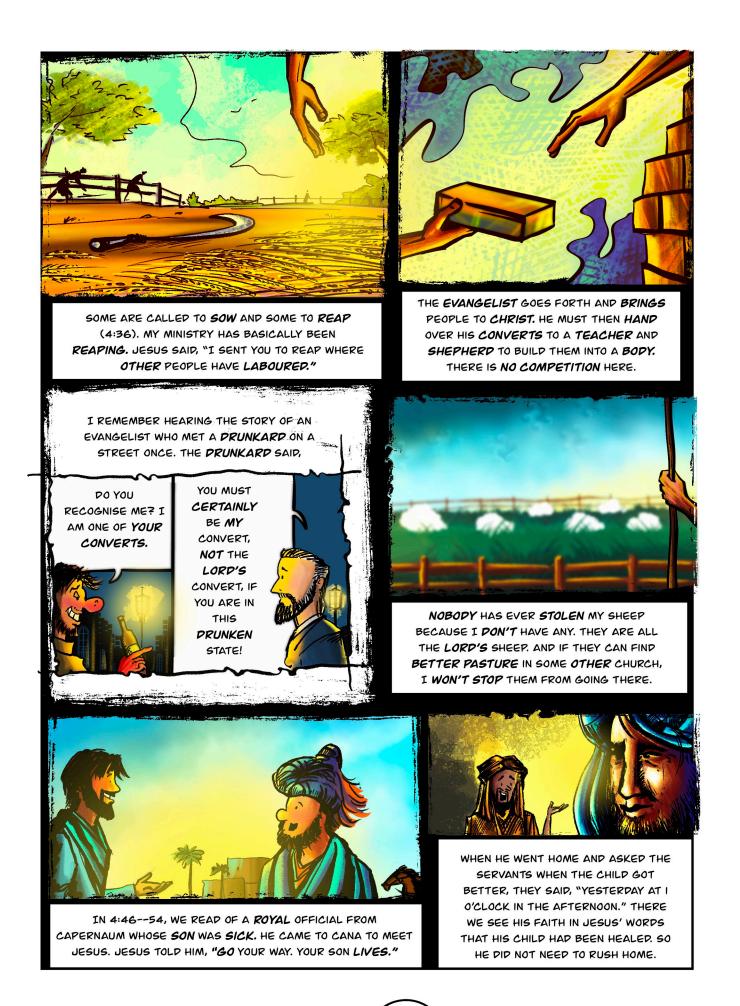
Through the Bible

Zac Poonen



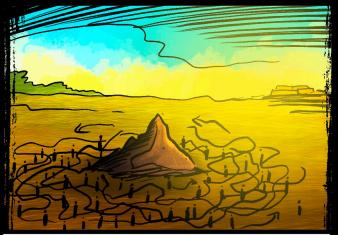
Illustrations by Vinay Kuruvilla

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IN THEM ARE A GREAT MULTITUDE OF SPIRITUALLY BLIND, SICK, LAME AND WITHERED BELIEVERS. JESUS HAS TO COME AND HEAL THEM. ONE MAN HAD BEEN LYING THERE FOR 38 YEARS.



THE PERIOD OF 38 YEARS WAS THE LENGTH OF TIME THAT GOD **PUNISHED** THE ISRAELITES WITH **WANDERING**, FOR NOT **ENTERING CANAAN**. (DEUT 2 : 14)



THIS LAME MAN SYMBOLISES BELIEVERS,
LIVING A LIFE UNDER THE LAW... PEFEATED AND
UNABLE TO WALK IN VICTORY OVER SIN. HE HAD
TRIED FOR 38 YEARS TO GET INTO THE POOL AS
SOON AS THE ANGEL STIRRED THE WATER. BUT
HE FAILED EVERY YEAR AND FINALLY GAVE UP.



THEN **JESUS** COMES, AND YOU ENTER INTO VICTORY IN A **MOMENT.** THIS MIRACLE IS A SIGN AND A PARABLE. IN THE WILDERNESS, DURING THOSE 38 YEARS, ALL THE MEN OF WAR **PIED**. MAN'S **EFFORTS** AND **ENERGY** HAVE TO **PIE**. THE LORD WAITS UNTIL WE REACH A **ZERO POINT**, BEFORE HE COMES.



IN 5:14, JESUS WARNED THIS MAN NOT TO SIN
AGAIN LEST HE GET A WORSE SICKNESS. SO
THIS MAN'S SICKNESS WAS CAUSED BY SIN.
SOME SICKNESSES ARE CAUSED BY SIN AND
CANNOT BE HEALED UNTIL THE SIN IS
CONFESSED AND SET RIGHT AND CLEANSED.



WHEN THE JEWS ASKED JESUS WHY HE WAS HEALING PEOPLE ON THE SABBATH DAY, HE REPLIED, "BECAUSE MY FATHER IS WORKING ON THE SABBATH" (5:17). GOD THE FATHER DOES NOT HAVE ANY SABBATH-HOLIDAY NOW. THE ONLY SABBATH GOD EVER HAD WAS THE ONE MENTIONED IN GENESIS 2:2, BEFORE MAN FELL INTO SIN. EVER SINCE, GOD HAS BEEN WORKING, BECAUSE MAN HAS FALLEN.



JESUS WAS A FULL TIME WORKER -- HE WORKED 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK. SATAN WORKS "DAY AND NIGHT" TOO -- ACCUSING THE SAINTS (REVELATION 12:11). GOD WANTS EVERY CHILD OF HIS TO BE EQUALLY WHOLEHEARTED AND AVAILABLE TO HIM -- EVEN IF THEY ARE WORKING IN A SECULAR JOB.



IN 5:30, JESUS SAID, "I NEVER DO ANYTHING ON MY OWN INITIATIVE." THAT MEANS THAT HE ALWAYS WAITED ON HIS FATHER TO KNOW WHAT TO DO. HE DID THINGS WHEN HIS FATHER TOLD HIM TO. THAT WAS WHY HE NEVER TURNED STONES INTO BREAD



THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE WAIT FOR VOCAL COMMANDS FROM HEAVEN ALL THE TIME. THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN US SPEAKS TO US BY PROMPTING US IN OUR SPIRIT TO DO SOMETHING AND ALSO BY RESTRAINING US IN OUR SPIRIT FROM DOING SOMETHING ELSE.



IN 5:34, 41, JESUS SAID, "I DO **NOT** RECEIVE **TESTIMONY** FROM **MEN....** I DO NOT RECEIVE **GLORY** FROM MEN." JESUS WAS SATISFIED WITH THE TESTIMONY THAT HIS **FATHER** GAVE ABOUT HIM. HE DIDN'T **WANT** ANYONE ELSE'S TESTIMONY.

IN 5:44, HE SAID THAT IT IS THE **PESIRE** TO **RECEIVE GLORY** FROM MAN THAT **HINDERS** US FROM HAVING A **LIVING FAITH**.



SATAN IS NOT SCARED OF ANYONE BECAUSE OF HIS THEOLOGICAL DEGREES. IN THE SECULAR WORLD, YOU NEED DEGREES BECAUSE IT IS ONLY THUS THAT YOU CAN GET A JOB. BUT IN THE LORD'S WORK, IT SERVES NO PURPOSE AT ALL. IT IS FAITH THAT YOU NEED IN THE LORD'S WORK.

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will certainly not cast out John 6:37



IN 6:37, JESUS SAID, "." TWO STATEMENTS IN THIS VERSE HELPED ME GREATLY -- ONE IN MY LIFE AND THE OTHER IN MY MINISTRY.



THE SECOND HALF OF JOHN 6:37 GAVE ME PERFECT ASSURANCE OF MY SALVATION IN JULY 1959. I HAD BEEN TOSSED ABOUT, UNSURE OF MY SALVATION, FOR ABOUT 6 YEARS PRIOR TO THAT TIME. BUT ON THAT DAY, I BELIEVED THIS WORD FROM THE LORD AND IT WAS LIKE DROPPING AN ANCHOR. I NEVER DOUBTED MY SALVATION AFTER THAT.

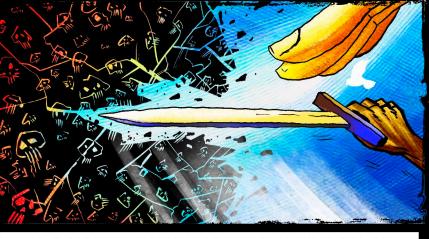
THE FIRST HALF OF THAT VERSE HELPED ME IN MY MINISTRY. I REALISED THAT ALL THOSE WHOM I AM CALLED BY GOD TO SERVE WILL COME TO ME. GOD HAS MANY SERVANTS ON EARTH AND HE ALLOTS WHO ALL EACH SERVANT IS TO SERVE.



IN 6:38, WE HAVE THE CLEAREST DESCRIPTION (IN A SINGLE SENTENCE) OF WHY JESUS CAME TO EARTH: "I CAME FROM HEAVEN NOT TO DO MY OWN WILL (THAT IS, "TO PENY MY OWN WILL") BUT TO DO THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME." HIS COMING IN OUR FLESH BASICALLY MEANS THAT HE THEREBY GOT A HUMAN WILL THAT WAS DIFFERENT FROM HIS FATHER'S WILL



ONE PART OF THE FATHER'S WILL WAS TO PIE FOR OUR SINS. ANOTHER PART WAS TO BE AN EXAMPLE FOR US TO FOLLOW FOR 33 AND A HALF YEARS OF HIS LIFE. HE SAID "NO" TO HIS HUMAN WILL AND "YES" TO HIS FATHER'S WILL EVERY SINGLE MOMENT OF HIS EARTHLY LIFE. THAT WAS WHY HE NEVER SINNED.



ALL TEMPTATION IS ESSENTIALLY TO MAKE YOU PO YOUR OWN WILL. IF YOU SAY "NO" TO YOUR OWN WILL, YOU PENY YOURSELF AND PIE TO YOUR SELF-LIFE (YOU TAKE UP THE CROSS). THEN YOU OVERCOME TEMPTATION AND GET THE VICTORY. THEN YOU WILL PO THE FATHER'S WILL. IT IS HERE THAT WE ALL NEED THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT -- TO PUT OUR OWN WILL TO PEATH.



PAVIP COULPN'T KILL GOLIATH
WITHOUT GOP'S POWER. YOU CAN PUT
YOU SELF TO PEATH ALL THE TIME IN
THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.



CHAPTER 6 BEGINS WITH A *GREAT MULTITUDE* (VERSE 2), AND ENDS WITH *II* PEOPLE (VERSE 70). IF YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW TO IMPROVE THE *QUALITY* OF YOUR CHURCH AND REDUCE ITS SIZE, YOU CAN *LEARN* FROM *JESUS* IN THIS CHAPTER. GOD HAS ALWAYS ACCOMPLISHED HIS *PURPOSES* WITH A *CHOSEN* FEW.



HERE WE SEE HOW JESUS PIP IT. HE PREACHED BEING

CRUCIFIED WITH HIM (= EAT MY FLESH AND DRINK MY BLOOD -
VERSE 56). THIS OFFENDED MOST PEOPLE IN THIS GREAT

MULTITUDE AND MOST OF HIS DISCIPLES LEFT HIM



AND JESUS NEVER ASKED ANY OF THEM TO STAY. HE EVEN TURNED TO THE IZ WHO WERE LEFT AND ASKED THEM IF THEY ALSO WANTED TO GO. JESUS WASN'T GOING TO LOWER THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR DISCIPLESHIP TO SUIT ANYONE'S TASTES."



TOPAY, PREACHERS INVITE PEOPLE TO COME TO JESUS TO BE **BLESSEP FINANCIALLY** AND TO BE **HEALEP PHYSICALLY**. WHO WILL NOT WANT TO COME TO A "JESUS" WHO OFFERS YOU SUCH THINGS. BUT THAT IS "ANOTHER JESUS".

MANY BELIEVERS WHO DON'T PREACH PROSPERITY STILL BELIEVE THAT THAT IS THE MARK OF GOD'S BLESSING ON THEM. THIS IS A DECEPTION.

LOOK AT THE MULTITUDES OF CROOKED BUSINESS-MEN OF EVERY RELIGION WHO ARE MAKING MONEY AND IMAGINING THAT GOD HAS BLESSED THEM!



THERE IS ONLY **ONE MARK** OF **GOD'S** BLESSING -- THAT YOU ARE BECOMING **MORE** AND **MORE** LIKE **CHRIST.** THE **REAL** JESUS INVITES US TO "**COME** AND **PIE.**" JESUS SAID THAT ONLY **FEW** WILL FIND THE **WAY** TO **LIFE** (MATTHEW 7:14).



THAT LASTS FOR ALL ETERNITY.







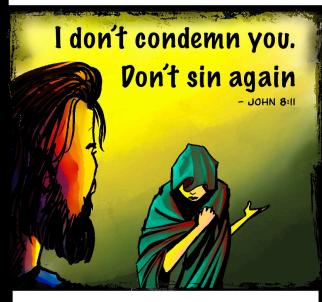


MANY PREACHERS FLING STONES AT PEOPLE WHEN THEY PREACH. JESUS NEVER HAS ANY STONE TO THROW AT ANYONE.



IN 8:1--12, WE READ THE BEAUTIFUL STORY OF THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN APULTERY WHOM THE PHARISEES WANTED TO STONE. THERE ARE MANY PHARISEES TOPAY TOO WHOSE POCKETS ARE ALWAYS FULL OF STONES TO BE THROWN AT OTHERS.

WE NEVER SEE JESUS IN THE GOSPELS
CRITICISING MURPERERS, THIEVES AND
APULTERERS. BUT WE DO SEE HIM
CONDEMNING THE PHARISEES AND RELIGIOUS
HYPOCRITES IN THE SYNAGOGUES TO HELL.



BUT TO THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN **APULTERY**, HE SAID, "I **PON'T CONDEMN** YOU. DON'T **SIN** AGAIN" (8:II). IN THOSE TWO SENTENCES WE HAVE THE **FULL GOSPEL**-- **JUSTIFICATION** AND **SANCTIFICATION**.



JESUS HAD TOLD THE PHARISEES, "HE WHO IS WITHOUT SIN, LET HIM CAST THE FIRST STONE" (8:7).
WE NEED TO REMIND OURSELVES OF TWO THINGS:
I. THE PIT FROM WHICH GOD PULLED US OUT;
2. THE SIN THAT STILL DWELLS IN OUR FLESH TODAY.

