

Through the Bible

JOHN-III

Zac Poonen



Illustrations by Vinay Kuruvilla

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CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

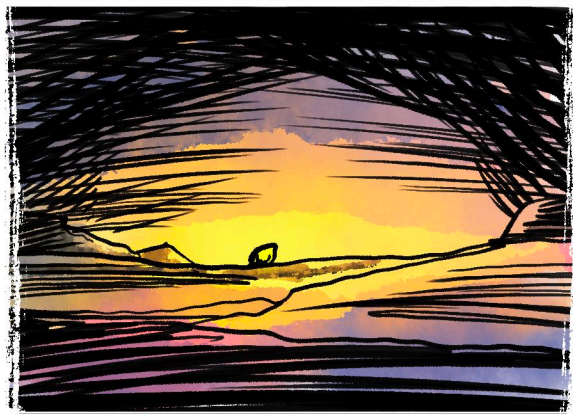
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THEN HE DID THE **DIFFICULT** PART -- **RAISING LAZARUS** FROM THE **DEAD**. AFTER THAT, THE PEOPLE WERE AGAIN ASKED TO DO THE **EASY** PART -- **REMOVE HIS GRAVE CLOTHES** AND SET HIM FREE. THE NEW COVENANT IS A PARTNERSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST.



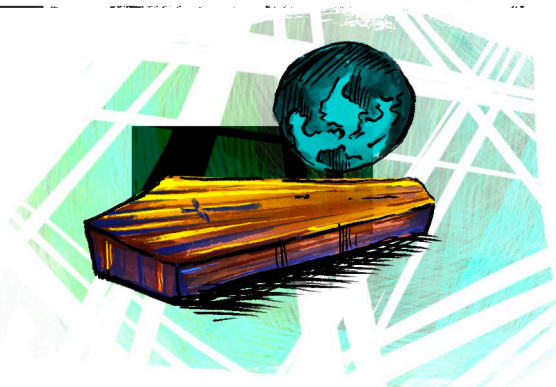
WE TAKE **HIS** YOKE UPON US AND WORK **TOGETHER** WITH HIM. WE DO THE **EASY** PART AND HE DOES THE **DIFFICULT** PART. THIS IS THE **SECRET** OF **EFFECTIVE** MINISTRY.



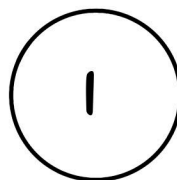
IN 12:24--26, WE SEE THE **SECRET** OF **FRUITFULNESS**. WE HAVE TO **FALL** INTO THE **GROUND** AND **DIE** AS A GRAIN OF WHEAT FALLS INTO THE **GROUND** AND **DIES**. IF IT DOES **NOT** DIE, IT WILL BE **ALONE**.



IF IT **DIES** IT WILL BRING FORTH **MUCH FRUIT**. THIS IS THE **WAY** OF THE **CROSS** WHICH IS HARDLY SPOKEN OF IN CHRISTENDOM TODAY. WE MUST TAKE UP THE **CROSS EVERY DAY** AND **PROCLAIM** THIS WAY TO OTHERS AS WELL -- THE WAY OF **DYING** TO OUR **REPUTATION**, OUR **HONOUR** AND OUR **OWN CHOICES**.



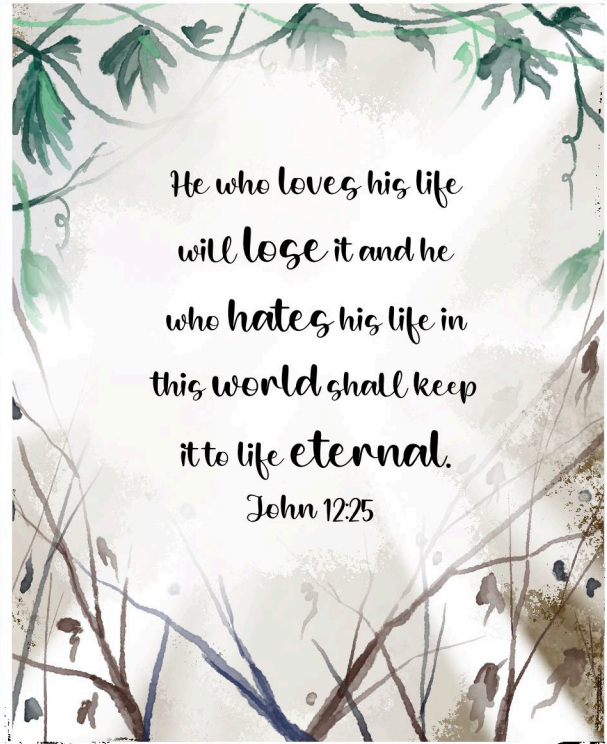
THE SECRET OF OVERCOMING SIN IS ALSO HERE. **DEAD** PEOPLE **CAN'T** SIN. IF YOU **KICK** OR **INSULT** A **DEAD** MAN, HE WON'T **RESPOND** IN ANY WAY. EVEN IF YOU **PRAISE** HIM, HE WON'T **RESPOND**. THIS IS HOW WE ARE CALLED TO LIVE: "CONSIDER YOURSELF **DEAD**..." (ROMANS 6:11).



BIBLE-KNOWLEDGE
IS GOOD; BUT THAT
ALONE WILL NOT
BRING FORTH **FRUIT**.
EVEN **SATAN** KNOWS
THE BIBLE. IF YOU ARE
FILLED WITH THE **HOLY**
SPIRIT AS WELL, THEN
THAT IS EVEN BETTER.
IT'S **GOOD** FOR THE
RAIN TO FALL, BUT ANY
AMOUNT OF **RAIN** WILL
NOT PRODUCE A **CROP**.
THERE HAS TO BE A
SEED IN THE **GROUND**
THAT HAS **DIED**.



He who loves his life
will lose it and he
who hates his life in
this world shall keep
it to life eternal.
John 12:25



HE WHO
LOSES HIS
LIFE FOR
JESUS
SAKE ..

.. SHALL
FIND
IT



IF YOU SEEK TO **SAVE** YOUR **EARTHLY** LIFE,
YOUR **REPUTATION**, YOUR **AMBITIONS**, ETC.
THEN AT THE **END** OF YOUR LIFE YOU WILL BE
A **FRUSTRATED**, **DISCOURAGED** MAN. BUT IF
YOU ARE **WILLING** TO **GIVE** IT ALL UP FOR THE
LORD AND FOR THE **GOSPEL'S** SAKE, YOU
WILL FIND **ETERNAL FRUIT** WAITING FOR YOU
WHEN YOU **END** YOUR LIFE ON EARTH.



IN 12:42, 43, WE READ THE **REASON** WHY MANY TODAY DO **NOT**
PROCLAIM THE **WHOLE** COUNSEL OF GOD AND **STAND** FOR HIM:
"**MANY** OF THE **RULERS** **BELIEVED** IN HIM, BUT BECAUSE OF THE
PHARISEES THEY WERE **NOT** **CONFESSING** HIM, LEST THEY
SHOULD BE **PUT OUT** OF THE **SYNAGOGUE**; FOR THEY LOVED
THE **APPROVAL** OF **MEN** MORE THAN THE **APPROVAL** OF **GOD**."



IN 13:5, WE SEE JESUS AT THE **END**
OF HIS LIFE, AT THE **FEET** OF HIS
DISCIPLES, **WASHING** THEM. THAT IS
A **GOOD** **EXAMPLE** FOR US TO KEEP IN
MIND AND FOLLOW, BECAUSE WE
HARDLY SEE ANY **EXAMPLES** LIKE
THAT **TODAY**. **MOST** **CHRISTIAN**
LEADERS WANT TO **SIT** ON PEOPLE'S
HEADS AND **NOT** AT THEIR **FEET**!



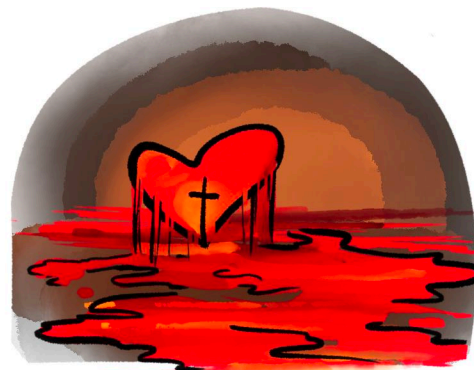
IN 13:7 IS A WORD THAT WE CAN RECEIVE **COMFORT** FROM IN SITUATIONS WHERE WE **CANNOT** UNDERSTAND WHY GOD HAS **PERMITTED** US TO FACE SOME **DIFFICULT** SITUATION.



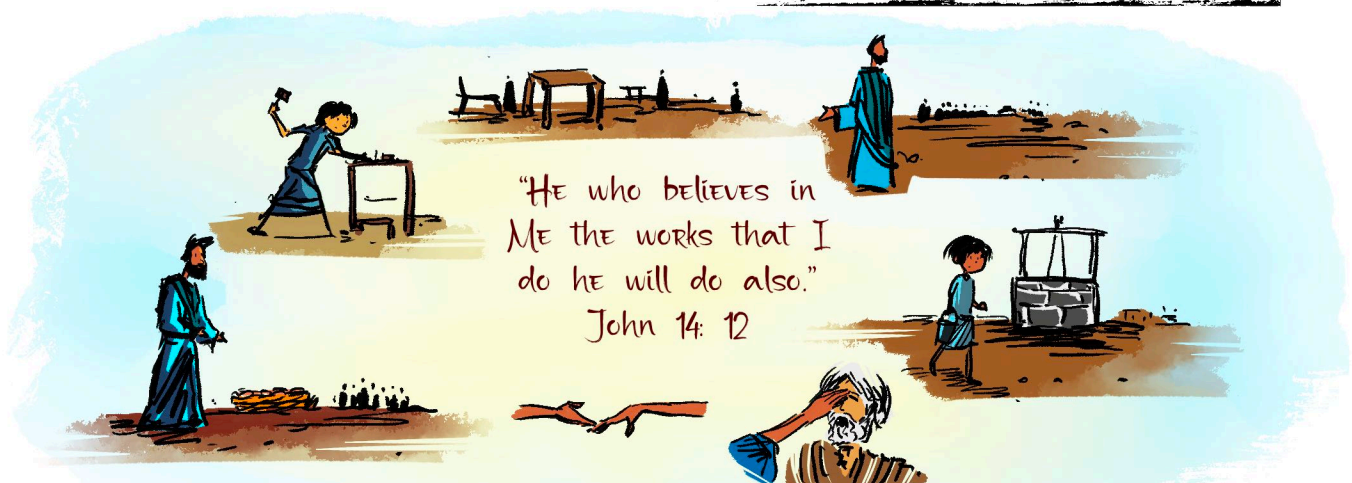
WHAT IS THE IDENTIFYING MARK OF GOD'S PEOPLE? IT IS NOT CARRYING A BIBLE, SPEAKING IN TONGUES, HAVING A CROSS ON OUR CHURCH BUILDING OR ANY SUCH THING. IT IS LOVE.



YOUR LOVE WILL BE TESTED WHEN YOU HAVE TO LOVE A BELIEVER WHO IS **BORN AGAIN**, BUT WHO IS FROM A **DIFFERENT COMMUNITY**, OR WHO **DISAGREES** WITH YOU, OR WHO HAS A **DIFFERENT MINISTRY** FROM YOURS. WE MUST LEARN TO LOVE PEOPLE WHO **DON'T** LOVE US, WHO **DON'T** GIVE US GIFTS AND WHO **DON'T** PRAISE US BUT **CRITICISE** US. THEN WE WILL **KNOW** WHETHER WE HAVE THE LOVE OF GOD OR NOT.



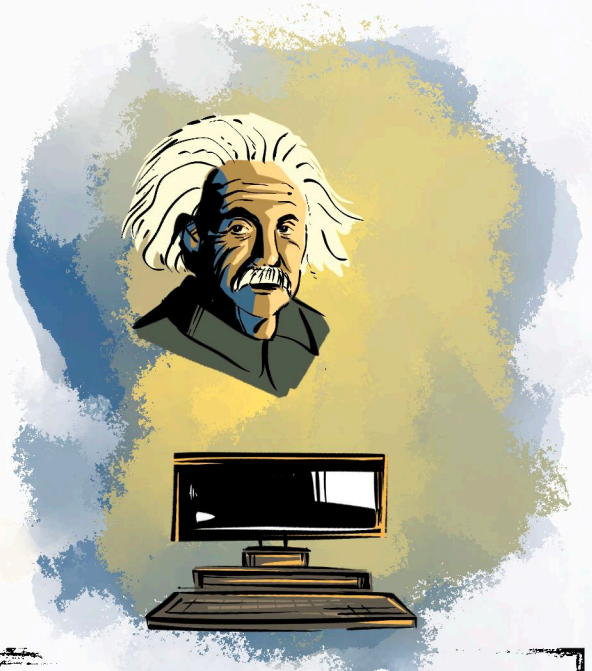
HUMAN LOVE REQUIRES A **RESPONSE** FROM THE **OTHER PERSON**. BUT **DIVINE LOVE** IS **UNIQUE** IN THIS WAY THAT IT DOES NOT REQUIRE A RESPONSE. GOD **KEEPS ON LOVING** WHETHER MAN RESPONDS OR NOT. AND GOD CAN **FLOOD MY HEART** WITH HIS LOVE.



HE WAS **NOT** SAYING THAT ALL BELIEVERS WOULD **RAISE THE DEAD** OR WALK ON **WATER**. HE WAS SAYING THAT ALL BELIEVERS WOULD BE ABLE TO DO THE **WILL OF GOD** (WHATEVER IT WAS FOR THEIR OWN LIVES) -- BECAUSE ALL THE **WORKS** JESUS DID IN HIS ENTIRE LIFE (INCLUDING HIS LIFE AS A **SON**, ELDER **BROTHER** AND **CARPENTER**) ON EARTH COULD BE SUMMED UP IN ONE PHRASE: "THE **WILL OF GOD**" (JOHN 6:38).



THEN JESUS SAID, "**GREATER** WORKS THAN THESE SHALL HE DO" (14:12). WHAT WAS THE **ONE** THING THAT JESUS COULD **NOT** DO DURING HIS ENTIRE 3 1/2 YEARS OF HIS MINISTRY? HE COULD **NOT** MAKE **TWO DISCIPLES** ONE WITH EACH OTHER. ALL TWELVE OF THEM WERE **FIGHTING** TO BE THE LEADER AT THE **LAST SUPPER**. THIS WAS **NOT** DUE TO ANY FAULT IN JESUS. IT WAS BECAUSE THEY DID NOT HAVE THE **HOLY SPIRIT DWELLING** WITHIN THEM.



ALBERT **EINSTEIN** WAS A GREAT **SCIENTIST**. COMPARED TO HIM, WE ARE ALL QUITE **IGNORANT**. BUT WE CAN DO **MATHEMATICAL** CALCULATIONS TODAY **FASTER** THAN EINSTEIN COULD -- BECAUSE WE HAVE ACCESS TO **COMPUTERS**. WE HAVE GREATER **FACILITIES** THAN HE HAD IN HIS DAY. IN THE SAME WAY, WE ARE NOT **GREATER** THAN **JESUS**. BUT WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT HAVING COME TO DWELL WITHIN US NOW, WE HAVE GREATER RESOURCES TO BRING BELIEVERS TO ONENESS THAN JESUS HAD.



IN 14:15, JESUS TELLS US THE **RIGHT** MOTIVE FOR OBEDIENCE UNDER THE NEW COVENANT. UNDER THE OLD COVENANT THE MOTIVE FOR **OBEDIENCE** WAS THE FEAR OF **PUNISHMENT** AND THE HOPE OF **REWARD** (SEE DEUTERONOMY 28: "IF YOU OBEY GOD, YOU WILL BE BLESSED. IF YOU **DON'T** OBEY GOD YOU WILL BE CURSED."). THAT IS THE WAY WE MAKE OUR CHILDREN OBEY US. BUT WE DON'T MAKE OUR GROWN SONS OBEY WITH A CHOCOLATE (REWARD) AND A STICK (PUNISHMENT) WE WANT THEM TO OBEY US OUT OF LOVE.



IN THE **NEW COVENANT**, THE LORD TREATS US LIKE **GROWN UP SONS** AND **NOT** LIKE **LITTLE CHILDREN**. SO HE SAYS, "IF YOU **LOVE ME** KEEP MY **COMMANDMENTS**" (14:15). IF WE DON'T LOVE THE LORD, THEN OUR **OBEDIENCE** BECOMES MERE **DEAD WORKS**.



IN CHAPTERS 14 TO 16, JESUS SPEAKS AT LENGTH ABOUT THE COMING OF THE **HOLY SPIRIT** AND ABOUT HIS MINISTRY. IN 14:16, HE CALLED THE HOLY SPIRIT A "**HELPER**" AND "**FRIEND**" (MSG). THIS IS OUR **GREATEST NEED** -- A **HELPER** AND A **FRIEND**.



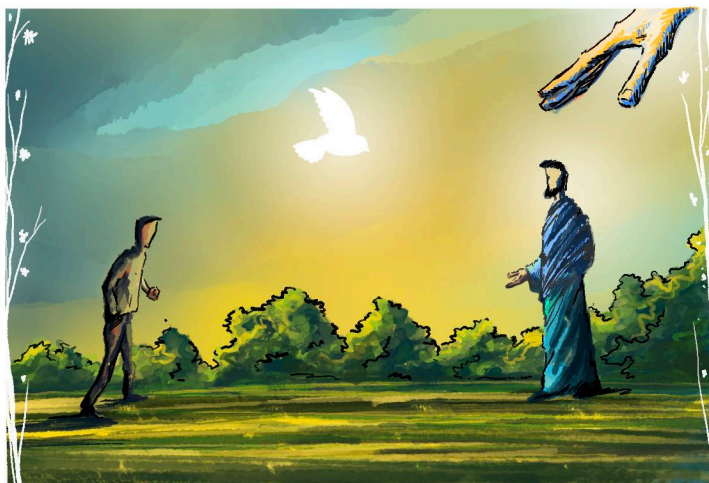
JESUS SAID THAT WHEN THE **SPIRIT** IS COME, WE WILL **NO LONGER** BE **ORPHANS** (14:18).



IN 15:26, 27, HE SAID THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD **BACK** US UP AS WE **WITNESS** FOR HIM. THAT MEANS THAT WHEN WE GET UP TO **PREACH**, THE **HOLY SPIRIT** WILL **SPEAK** TO PEOPLE'S **HEARTS** AND SAY, "**LISTEN** TO THAT. THAT IS FROM **GOD**." WHAT A **DIFFERENCE** THAT CAN MAKE IN OUR **MINISTRY**.



IT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT'S JOB TO **CONVICT** PEOPLE IN THE WORLD OF THEIR **SIN** -- AS WE **PREACH** (16:8).



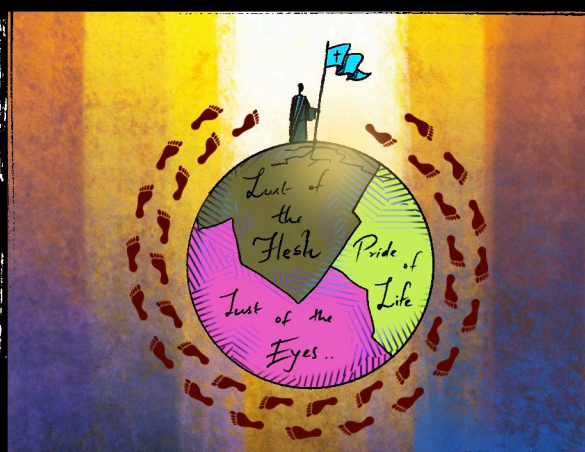
THEN IN 16:13, JESUS SAID THAT THE **SPIRIT** WOULD GUIDE US INTO ALL THE **TRUTH** -- THAT REFERS FIRST OF ALL TO THE **TRUTH** ABOUT **GOD** AND **JESUS** REVEALED IN THE SCRIPTURES



SPIRIT WOULD GUIDE US, SECONDLY TO ALL THE TRUTH ABOUT **OURSELVES** -- OUR **SIN**, OUR **SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS**, OUR **SELFISHNESS**, OUR **PRIDE** AND EVERY AREA OF **UN-CHRISTLIKENESS** IN US.



HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HIS DISCIPLES WOULD FACE **TRIBULATION, PERSECUTION** AND **SUFFERING** FROM THE WORLD. HE DID **NOT** PROMISE US **PROSPERITY** AND **EASE**. BUT HE SAID HE HAD **OVERCOME** THE **WORLD** AND SO WE NEED **NOT** BE **AFRAID**.



WHAT WAS "THE WORLD" THAT JESUS OVERCAME? THE WORLD IS DEFINED IN 1 JOHN 2:16 AS "THE **LUST OF THE FLESH**, THE **LUST OF THE EYES** AND THE **PRIDE OF LIFE**." THIS IS WHAT JESUS **OVERCAME** -- BECAUSE HE WAS **TEMPTED** IN ALL POINTS AS **WE** ARE AND YET DID **NOT** SIN (HEBREWS 4:15). NOW WE CAN FOLLOW IN HIS **FOOTSTEPS** AND **OVERCOME** AS HE DID (SEE REVELATION 3:21).



IN CHAPTER 17, WE HAVE THE **LONGEST** PRAYER IN THE **NEW TESTAMENT** -- AND IN IT WE SEE THE **BURDEN** OF JESUS' HEART.



IN VERSE 2, WE READ, "FATHER, YOU GAVE ME **AUTHORITY** OVER ALL **FLESH**, ALL **MANKIND**, TO GIVE THEM **ETERNAL LIFE**." THIS IS A GOOD WORD FOR **LEADERS** TO MEDITATE ON. **WHY** DOES GOD GIVE US **AUTHORITY** OVER OTHER BELIEVERS? IT IS NOT TO **RULE** OVER THEM, OR TO MAKE THEM **SERVE** ME, BUT TO LEAD THEM TO **ETERNAL LIFE** -- THE LIFE OF **GOD** HIMSELF -- TO MAKE THEM **PARTAKE** OF THE **DIVINE NATURE**.

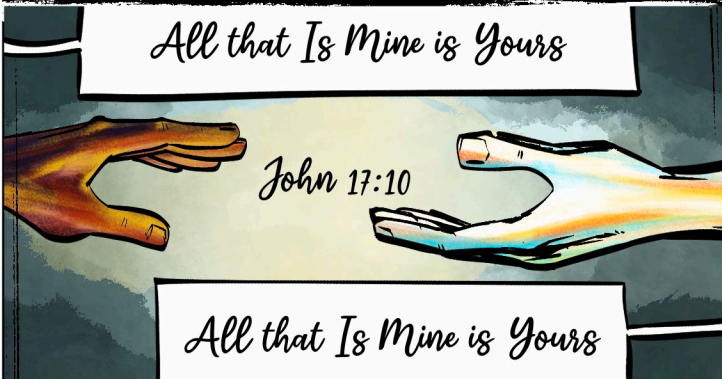
this is life
eternal,
that they might know
you, the only *true*
GOD, and
Jesus Christ
whom you have sent
John 17:3

AND THEN IN VERSE 3, HE TELLS US THAT WE CAN PARTAKE OF THAT ETERNAL LIFE ONLY THROUGH KNOWING GOD AND JESUS CHRIST PERSONALLY.



IN VERSE 9, HE SAYS, "I DON'T PRAY ON BEHALF OF THE WORLD, BUT FOR THESE WHOM YOU HAVE GIVEN ME." THERE WE SEE THAT OUR PRIMARY BURDEN OF PRAYER MUST BE NOT FOR THE WORLD BUT FOR GOD'S CHILDREN.

All that Is Mine is Yours



All that Is Mine is Yours

IN 17:10, WE SEE A BEAUTIFUL EXCHANGE -- THAT WE CAN ALSO DO. HERE WE SEE THE REASON WHY JESUS HAD SUCH TREMENDOUS AUTHORITY IN HIS LIFE. IT IS WHEN WE GIVE OUR ALL TO GOD THAT HE COMMITS HIS ALL TO US AS WELL.

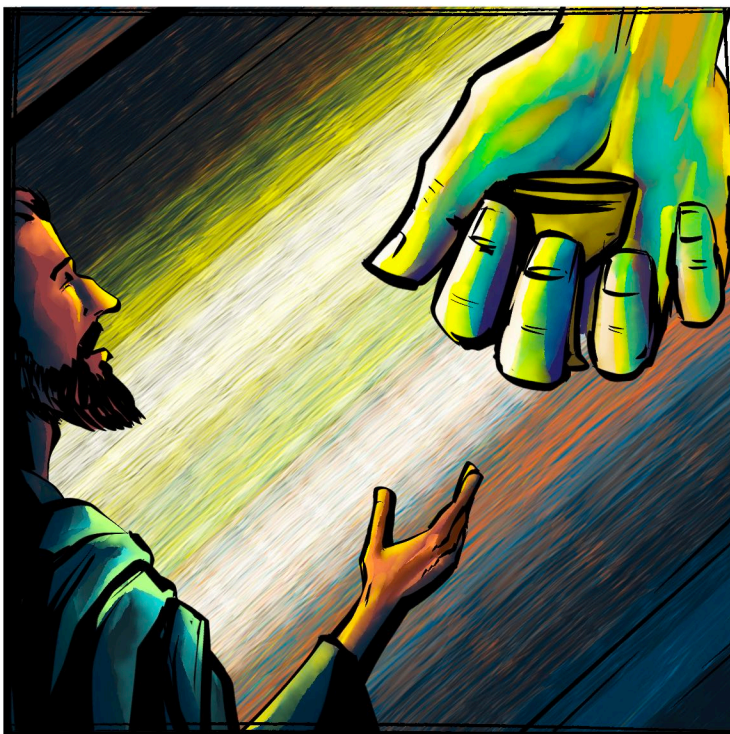


17:23 IS ONE OF THE LOVELIEST VERSES IN THE WHOLE BIBLE. MANY VERSES TELL US THAT GOD LOVES US. BUT THIS IS THE ONLY VERSE THAT CLEARLY TELLS US HOW MUCH HE LOVES US.



IN 18:11, WE SEE THE WAY JESUS LOOKED AT HIS BEING BETRAYED AND CAPTURED IN GETHSEMANE. PETER SAW IT AS THE WORK OF JUDAS AND DECIDED TO ATTACK WITH HIS SWORD.





JESUS HOWEVER SAW IT AS A **CUP** THAT HIS **FATHER** HAD SENT TO HIM. **JUDAS** ISCARIOT WAS ONLY THE **MESSENGER** WHO BROUGHT THE CUP FROM THE **FATHER**, BECAUSE GOD IS **POWERFUL** ENOUGH TO **CONTROL EVERYTHING** THAT HAPPENS TO HIS **CHILDREN** (ROMANS 8:28).



IN 18:36, JESUS TOLD **PILATE**, "MY **KINGDOM** IS **NOT** OF THIS WORLD. IF MY **KINGDOM** WERE OF THIS WORLD MY **SERVANTS** WOULD **FIGHT**." EVERY BELIEVER WHO **FIGHTS** FOR SOMETHING EARTHLY (INCLUDING **POSITION** IN A **CHURCH**) THEREBY **PROVES** THAT HIS **KINGDOM** IS OF THIS **WORLD**.



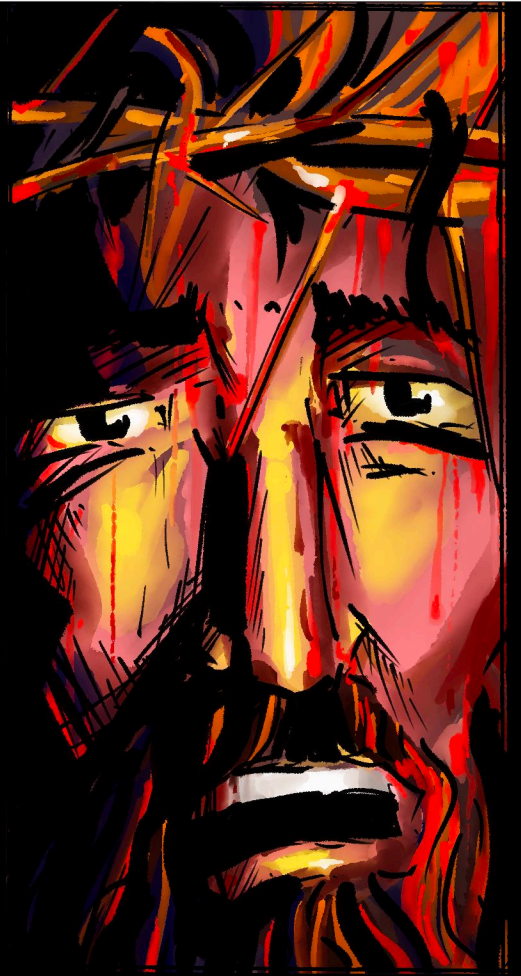
A **SPIRITUAL** MAN FIGHTS **SPIRITUAL** BATTLES "IN THE **HEAVENLIES**" WITH **SATAN** AND HIS **EVIL SPIRITS**, AND **NOT** WITH **HUMAN** BEINGS (EPHESIANS 6:12).



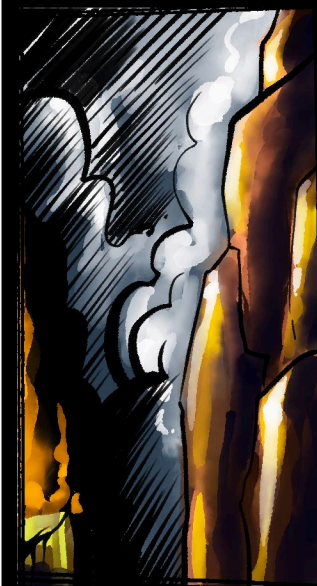
IN 19:10, 11, WHEN **PILATE** **THREATENED** JESUS SAYING, "DON'T YOU KNOW THAT I HAVE **POWER** TO **CRUCIFY** YOU AND **POWER** TO **RELEASE** YOU?", JESUS REPLIED WITH A **CALM DIGNITY**, "YOU CAN HAVE **NO** **POWER** OVER ME EXCEPT WHAT MY **FATHER** GIVES YOU." THIS IS THE **DIGNITY** WITH WHICH WE CAN FACE OUR **ENEMIES** AND **PERSECUTORS** ON EARTH AS WELL, FOR THE **FATHER** **LOVES** US AS HE **LOVED** **JESUS**



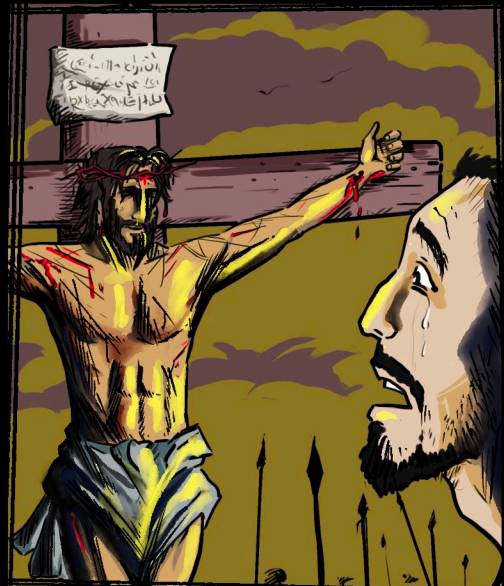
EVEN IF YOU ARE **FALSELY ACCUSED** AND TAKEN TO **COURT**, REMEMBER THAT **NO** MAGISTRATE OR JUDGE ON EARTH CAN WRITE A **VERDICT** AGAINST YOU AS A **CHILD OF GOD** WITHOUT YOUR HEAVENLY **FATHER'S PERMISSION**. THIS IS WHY WE CAN BE AT **PERFECT REST** IN OUR HEARTS AT ALL TIMES AND CONDUCT OURSELVES WITH **DIGNITY** EVERYWHERE.



IN 19:30, JESUS CRIED OUT SAYING "IT IS **FINISHED**". THE **ENTIRE** WORK OF OUR **SALVATION** WAS **FINISHED** AT THAT MOMENT. THE **WRATH** OF GOD AGAINST **SIN** WAS **FINISHED** BECAUSE JESUS HAD TAKEN OUR **PUNISHMENT** AND ENDURED **THREE HOURS** OF BEING **FORSAKEN** BY **GOD** ON THE **CROSS**.

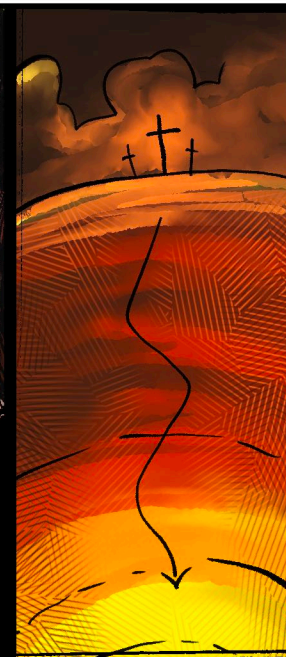


IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER HE WENT TO **PARADISE** FOR THREE DAYS. THERE ARE SOME BIBLE-TEACHERS WHO TEACH A **FALSE** DOCTRINE THAT JESUS WENT DOWN TO **HELL** FOR THREE DAYS AFTER HE WAS CRUCIFIED. THIS IS **HERESY**. THEY **EQUATE** **HADES** WITH **HELL**, BECAUSE OF A **FAULTY** TRANSLATION OF THE WORD IN THE KING JAMES VERSION IN ACTS 2:31. **HADES** HAD **TWO** SECTIONS -- **PARADISE** AND **HELL** (LUKE 16:22, 23). JESUS WENT TO THE **PARADISE** SECTION ALONG WITH THE **CONVERTED THIEF**.





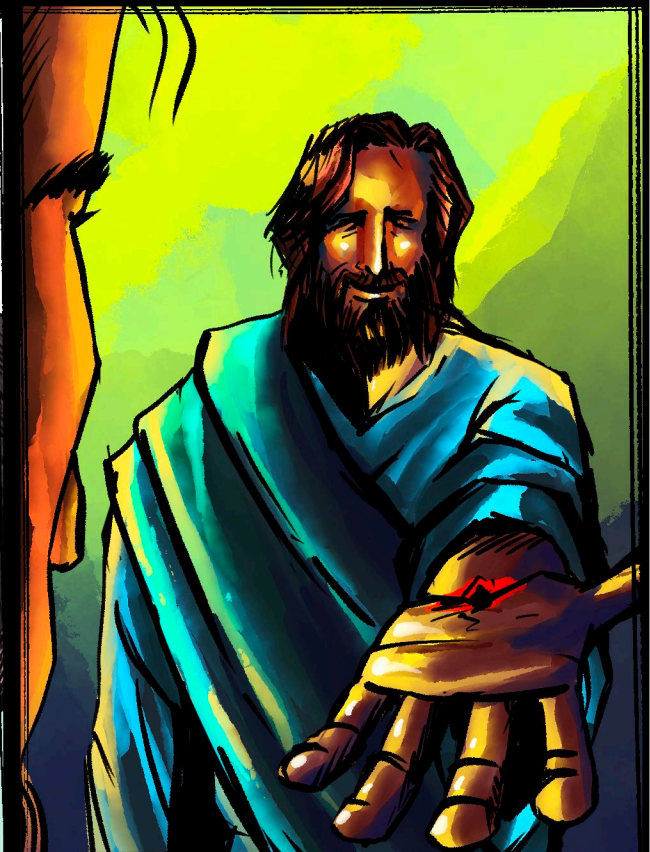
19:31, WE ARE TOLD THAT THE DAY AFTER JESUS DIED WAS A "SPECIAL SABBATH" AND NOT THE ORDINARY SABBATH. JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED ON THE PASSOVER DAY. THE DAY AFTER THAT WAS ALWAYS A SPECIAL SABBATH DAY -- BEING THE FIRST DAY OF "THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD" (LEVITICUS 23:5--7). THE REGULAR SABBATH (SATURDAY) CAME ON THE DAY AFTER THAT -- MAKING IT TWO SABBATHS IN A ROW THAT WEEK. " "



SO JESUS WAS ACTUALLY CRUCIFIED ON A THURSDAY (AND NOT ON A FRIDAY AS MOST CHRISTIANS BELIEVE). IT IS ONLY THUS THAT HE COULD HAVE SPENT THREE NIGHTS (THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS) IN "THE HEART OF THE EARTH" (WHERE PARADISE WAS LOCATED AT THAT TIME (MATTHEW 12:40)).



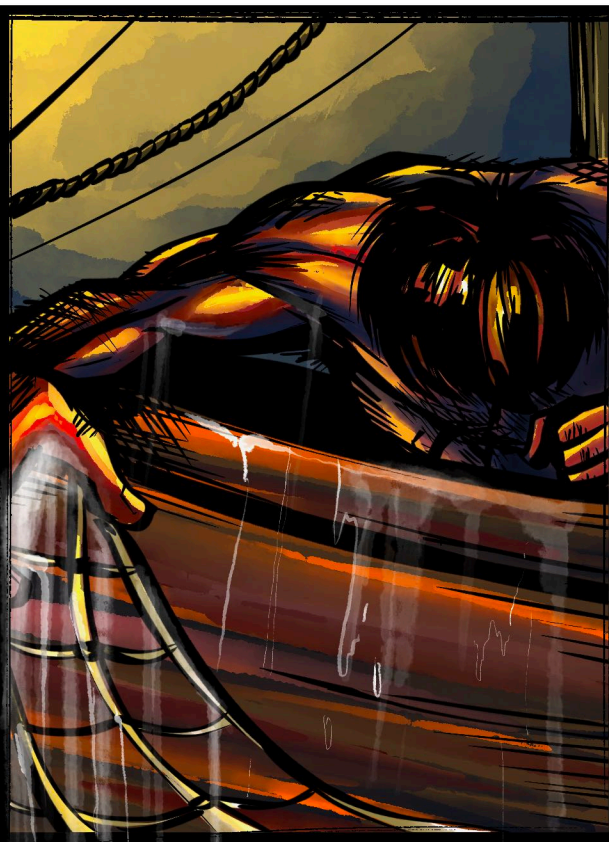
IN 20:11, WE SEE MARY MAGDALENE WAITING OUTSIDE THE TOMB OF JESUS. SHE WAS GIVEN THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING THE FIRST HUMAN BEING TO SEE THE RESURRECTED JESUS AND THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW CREATION. MARY MAGDALENE HAD BEEN A DEMON-POSSESSED SINNER, AND SHE WAS CHOSEN SO THAT IT MIGHT BE EVIDENT TO ALL THAT "CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS." IN A WORLD THAT VALUES MEN, GOD CHOSE A WOMAN FOR THAT HONOUR. PRAISE THE LORD!



MANY OF US MAY WISH THAT WE COULD HAVE SEEN THE PHYSICALLY RESURRECTED JESUS. BUT JESUS TOLD THOMAS IN 20:29, "BECAUSE YOU HAVE SEEN ME, HAVE YOU BELIEVED? BLESSED ARE THEY WHO DID NOT SEE, AND YET BELIEVED." I DON'T KNOW WHY THIS IS SO. BUT I BELIEVE THE WORDS OF JESUS THAT I AM MORE BLESSED THAN THOMAS AND ALL THOSE APOSTLES BECAUSE UNLIKE THEM, I HAVE BELIEVED IN HIM WITHOUT EVER HAVING SEEN HIM PHYSICALLY.



IN 21:3, WE SEE **PETER** SAYING "I AM GOING **FISHING**". PETER FELT THAT HE HAD BEEN A **FAILURE** AS AN **APOSTLE** AND SO WAS SAYING THAT HE WAS GOING **BACK** TO HIS **FISHING** JOB **PERMANENTLY**. SOME OF THE **OTHER** **APOSTLES** ALSO **JOINED** HIM.



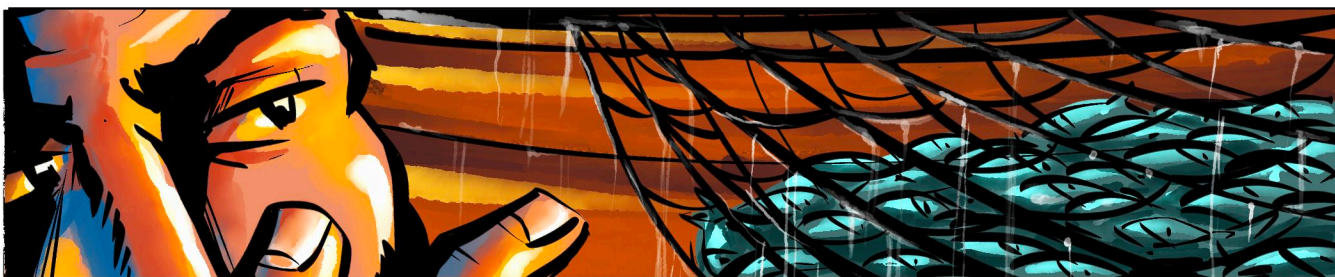
BUT **IF** GOD WANTS YOU TO BE AN **APOSTLE**, THEN YOU WILL BE A **FAILURE** AT EVERY BUSINESS THAT YOU PUT YOUR HAND TO. SO PETER **FAILED** THAT NIGHT AS A FISHERMAN TOO. THEY MUST HAVE TRIED TO CATCH FISH FOR 11 HOURS -- FROM 6 PM TO 5 AM THE **NEXT** MORNING. THEY CAUGHT **NOTHING**.



THEN JESUS CAME AND **FILLED** THEIR BOAT WITH FISH **MIRACULOUSLY**. THIS IS THE **CLOSING** "SIGN" IN JOHN'S GOSPEL. WHAT IS ITS **SIGNIFICANCE**? JUST THIS THAT WE HAVE TO COME TO AN **END** OF **OURSELVES** AND **FINISH** WITH ALL **CONFIDENCE** IN **OURSELVES** **BEFORE** THE LORD WILL COME AND MEET OUR **NEED** -- FOR VICTORY OVER **SIN** OR WHATEVER.



IT IS **NO** USE BEING PULLED OUT BY THE LORD FROM A **100-FOOT** PIT CALLED "**ANGER**" ONLY TO FALL INTO A **1000-FOOT** PIT CALLED "**SPIRITUAL PRIDE**". THAT WOULD **NOT** BE VICTORY AT ALL. THE LORD WANTS TO GIVE US VICTORY IN SUCH A WAY THAT WE WILL **NOT** BE **PROUD** OF IT NOR **LOOK DOWN** ON OTHERS WHO ARE **DEFEATED**. TO ACCOMPLISH THAT, HE ALLOWS US TO **FAIL REPEATEDLY** **BEFORE** LEADING US INTO VICTORY



PETER HAD BEEN **AMAZED** AT THE CATCH OF **153** FISH (VERSE 11). HE **MAY** HAVE BEEN **CALCULATING** IN HIS MIND HOW MUCH **MONEY** HE COULD GET FOR ALL THOSE FISH. HE **MAY** HAVE THOUGHT THAT IF THE LORD **BLESSED** HIM LIKE THIS EVERY DAY, VERY **SOON** HE WOULD BE THE **RICHEST** FISHERMAN IN GALILEE -- AND **OF COURSE** HE WOULD GIVE **10%** OF HIS EARNINGS FOR **GOD'S WORK!**



AS HE WAS MUSING ON THE **BLESSINGS** OF THIS "**PROSPERITY GOSPEL**", JESUS ASKED HIM, "DO YOU **LOVE** ME **MORE** THAN THESE (FISH)?" THAT QUESTION **PIERCED** HIS HEART LIKE A SWORD. HE RESPONDS SAYING THAT HE **LOVED** THE LORD -- BUT HE USED A **WEAKER** WORD FOR "LOVE" (**PHILEO** -- THE LOVE OF A MAN FOR HIS **FRIEND**) THAN THE ONE **JESUS** USED (**AGAPE** -- THE **SUPREME** LOVE THAT A MAN SHOULD HAVE FOR **GOD**).



THE LORD ASKED HIM THE SAME QUESTION A **SECOND** TIME. AGAIN HE REPLIED THAT HE HAD **PHILEO-LOVE** FOR THE LORD. THE **THIRD** TIME THE LORD **DESCENDED** TO HIS LEVEL AND ASKED HIM IF HE HAD **AT LEAST PHILEO-LOVE** FOR HIM. PETER IS **NO** LONGER THE **PROUD, BOASTFUL** MAN HE WAS A FEW DAYS EARLIER. HE IS SO **BROKEN** AND **UNCERTAIN**, BUT HE IS **SINCERE**. AND THE LORD COMMISSIONS HIM FOR HIS SERVICE RIGHT THERE!

IN 21:18--23, THE LORD TOLD PETER THAT WHEN HE BECOMES OLD, HE WILL **SUFFER** AND DIE FOR HIS FAITH. AS SOON AS PETER HEARD THAT, HE ASKED "WHAT ABOUT **JOHN**?" JESUS REPLIED -



WHEN WE FACE **DIFFICULTIES** IN OUR MINISTRY, LET US **NOT COMPARE** OUR LOT WITH THAT OF **OTHER** SERVANTS OF THE LORD. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS **FOLLOW JESUS** -- AND WE WILL **FINISH** OUR COURSE WITH **JOY**.