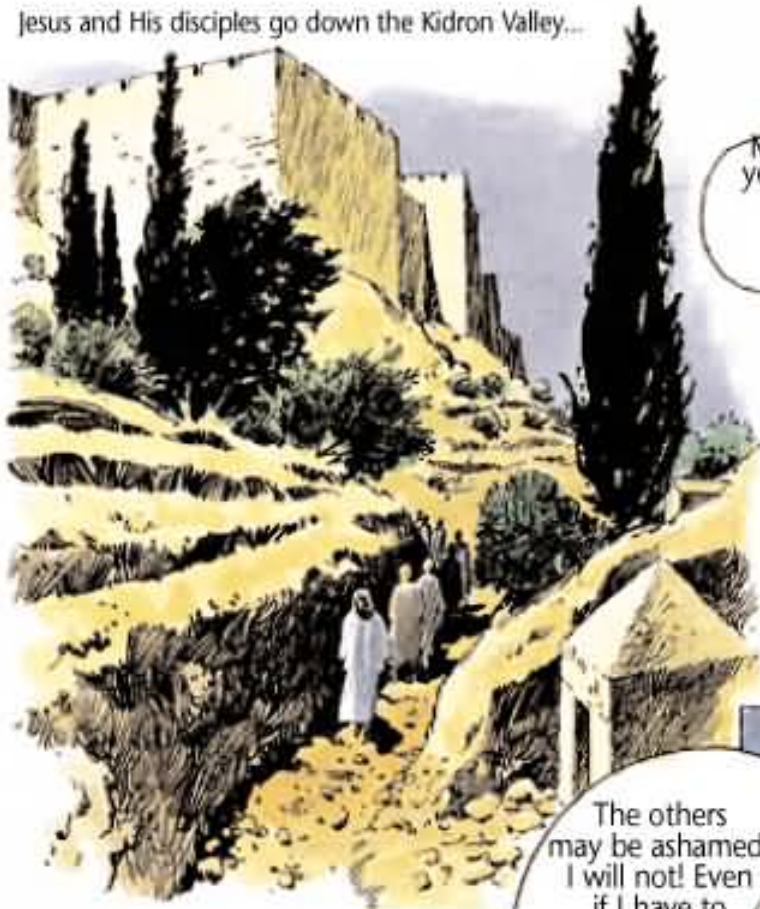


After that they leave Jerusalem...

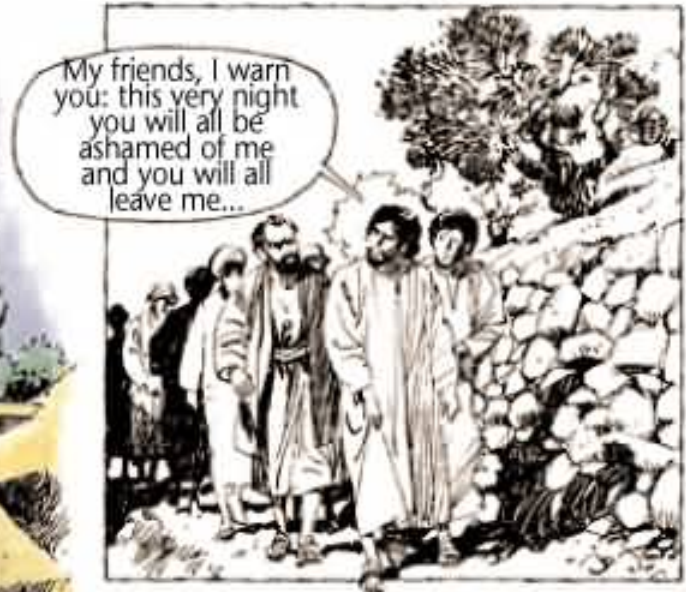


Where's he taking us?

Jesus and His disciples go down the Kidron Valley...



After crossing Kidron river, they begin to climb the Mount of Olives.



The others may be ashamed, I will not! Even if I have to die, I will never disown you!



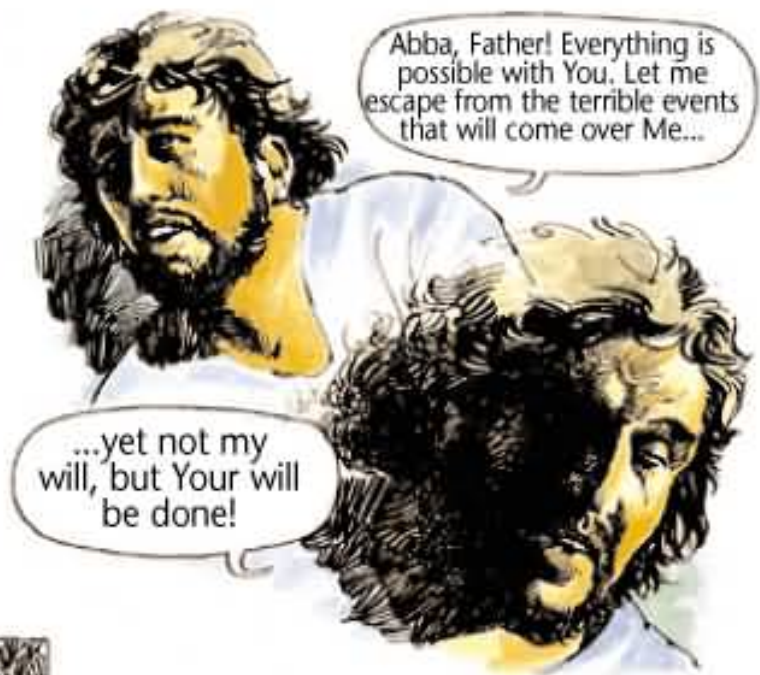
They went to the garden called Gethsemane...



Jesus took the three disciples along with Him....



Jesus returns to His disciples to find comfort, but...





Meanwhile...at the garden entrance ...



Judas, it is very dark under the trees. What does He look like, this Jesus? Whom should we arrest?



My hour has come! Look, I am betrayed into the hands of sinners! Rise! Let's go! Here comes my betrayer.



After the first surprise, the disciples of Jesus recovered themselves...



And you'll remember this for the rest of your life!

AUGH!

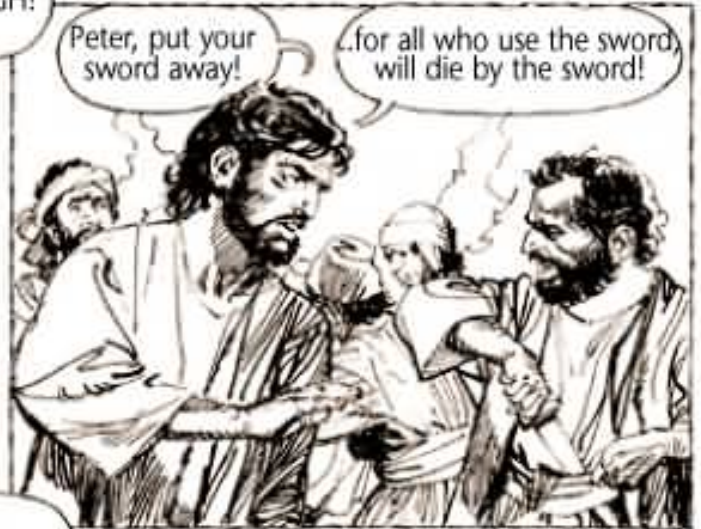


So you come secretly, at night to arrest us! I'll teach you!



Am I leading a rebellion, that you come out with swords and clubs to capture me?

Every day I was in the Temple courts teaching.... You did not arrest me there.... But this is your hour... when darkness reigns.



Peter, put your sword away!

...for all who use the sword, will die by the sword!

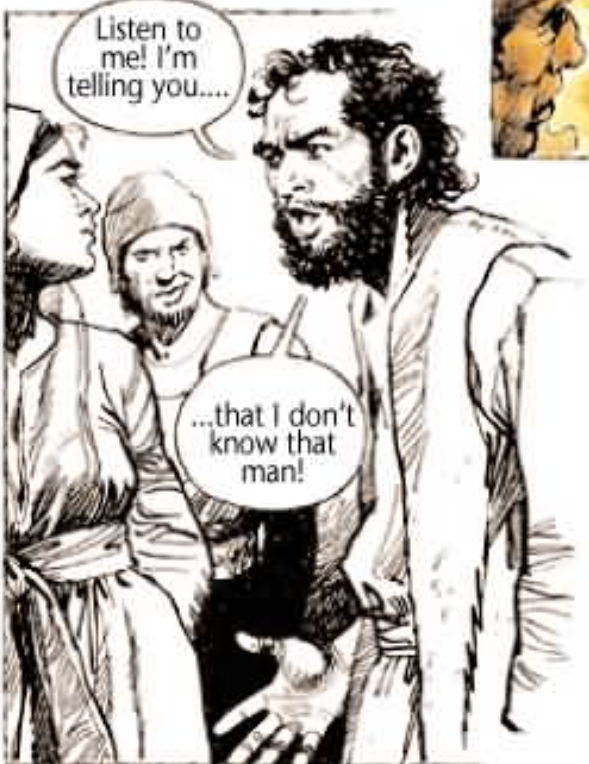
Jesus allows them to seize him...seeing this, all the disciples desert Him and flee away.





The company of soldiers took Jesus away from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem....





Meanwhile, in the official residence.....



Jesus is taken to the high priest, who has called a meeting of the Sanhedrin: the priests, the elders and teachers of the law...



I've called you to investigate the case of Jesus of Nazareth, because the highest interest of our nation is at stake!

His sensational actions are disturbing public order, his revolutionary statements against the Temple and our religion have caused me to arrest Him...



...and bring him before our court so that we can try him according to our laws. Bring in the witnesses!



I heard him say: "you may destroy this Temple and in three days I will rebuild it!"



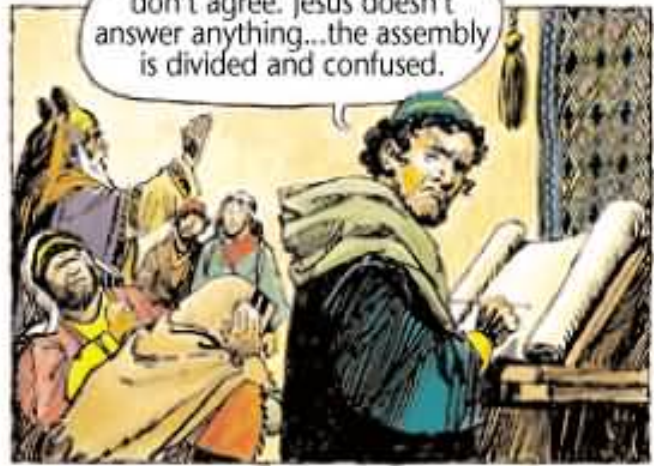
No, He didn't say that! But rather, "I'll destroy this man-made temple and I'll build another one, not made by man!"



It's hard to believe that he dared to speak against the glory of God and the Temple.



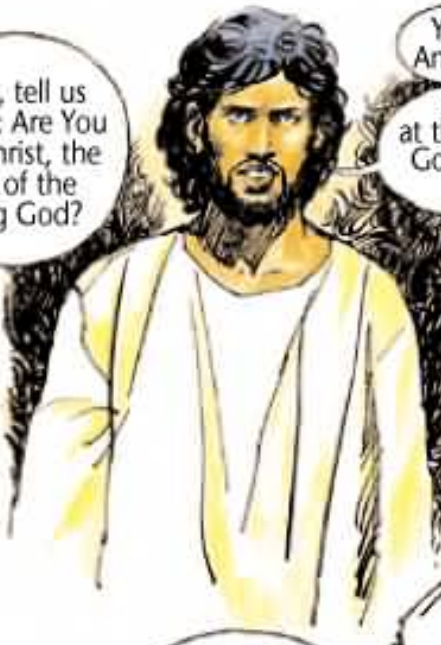
I record: the witnesses don't agree. Jesus doesn't answer anything...the assembly is divided and confused.





Let's drop these discussions about the Temple, because the accused does not answer... let's go on.

Jesus, tell us clearly: Are You the Christ, the Son of the living God?



Yes, I am! And you will

see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of the Almighty God and coming on the clouds of heaven!

He's spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, you've all heard the blasphemy!



He deserves death!



What do you think?

And this Jesus pretends to be the Son of man the prophet Daniel spoke of in a vision. The person to be taken in the presence of God Who will be given power and authority over all the nations!

What a blasphemous arrogance!

I record: All judges are outraged upon hearing this blasphemy and the high priest tears his clothes to show his indignation.





The case is settled!  
But for every death sentence..

the consent of the Roman  
Governor must be obtained

Yes, that's right.  
Only he can pass a  
death sentence and have  
someone executed.

Let's send Jesus  
to Pilate who is in  
Jerusalem to oversee  
the Feast of Pass-over

Meanwhile, around  
the fire in the  
court yard....

Coo-ou-oooh...



I wouldn't be  
surprised if you  
were also with  
this Jesus!

Yes, you're a  
Galilean! Your  
accent gives  
you away!

I have told  
you before and  
I swear by God  
Allmighty that  
I do not know  
the man!



But...  
oh....



Coo-ou-oooh....  
Coo-ou-oooh....



I now remember  
the words of Jesus:  
"Before the rooster  
crows twice, you will  
disown me three  
times." Ooh I'm a  
coward... a miserable,  
hopeless coward!

Judas heard that the Sanhedrin has condemned Jesus.



He is filled with remorse and hurries to the Sanhedrin to return the thirty silver coins....



Woe to me! I've sinned! I've betrayed innocent blood!

I don't want your money!



I've betrayed an innocent man!

That's your business, not ours!

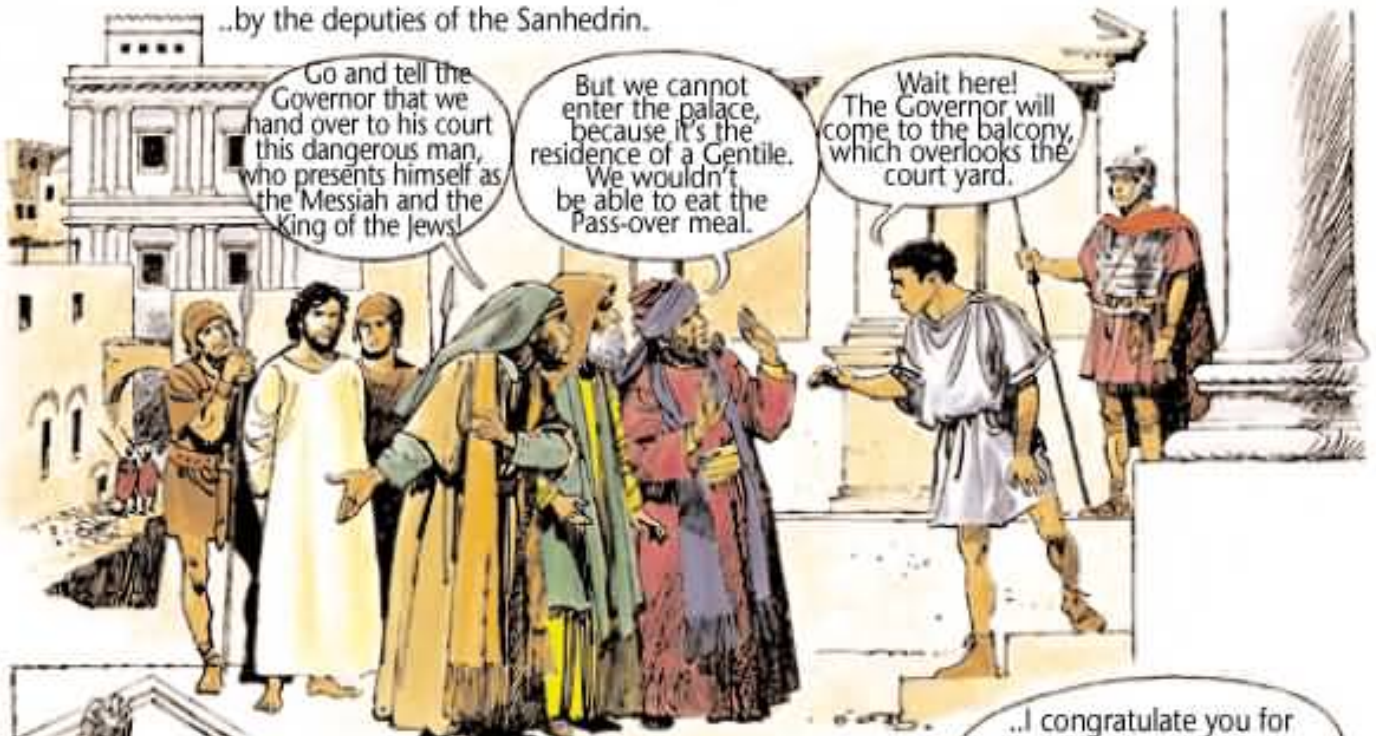
In great despair Judas leaves and hangs himself.



The next morning, Jesus is taken to Pilate...



...by the deputies of the Sanhedrin.



Go and tell the Governor that we hand over to his court this dangerous man, who presents himself as the Messiah and the King of the Jews!

But we cannot enter the palace, because it's the residence of a Gentile. We wouldn't be able to eat the Pass-over meal.

Wait here! The Governor will come to the balcony, which overlooks the court yard.



..I congratulate you for your zeal in handing over an agitator who disturbs the public order.

We bring him to you, because we have no right to execute anyone...

Of what do you accuse this man?

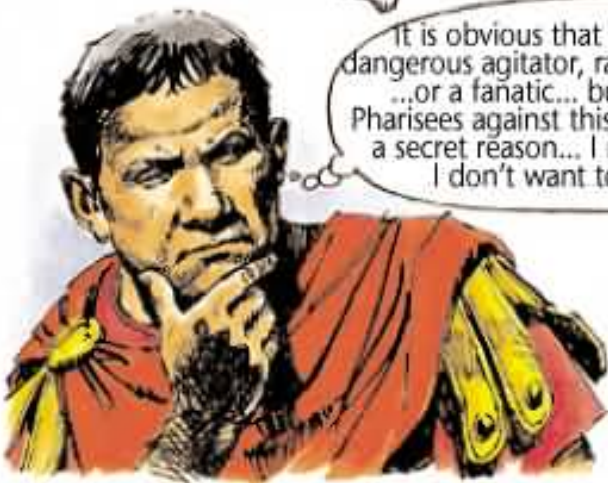
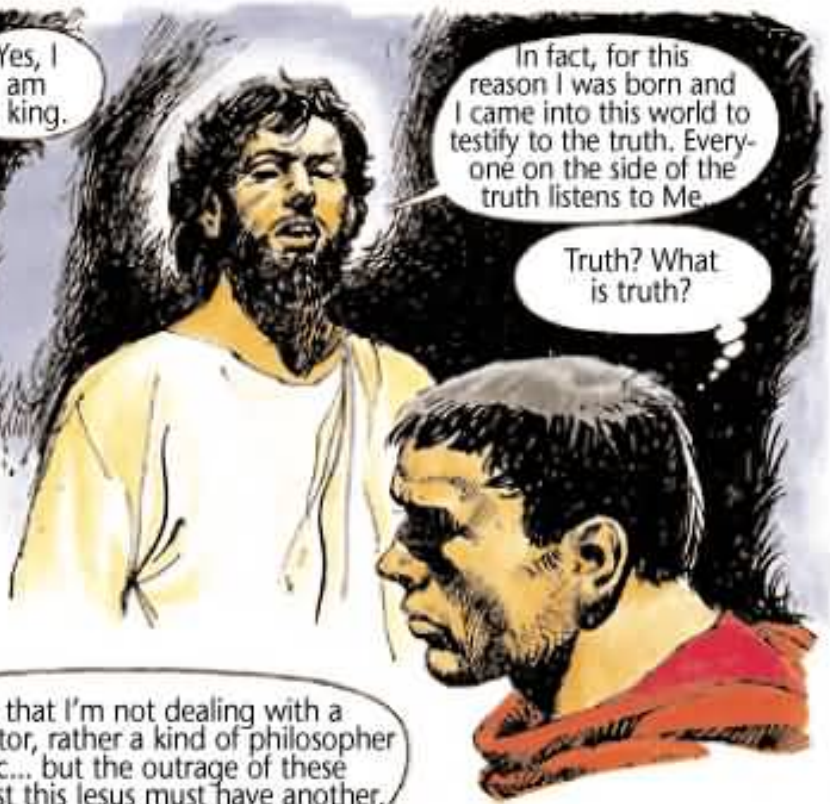
Governor Pilate, our court has sentenced him to death.

Bring the accused into the palace. I'll hear him myself!



You are accused of presenting yourself as the Messiah, the King of the Jews.

My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would have fought to prevent my arrest by the Jews.







Meanwhile, with Pilate...





Tomorrow will be the great Sabbath-Day (Pass-over), the most sacred national Feast of the Jews...



..and now the court yard is filling up with people who want to see you ....



..and expect you to release a prisoner of their choice.



I know, and I have an idea.



We all agree that we want Barabbas freed!



Agreed! Barabbas!

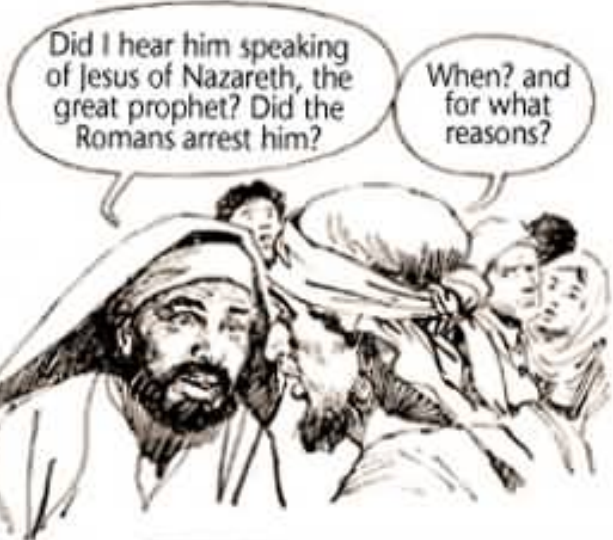
A real rebel and who isn't afraid to use terrorist tactics to overthrow the Romans.



We, the Zealots, need a man like Barabbas!



Citizens of Jerusalem! Please be calm. We want you to celebrate your Pass-over in peace and trust that all pilgrims will be received well.





Silence! I'll have the two prisoners brought out, then you can see them and make a better choice.



Guards! Bring Jesus and Barabbas here!



Look the man!

No, not Jesus, but Barabbas!

Barabbas! We want Barabbas! Set him free!

Crucify! Crucify Jesus! He deserves death!

Yes, call for Barabbas! you'll do the nation a great service!

Jesus is a tempter! He deceives the people! He deserves death!



Barab-bas!!

Barab-bas!!

Aren't you ashamed to have Jesus of Nazareth put to death?

A prophet who heals the sick, blind and paralyzed...and gives hope to the poor, exploited and desperate people?

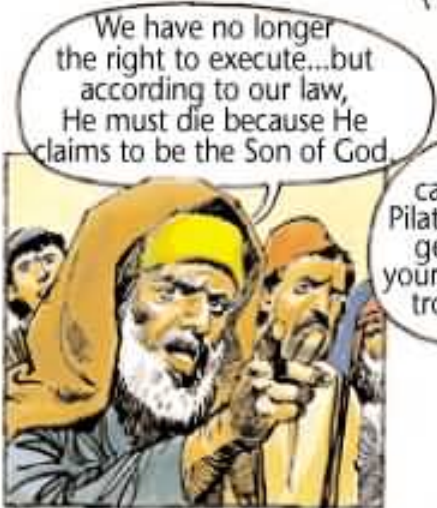




Oh, look how terrible. They have beaten Jesus!

And we thought He was the Messiah we were waiting for!

You want to force me into sentencing Jesus to be crucified. You take Him and crucify Him yourselves! As for me, I find Him innocent!



We have no longer the right to execute...but according to our law, He must die because He claims to be the Son of God.

Be careful, Pilate! You're getting yourself into trouble!

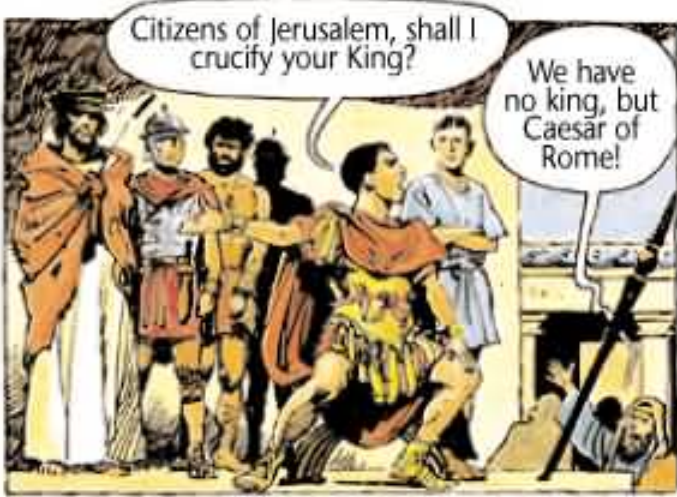


He claims to be a king. So He opposes Caesar in Rome! If you set Him free, you'll no longer be a friend of Caesar.

Please, don't risk your position! A few more or less, what's that to you?

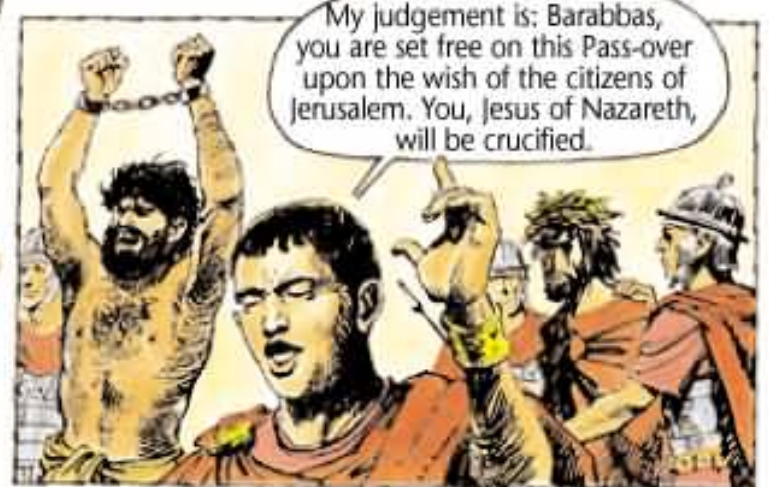
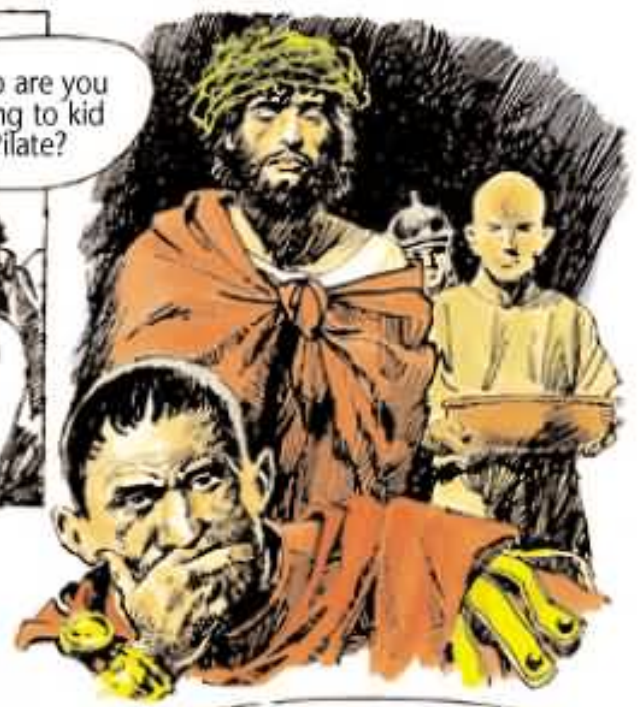
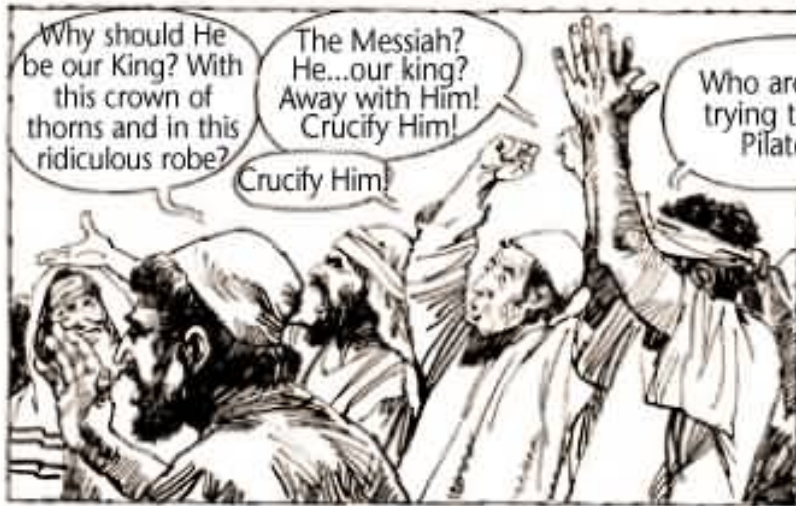


Don't persist in defending this innocent man. The leaders of His people want Him dead at any cost...if you set Him free, they'll complain to Emperor Tiberias about you.



Citizens of Jerusalem, shall I crucify your King?

We have no king, but Caesar of Rome!





Here's the substitute for Barabbas.

He pretends to be a king, so give Him a real good treatment! Royally!

Don't worry! We'll take care of Him.



On this day three executions will take place...and according to custom, every condemned man must be whipped.

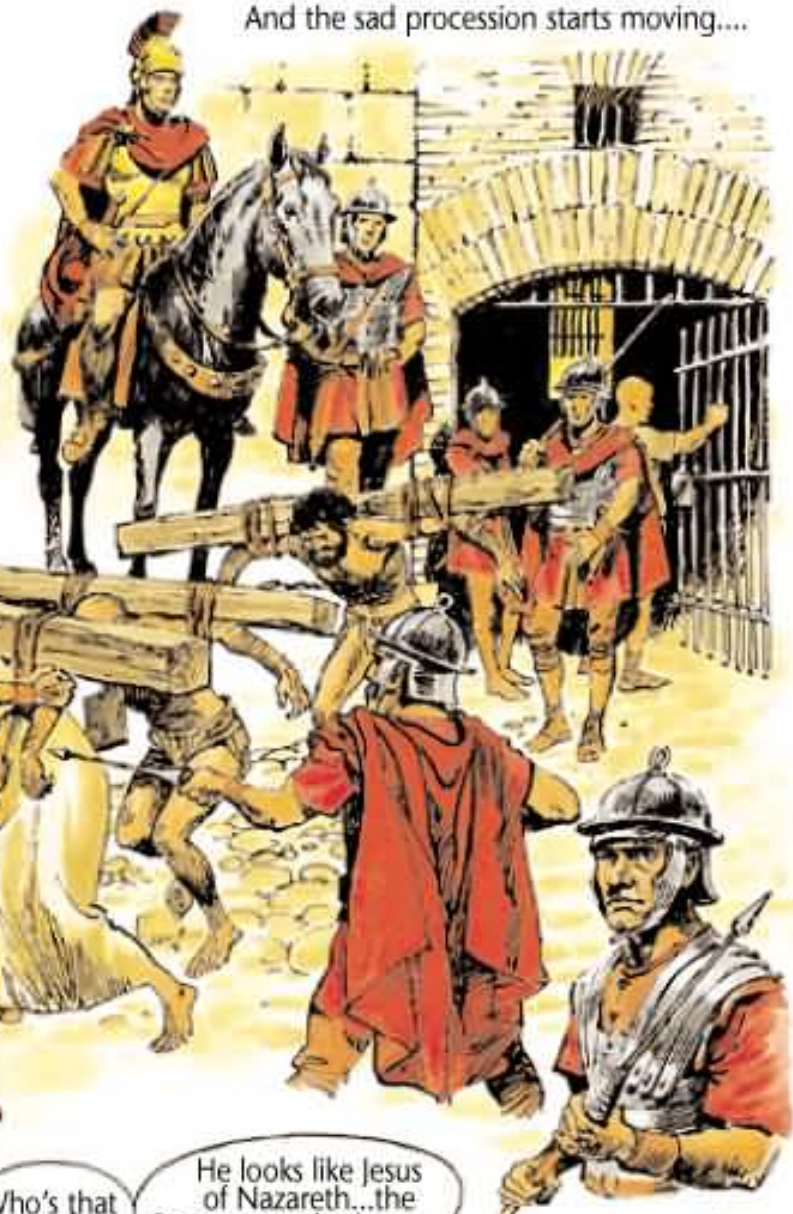


That's it for the King of the Jews... I think He's had enough.

Now Jesus must carry the cross-beam of his own cross, with a notice around his neck, proclaiming the judgement.



And the sad procession starts moving....

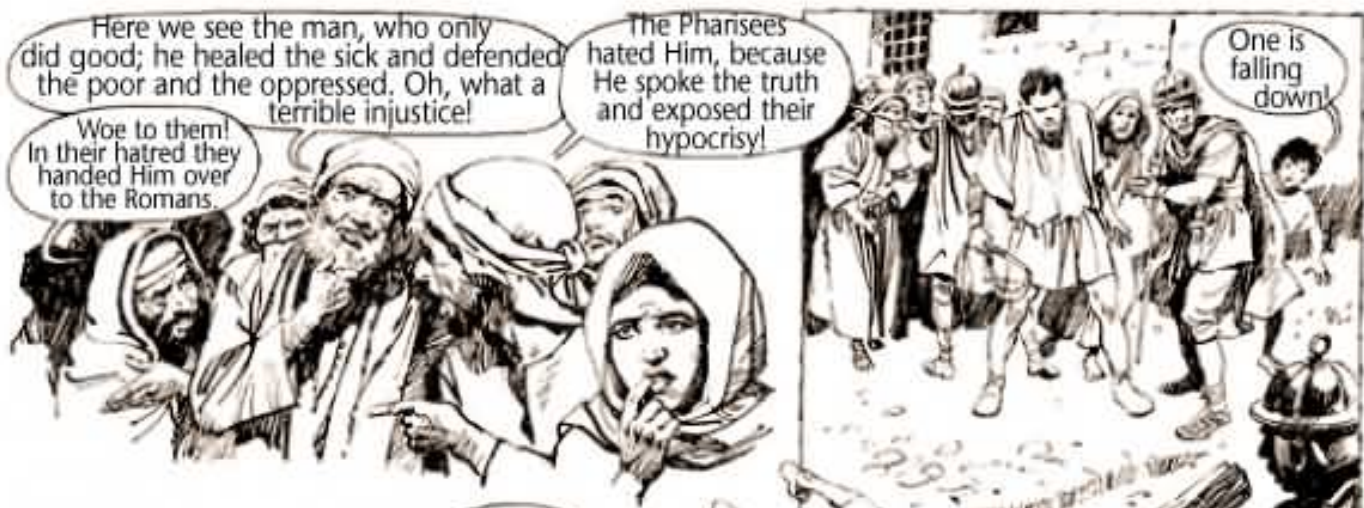


Make room! Let us pass!

Who's that one?

He looks like Jesus of Nazareth...the famous prophet!





Here we see the man, who only did good; he healed the sick and defended the poor and the oppressed. Oh, what a terrible injustice!

The Pharisees hated Him, because He spoke the truth and exposed their hypocrisy!

One is falling down!

Woe to them! In their hatred they handed Him over to the Romans



He is too weak to carry his cross; he lost too much blood because of the whipping.

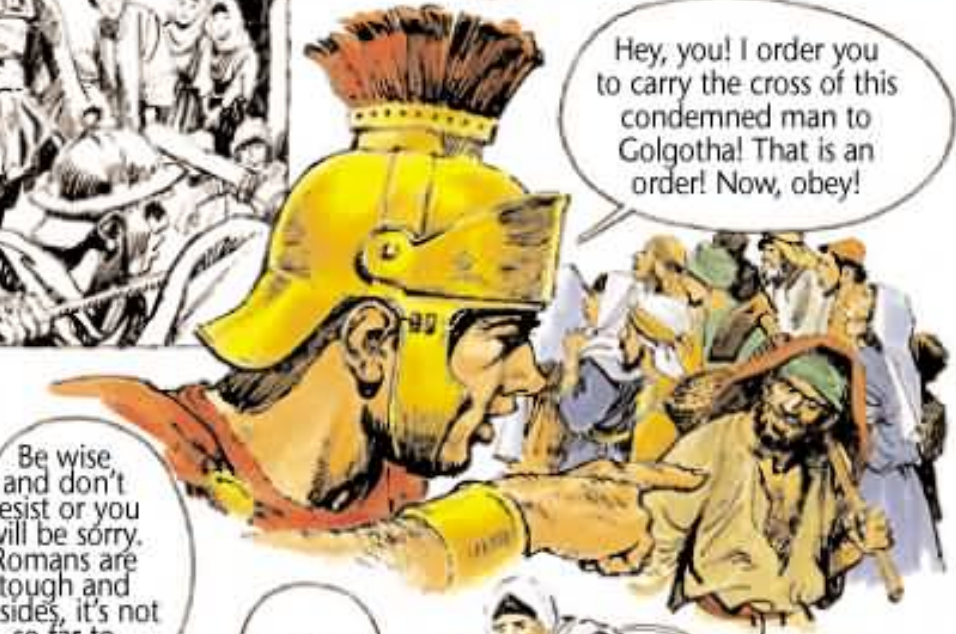


Hey, you! I order you to carry the cross of this condemned man to Golgotha! That is an order! Now, obey!



Me?... But I'm not from Jerusalem! I'm a decent man from Cyrene!

Be wise and don't resist or you will be sorry. Romans are tough and besides, it's not so far to Golgotha from here.



I'll carry it for you! Get up!

Help Him, He's innocent! He's Jesus of Nazareth, the great prophet!





Daughters of Jerusalem, why do you weep for me? Rather weep for yourselves and your children...

..as not long from now a terrible punishment will fall on Jerusalem.



Look, here is the place for the execution, which is called Golgotha or "the skull".

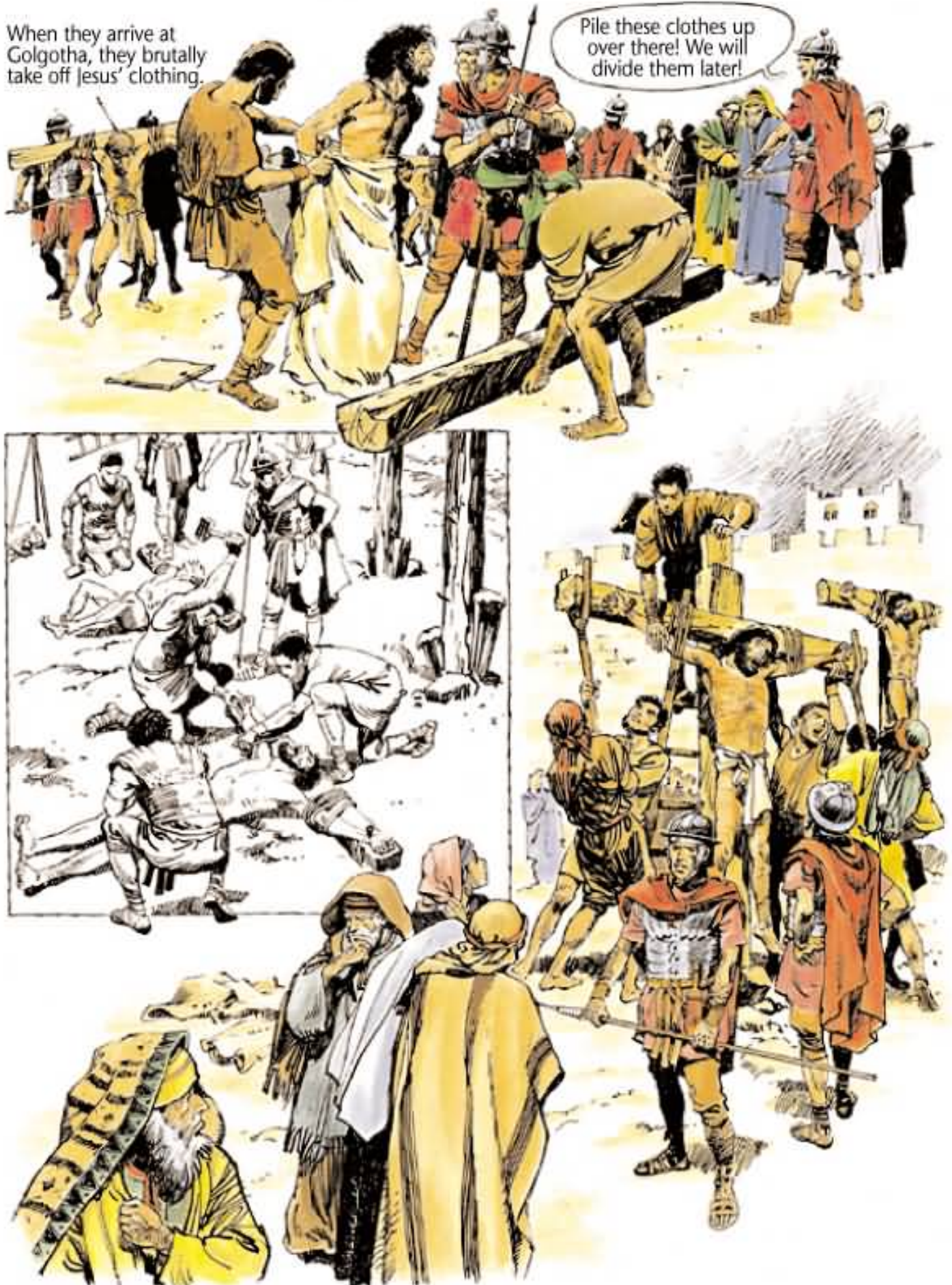
From far the rock looks indeed like a skull.

And the place is well chosen! Everyone who comes to Jerusalem is reminded of the cost to challenge the Romans.



When they arrive at Golgotha, they brutally take off Jesus' clothing.

Pile these clothes up over there! We will divide them later!





Captain, what is the time?

It's about noon!

He saved others...let him now save himself, if he is the Son of the living God!

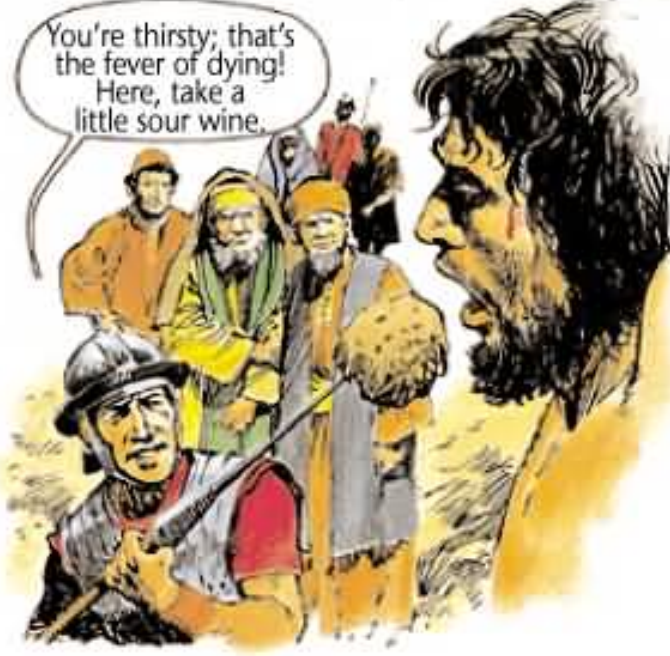
If You are the Messiah, come down and save yourself!



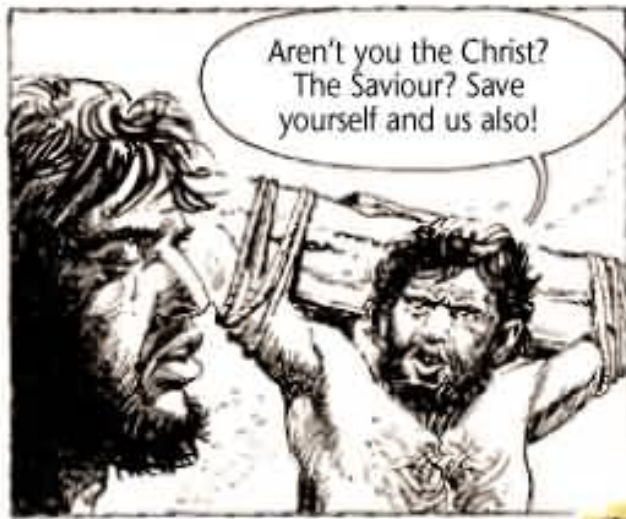
Father, forgive them for they know not what they do!



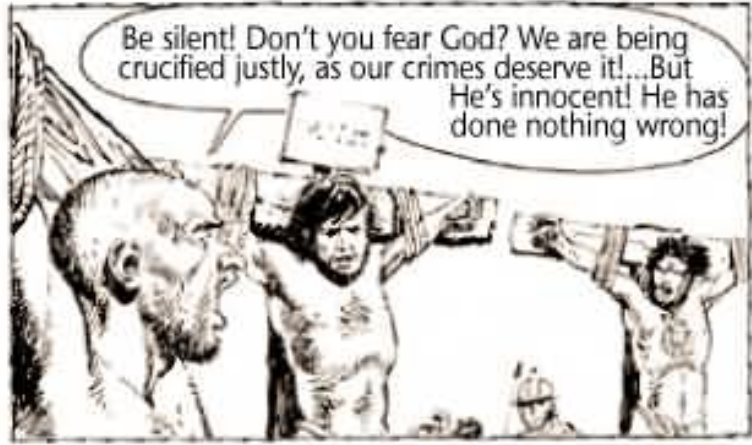
We'll cast lots for His cloak.



You're thirsty; that's the fever of dying! Here, take a little sour wine.



Aren't you the Christ?  
The Saviour? Save  
yourself and us also!



Be silent! Don't you fear God? We are being  
crucified justly, as our crimes deserve it!...But  
He's innocent! He has  
done nothing wrong!



Jesus, remember me  
when you come into  
your kingdom!

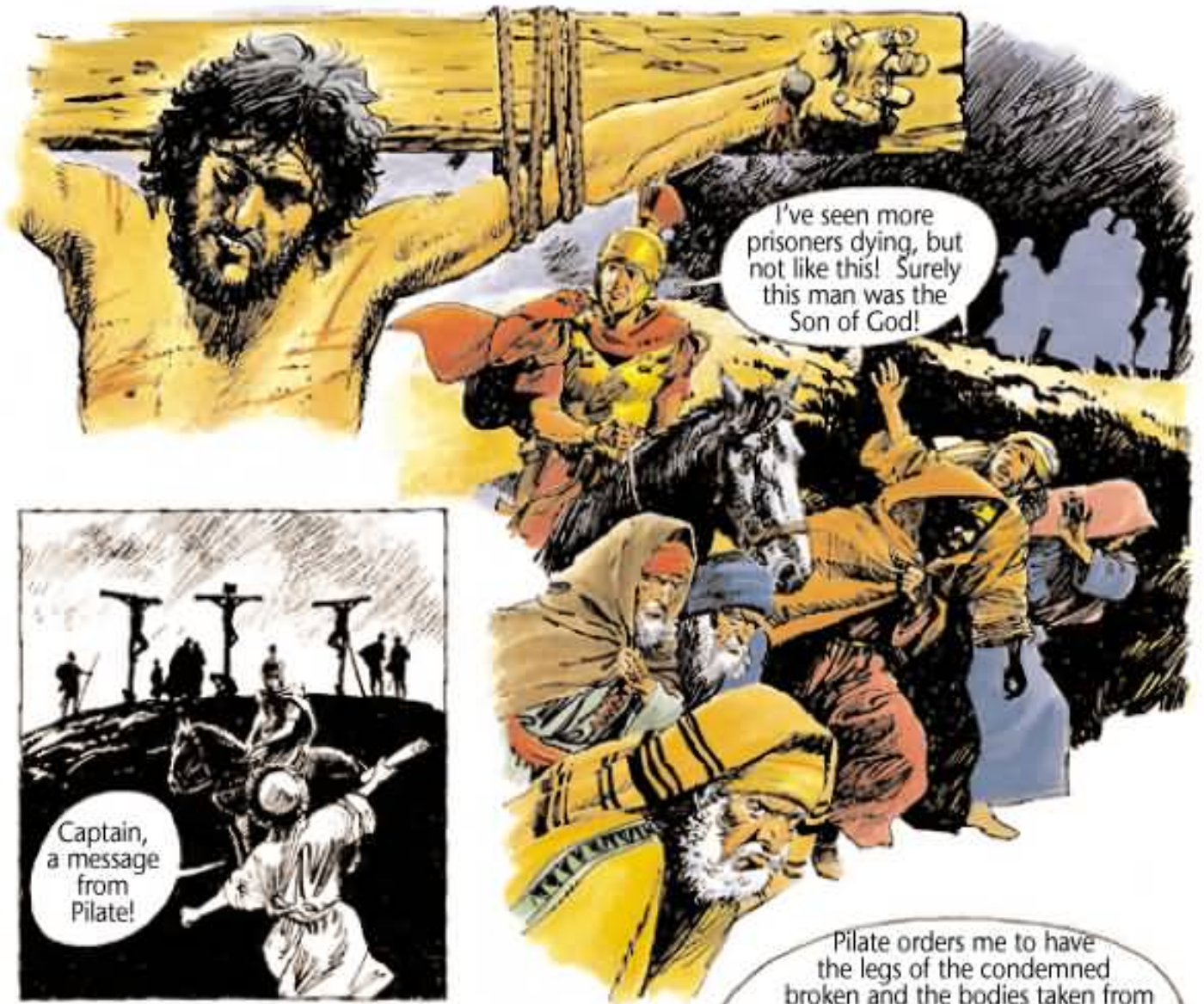
I tell you the  
truth: today you  
will be with me  
in Paradise!



Father, into  
Your hands  
I commit  
my spirit.

Look at those clouds!  
It's getting dark and it's only  
three o'clock in the afternoon.

What's  
happening  
to us?



I've seen more prisoners dying, but not like this! Surely this man was the Son of God!



Captain, a message from Pilate!

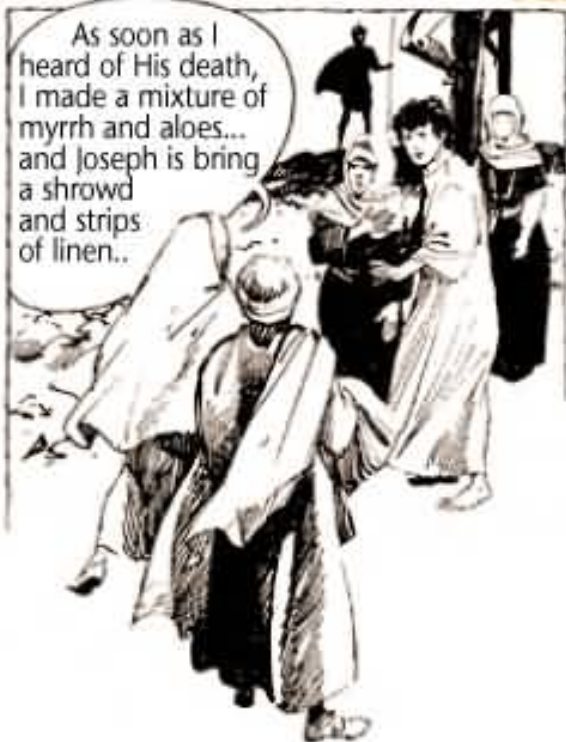
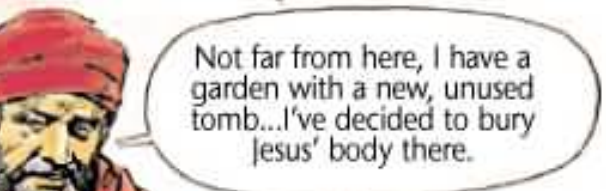
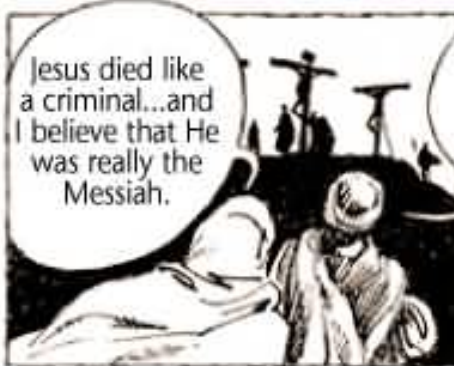


Pilate orders me to have the legs of the condemned broken and the bodies taken from the crosses. The Jews don't want the bodies left during the Sabbath, because that would bring a curse over the people!

Soldiers, break the legs of the condemned, so that they die quickly!



Meanwhile....





At last the heavy stone is rolled in front of the entrance of the tomb..





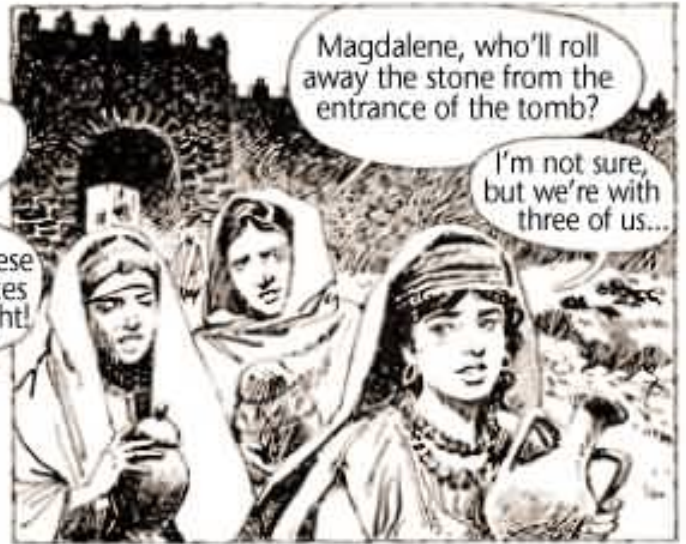
Early in the morning, on the day after Pass-over Sabbath, the women are going to the tomb...



Salome, last week we didn't have enough time...

...to prepare the body of Jesus properly...

...but with these first class spices we'll do it right!



Magdalene, who'll roll away the stone from the entrance of the tomb?

I'm not sure, but we're with three of us...



Look, the stone is away! The tomb is open!

Who could have been here before us? The sun has just risen.



Oh, how terrible, how horrible! They've taken Jesus' body away!

He is not here! What has happened?

All of a sudden, I remember: He has said He would rise from the dead!



Let's leave the spices here.... I'll run and tell the disciples!



John, Peter!  
I come directly from  
the tomb, but it  
is empty! Jesus'  
body is gone!

Let's go  
and look  
ourselves.



Peter,  
you go  
in first!



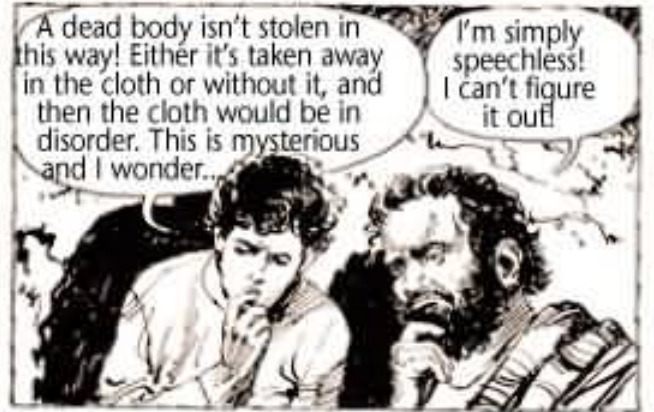
John, you're  
running too fast!  
I'm out of  
breath!



John, look here....



The linen in which  
Jesus' body was wrapped  
has not been touched!  
I wonder what  
has happened.



A dead body isn't stolen in  
this way! Either it's taken away  
in the cloth or without it, and  
then the cloth would be in  
disorder. This is mysterious  
and I wonder...

I'm simply  
speechless!  
I can't figure  
it out!



Let's go! We  
cannot do  
anything here.

Now I see it!  
I believe! He rose  
from the dead!

Mary Magdalene has returned to the tomb...wondering and weeping..



Why do you cry?  
What's the matter?



Gardener, if you  
have carried away  
His body, tell me  
where you have  
laid Him...



Mary!

Lord Jesus?!



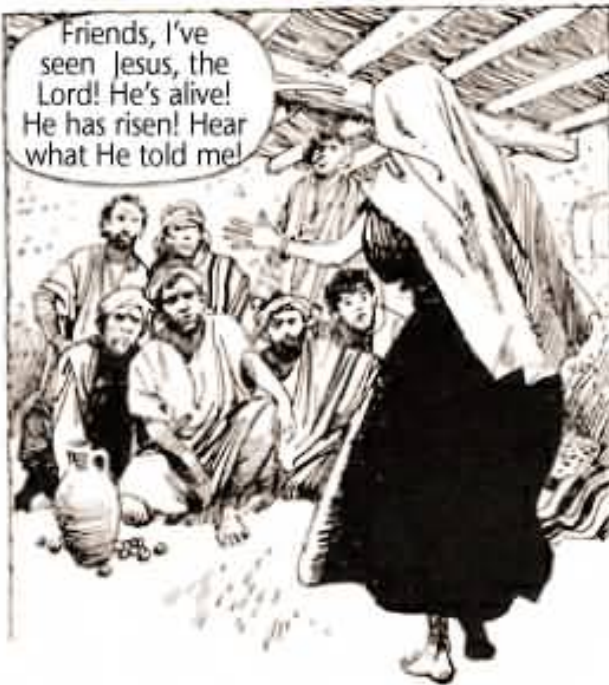


My Master!

Don't try to hold on to Me....



...for I'll return to My Father in heaven, but go and tell My disciples!



Friends, I've seen Jesus, the Lord! He's alive! He has risen! Hear what He told me!



Mary, your feelings overwhelm you!

Be sensible and reasonable. It's impossible!

Fantasies! All women's imaginations!

That same day, in the evening, two of the disciples travel from Jerusalem to Emmaus...



What a disappointment! I believed Jesus and thought He would be the Messiah the world is waiting for.



And instead He was sentenced to death and crucified like a criminal!

Yes, Cleopas, what a disappointment! I'm as confused as you are....



Shalom, friends! You seem to be sad... what are you discussing?

Try to explain; maybe I can help.



Don't you know the events that shook Jerusalem these days? The things about Jesus of Nazareth?



We had hoped that He was the One who would redeem Israel...

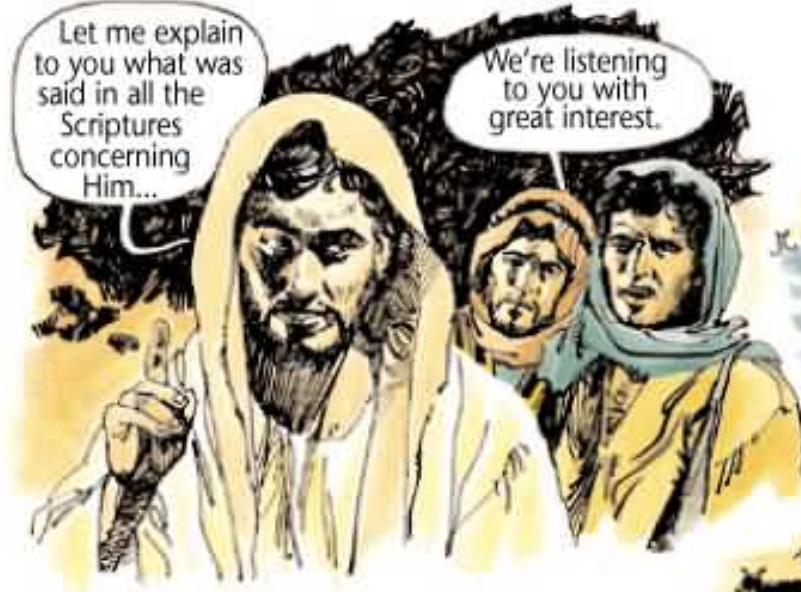
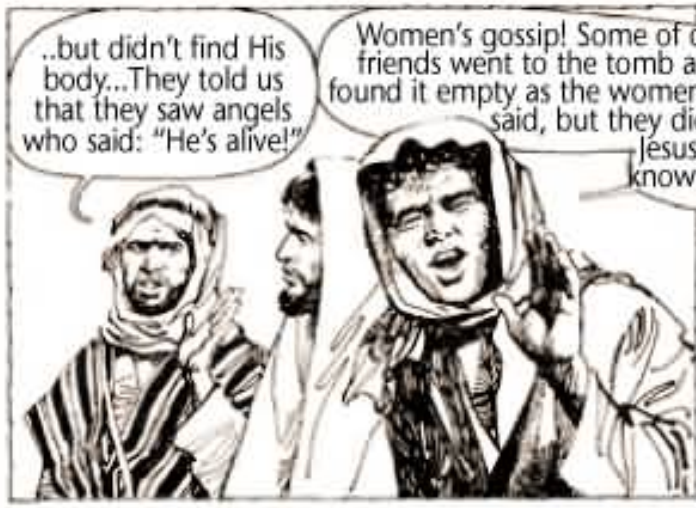
..yes, for He was the Christ. ... But it's over. It's the...

third day since all this took place and now He's dead.

Some of our women have amazed us...

...they went to the tomb early this morning....





One hour later...

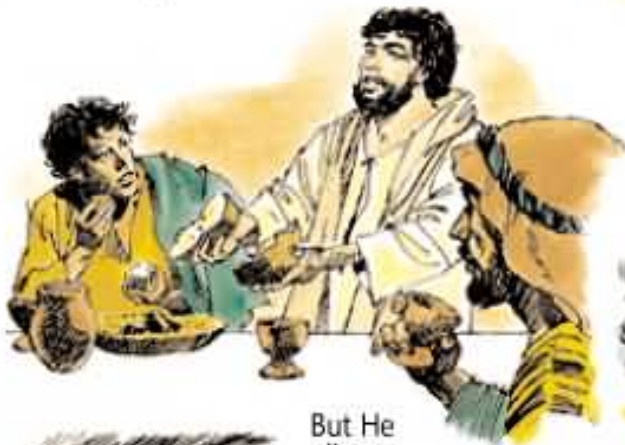




When they were at the table, He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them....



..then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him.



But He disappeared from their sight.



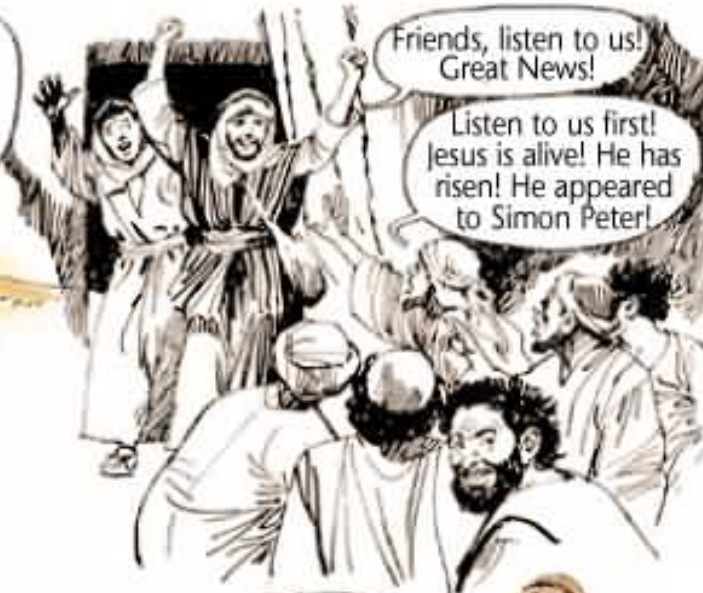
My heart was burning within me...when He explained the Scriptures to us!

And me too! At first I didn't understand...but He made everything so very clear!



Friends, listen to us! Great News!

Listen to us first! Jesus is alive! He has risen! He appeared to Simon Peter!



Now listen to me; we recognized Him when he broke the bread.



Suddenly, Jesus stands among them...

..Peace be with you, friends!



What am I seeing? Is this Jesus or do I see a ghost?

Why are you so unbelieving? Does a ghost have flesh and bones like I have?



Jesus lives! What a joy! Oh, He's really alive!

Some of you are still doubting... Do you have something to eat?



Here's a piece of broiled fish.

The Scriptures have announced that the Christ would suffer and be killed, but also that He would rise from the dead. You are all witnesses of this! Preach the Good News in all the world!





The risen Jesus had appeared to His disciples on the evening of the day after the Pass-over. A week later they met again...



Then you would have found out that you were entertaining illusions!

Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my hand into His side, I won't believe it! Never!



Suddenly they see  
Jesus standing among  
them...

Peace be  
with you,  
friends!

Thomas...

Come to Me!



Now put your  
finger here, see  
my hands!

..and lay your hand  
into My side!

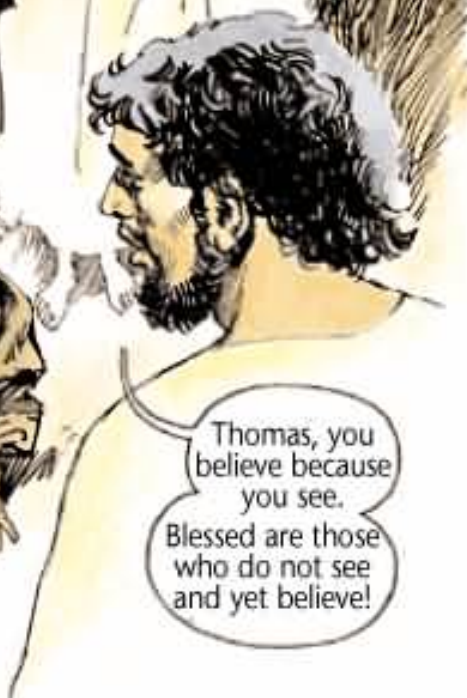
Stop  
doubting  
and  
believe!



I believe  
You, my Lord  
and my God!



Thomas, you  
believe because  
you see.  
Blessed are those  
who do not see  
and yet believe!





Friends,  
I'm going  
fishing tonight!

We will come  
with you...

That night  
they caught  
nothing.

At day break  
Jesus stands on  
the shore....



Hello, have  
you any fish?

No, we  
caught  
nothing!

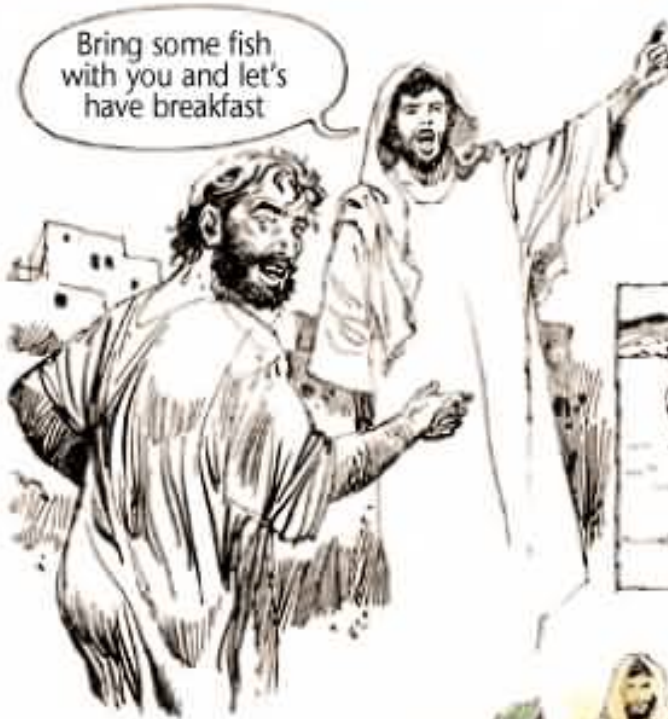
A real bad  
night! We are  
totally exhausted  
and we caught  
nothing!





A moment afterwards,  
while they haul in the net...







# God's Love For You

For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him, shall not perish, but have eternal life. (**John 3:16**)

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (**Romans 5:8**)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (**Romans 3:23**)

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men - the testimony given in its proper time. (**1 Timothy 2:5**)

Jesus answered: I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (**John 14:6**)

And the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (**1 John 1: 7-9**)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith -and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works so that no one can boast. (**Ephesians 2:8,9**)

God, have mercy on me, a sinner. (**Luke 18:13**)

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved. (**Acts 16:31**)

the good news is:

**Jesus has risen from the dead**

**He Lives!**

Prayer: Jesus, I believe with all my heart,  
that you also died for my sins.  
I confess all my sins and ask for your forgiveness.  
Come and live in my heart,  
from now on in my life it shall be:  
Not my will, but your will shall be done.  
I thank you that you want to be my Saviour.  
Amen!