

Through the Bible

LUKE-II

Zac Poonen



Illustrations by Vinay Kuruvilla

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CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

**69 PARADISE ENCLAVE, BELAHALLI
KANNUR POST, BANGALORE - 562 149
INDIA**



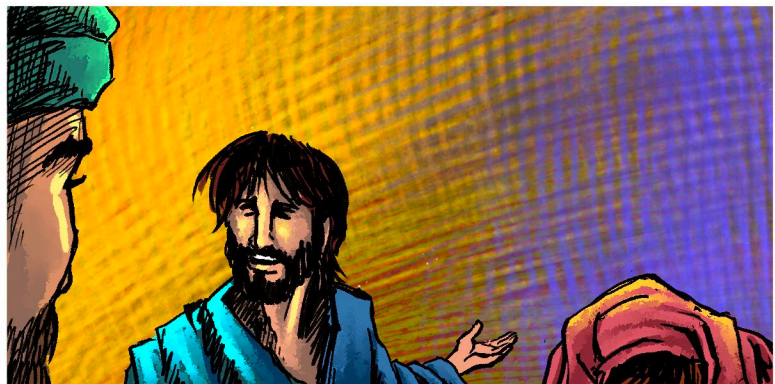
IN 7:36, WE READ OF A PHARISEE WHO INVITED JESUS FOR A MEAL. JESUS **WASN'T** SO **PROUD** THAT HE WOULDN'T GO TO THE HOUSE OF PHARISEES. HE'D GO **ANYWHERE** WHERE HE COULD BLESS PEOPLE. HE DIDN'T GO ONLY TO THE HOUSES OF **SINNERS**. HE WENT TO THE HOUSES OF **PHARISEES** AS WELL.



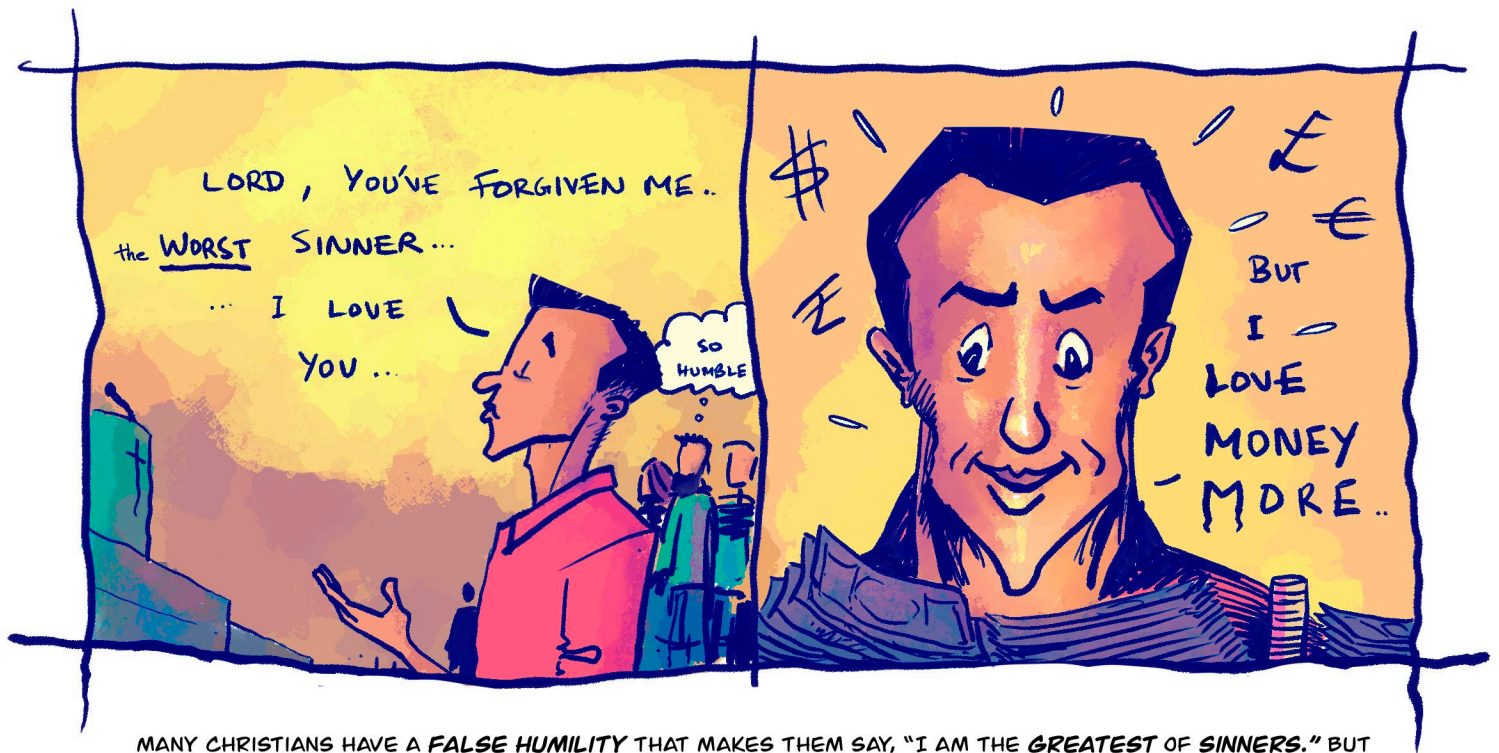
A CONVERTED **PROSTITUTE** CAME THERE AND **ANointed** HIS **FEET** WITH AN **EXPENSIVE** VIAL OF **PERFUME** AS AN EXPRESSION OF HER **GRATITUDE** FOR HER SINS BEING **FORGIVEN** AND FOR BEING **SAVED**.



SHE HAD NO DOUBT BOUGHT THAT **PERFUME** FROM HER **EARNINGS** AS A **PROSTITUTE**. THERE WAS AN EXPRESS **COMMAND** IN DEUTERONOMY 23:18 THAT THE WAGES OF A PROSTITUTE MUST **NEVER** BE **OFFERED** TO **GOD**. DIDN'T **JESUS** KNOW THAT SCRIPTURE? HE CERTAINLY **DID**. BUT HE WAS NOT A **LEGALIST** LIKE HIS **HOST**.



JESUS THEN TOLD THE PARABLE OF A MAN WHO HAD FORGIVEN **TWO** PEOPLE -- ONE OF **500** DENARII AND THE OTHER **50** DENARII. BOTH COULD NOT REPAY AND HE FORGAVE THEM BOTH. **WHO** WOULD **LOVE** HIM **MORE**? SIMON SAID, "**NATURALLY**, THE ONE WHO WAS **FORGIVEN MORE**." JESUS THEN POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS BECAUSE SIMON **THOUGHT** HE DID **NOT** HAVE **MANY** SINS TO BE FORGIVEN THAT HE DID **NOT** **LOVE** THE LORD AS MUCH AS THIS CONVERTED **PROSTITUTE** WHO **KNEW** THAT SHE WAS A **GREAT** **SINNER** WHO HAD BEEN **FORGIVEN MUCH**. OUR **LOVE** FOR THE LORD DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH WE **REALISE** WE HAVE BEEN **FORGIVEN**.



MANY CHRISTIANS HAVE A **FALSE HUMILITY** THAT MAKES THEM SAY, "I AM THE **GREATEST OF SINNERS.**" BUT MANY WHO CLAIM TO BE THE CHIEF OF SINNERS ARE OFTEN IN THE PURSUIT OF **MORE MONEY** AND NOT LIVING FOR THE **LORD.** THEY ARE THEN JUST USING **PIOUS LANGUAGE** TO GET A **REPUTATION** FOR HUMILITY! DON'T EVER SAY YOU ARE "THE CHIEF OF SINNERS" UNLESS, LIKE PAUL, YOU ARE WILLING TO FORSAKE **EVERYTHING** FOR **CHRIST'S SAKE.** IF YOU HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN **MUCH,** YOU WILL LOVE **MUCH.** IF YOU HAVE **GIVEN UP** ONLY **LITTLE** FOR THE LORD, IT PROVES THAT YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN ONLY VERY **LITTLE.**



THE LORD TALKED ABOUT BEING A LIGHT IN 8:16--18. WHEN YOU PUT A LAMP IN YOUR ROOM YOU **DON'T COVER** IT WITH A BUCKET OR PUT IT UNDER A BED. YOU ALWAYS PLACE IT WHERE **ALL** CAN **SEE** IT. THIS IS HOW WE ARE TO LET OUR LIGHT **SHINE** FOR THE **LORD** TOO.



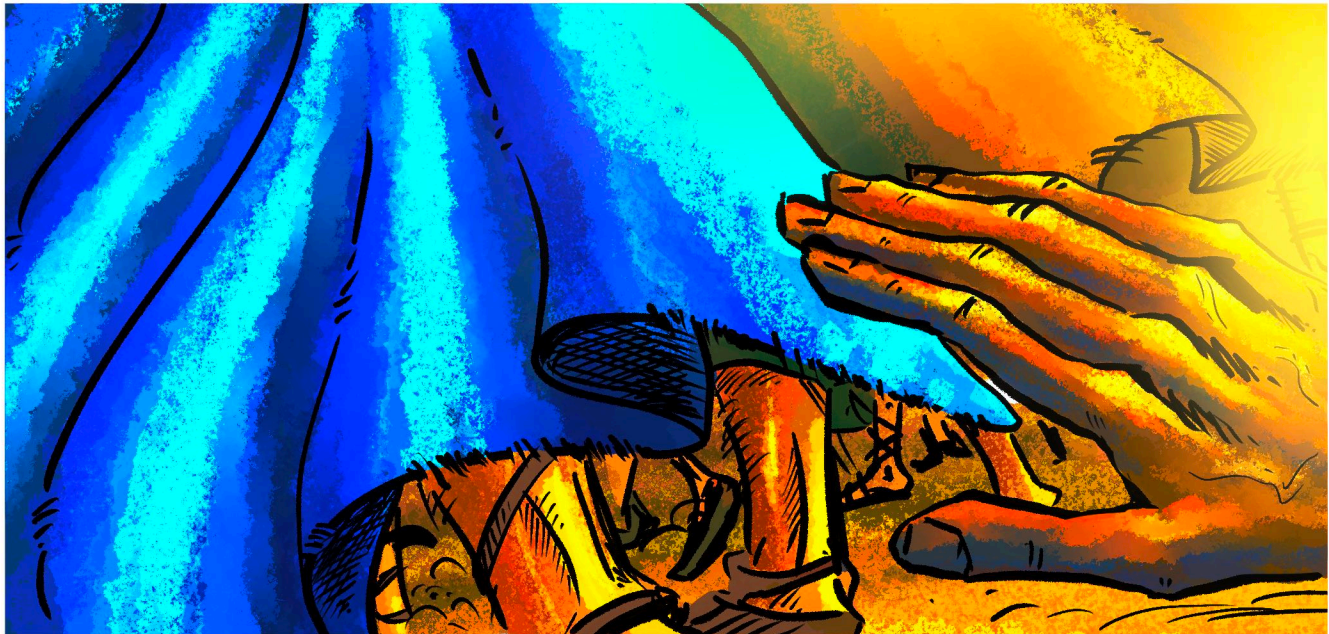
JESUS WAS **NOT ASHAMED** TO **HANG OPENLY** ON A **CROSS** FOR US. LET US **NEVER** BE ASHAMED TO **CONFESS HIM BOLDLY.**



WHEN I WAS WORKING IN THE NAVY, I COULD **NOT WITNESS OPENLY.** BUT I WOULD KEEP A **BIBLE** ON MY TABLE AND SOME **TRACTS.**



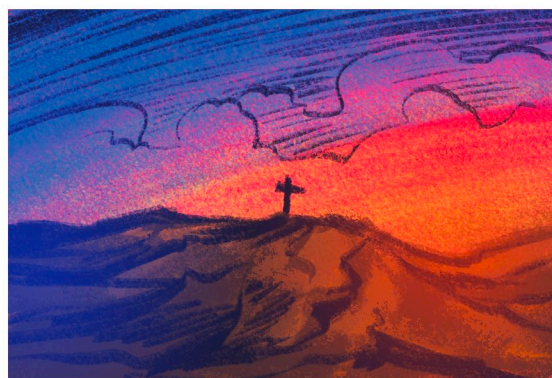
IT IS **MORE** IMPORTANT TO **CONFESS CHRIST OUTSIDE** A **CHURCH BUILDING** THAN INSIDE IT. OUR **LIGHT** MUST SHINE **BRIGHTLY** WHERE THERE ARE **NO OTHER LIGHTS.**



IN 8:43, 44, WE READ OF A **WOMAN** WHO TOUCHED THE **HEM** OF JESUS' GARMENT. **MANY** WERE **CROWDING** AROUND JESUS AT THAT TIME BUT **ONLY SHE** GOT HEALED. IN CHURCH MEETINGS TOO, MANY CROWD AROUND JESUS. BUT ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE **FAITH** -- ONE HERE AND ONE THERE -- **TOUCH THE LORD**. AT **EVERY** MEETING, WE SHOULD SEEK TO BE LIKE THAT WOMAN, **REACHING** OUT AND TOUCHING THE LORD IN **FAITH**.



IN 9:16, WE READ ABOUT THE FEEDING OF THE **5000**. GOD WANTS TO USE EACH OF US TO BE A **BLESSING** TO OTHERS IN THIS WAY. THE **FIRST** STEP IS TO SURRENDER **ALL** THAT WE HAVE TO THE **LORD**. THAT LITTLE BOY HAD 5 LOAVES AND 2 FISH AND HE GAVE **ALL** TO THE LORD. HE DIDN'T KEEP **ANYTHING** BACK FOR **HIMSELF**. JESUS THEN BLESSED THE LOAVES AND FISH. THAT IS THE **SECOND** STEP -- HE HAS TO POUR OUT HIS **SPIRIT** ON US. BUT THE MULTITUDE IS **STILL NOT** FED. THE THIRD STEP IS TO **ALLOW** THE LORD TO **BREAK** US. JESUS BROKE THOSE LOAVES. AND HE BREAKS US TOO - THROUGH **PEOPLE** AND THROUGH **SITUATIONS**.



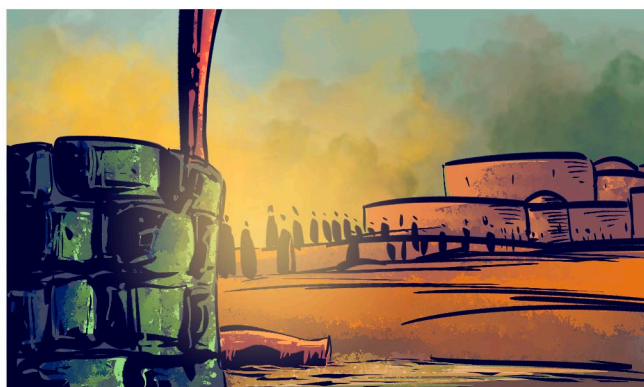
9:23 SAYS "IF ANYONE WISHES TO COME AFTER ME LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, TAKE UP HIS **CROSS** EVERY DAY AND FOLLOW ME." TO **DENY SELF** MEANS TO SAY, "**NO**," TO EVERYTHING THAT OUR **SELF-LIFE** WANTS. THE **CROSS** COMES IN AT THE PLACE WHERE **OUR WILL** **CROSSES** **GOD'S WILL**. OUR WILL IS LIKE THE HORIZONTAL ARM OF THE CROSS AND GOD'S WILL IS LIKE THE VERTICAL ARM. TO TAKE UP THE CROSS MEANS DYING TO OUR WILL AND DOING GOD'S WILL. IT MEANS GIVING UP OUR **CHOICES**, OUR **AMBITIONS**, OUR **REPUTATION**, OUR **PREFERENCES** AND THE WAY WE WOULD LIKE TO **REACT** TO PEOPLE, ETC. IT MEANS TO **RECKON** OURSELVES **DEAD** WITH CHRIST **EVERY DAY**.



IN 9:49, 50, JESUS TEACHES US WHAT TO DO WHEN WE FIND SOMEONE HAVING A MINISTRY THAT IS TOTALLY **DIFFERENT** FROM OURS. SOMEONE WAS CASTING OUT **DEMONS**, BUT HE **DIDN'T JOIN** THE DISCIPLES. JOHN ASKED JESUS TO **STOP** HIM. BUT JESUS TOLD JOHN TO **LEAVE** HIM ALONE AND TO LET HIM CONTINUE THAT MINISTRY. YOU STICK TO **YOUR** CALLING AND LET THEM FULFIL **THEIRS**. MANY CHRISTIANS ARE SO TAKEN UP WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR **OWN** MINISTRY THAT THEY FEEL THAT **EVERYONE** SHOULD BE DOING THAT.



"BUT IF THE WHOLE BODY WERE AN EYE, WHERE WOULD THE HEARING BE; AND IF THE **WHOLE BODY** WERE HEARING, WHERE WOULD THE SENSE OF SMELL BE?" (1 CORINTHIANS 12:17). A **MATURE CHRISTIAN** REALISES THAT GOD GIVES **DIFFERENT** MINISTRIES TO **DIFFERENT** PEOPLE. BUT LET US **NOT CRITICISE** ONE ANOTHER. THERE IS **VARIETY** IN **CREATION**. GOD DID NOT MAKE EVERY **FLOWER** THE SAME **COLOUR**, THE SAME **SHAPE** OR THE SAME **SIZE**. **THANK** GOD FOR EVERY MINISTRY, AND **STICK** TO YOUR **OWN**.



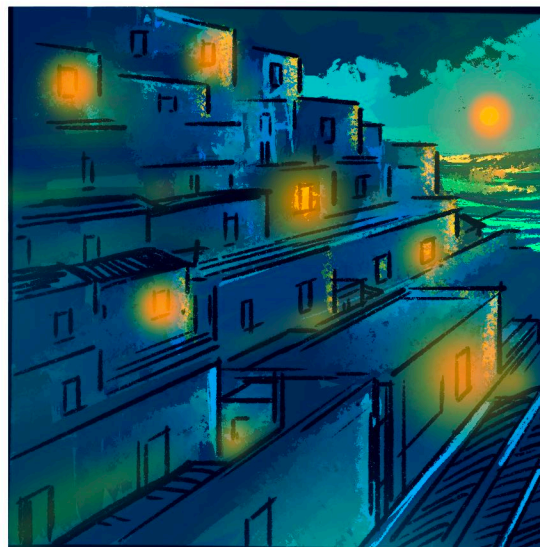
IN 9:52, WE SEE JESUS COMING TOWARDS **SAMARIA**. THIS WAS THE CITY WHERE A YEAR EARLIER THERE HAD BEEN A **GREAT REVIVAL**. THROUGH ONE **SINFUL** WOMAN WHO WAS **CONVERTED**, THE **WHOLE CITY** HAD BEEN DRAWN TO **JESUS** (JOHN 4).



SO JESUS SENT MESSENGERS AHEAD OF HIM TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS THERE. BUT THIS TIME, THEY **DID NOT RECEIVE** HIM (VERSE 53). **PERHAPS** MANY WHO WERE **CONVERTED** IN SAMARIA MUST HAVE **DISTURBED** THEIR **RELIGIOUS** LEADERS BY FOLLOWING **JESUS**; SO THEY DECIDED NOT TO LET JESUS INTO THE CITY AGAIN.



SO JAMES AND JOHN WANTED TO CALL DOWN FIRE ON THE SAMARITANS. JESUS **REBUKED** THEM SAYING THAT HE HAD **NOT** COME TO **DESTROY** MEN'S LIVES BUT TO **SAVE** THEM (VERSE 55). IF SOME CHURCH KICKS YOU OUT, JUST **HUMBLE YOURSELF** AND GO **SOMEWHERE ELSE**. THAT IS WHAT I HAVE DONE **MORE** THAN **ONCE**. IN MANY **CHRISTIAN** GROUPS, I HAVE SEEN THAT THE **LEADER** OFTEN HAS A **LARGE** HEART, BUT HIS **FOLLOWERS** ARE **NARROW-HEARTED**, BECAUSE THEY **DON'T KNOW GOD** LIKE THEIR **LEADER**.



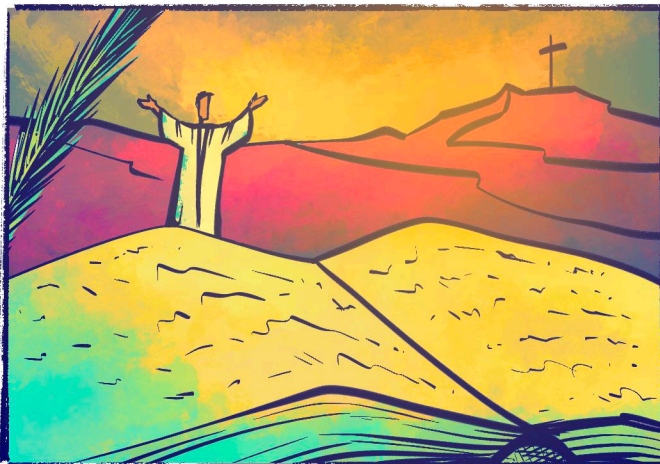
IN 10:5--6, JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES, "WHENEVER YOU ENTER A HOUSE, FIRST OF ALL SAY, '**PEACE** BE TO THIS HOUSE'. IF A **MAN OF PEACE** IS THERE, YOUR **PEACE** WILL REST UPON HIM. IF NOT, IT WILL RETURN TO YOU." OUR HOMES MUST BE **ISLANDS OF PEACE** IN THE **RESTLESS SEA** OF THIS WORLD. THE **MAN**, AS THE **HEAD**, MUST ESPECIALLY BE A **MAN OF PEACE** -- EVEN IF THE **WOMAN** IS NOT A **WOMAN OF PEACE**. THE **MAN** MUST BE ONE WHO WILL **NEVER QUARREL, FIGHT, ARGUE, LOSE HIS TEMPER, OR GET INTO CONTROVERSIES**. EVERY **CHRISTIAN HOME** MUST HAVE A **MAN** LIKE THAT TO **LEAD** IT.



IN 10:19, WE READ THAT JESUS GAVE HIS DISCIPLES **AUTHORITY** OVER ALL THE **POWER** OF **SATAN**, AND PROMISED THEM THAT **NOTHING** WOULD HURT THEM. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN **AUTHORITY** AND **POWER**. A **TRUCK** MAY HAVE A LOT OF **POWER** BUT WHEN A **SMALL POLICEMAN** LIFTS UP HIS **HAND** AND TELLS IT TO **STOP**, IT **STOPS** -- BECAUSE THE **POLICEMAN** HAS **AUTHORITY**. THIS IS A PICTURE OF THE **AUTHORITY** WE HAVE **OVER** ALL THE **POWER** OF **SATAN**.



THE BIBLE SAYS, "**SUBMIT YOURSELF TO GOD** AND **RESIST** THE **DEVIL** -- AND HE WILL **FLEE** FROM YOU" (JAMES 4:7, 8). **SATAN** WILL **FLEE** FROM US AT THE SPEED OF **LIGHTNING** -- 300,000 KILO-METRES PER SECOND -- FOR THAT IS THE SPEED AT WHICH **JESUS** SAW **SATAN FALL** (10:18)!



BUT WE DO **NOT** REJOICE OVER THE FACT THAT SATAN IS SUBJECT TO US, BUT THAT WE ARE **GOD'S CHILDREN**. WE REJOICE **NOT** IN WHAT **WE** HAVE **DONE** FOR GOD BUT IN WHAT **GOD** HAS **DONE** FOR US -- HE HAS WRITTEN OUR **NAMES** IN THE **BOOK OF LIFE**.



IN 10:30--37, WE READ THE PARABLE OF THE **GOOD SAMARITAN**. THE **LEVITE** AND THE **PRIEST** BELONGED TO A **RESPECTED** DENOMINATION THAT HAD ITS **DOCTRINES RIGHT**. BUT THEY DID **NOTHING** FOR THE **NEEDY MAN** HERE. WE CAN **SIN** EVEN BY DOING **NOTHING!**



THE **SAMARITAN**, HOWEVER, BELONGED TO A **DESPISED** DENOMINATION (WHOSE **DOCTRINES** WERE **WRONG** IN MANY AREAS). BUT IT WAS HE WHO HELPED THE **NEEDY MAN**. THE **LEVITE** AND THE **PRIEST** WERE **MORE** INTERESTED IN GOING FOR THEIR **MEETING** IN JERUSALEM. GOD VALUES THOSE WHO SERVE THE **POOR** WITH **COMPASSION** IN **CHRIST'S** NAME. HE WILL SAY TO THEM, "I WAS **HUNGRY** AND YOU FED ME, I WAS **SICK** AND YOU CAME TO VISIT ME, I WAS **THIRSTY** AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO DRINK. WHEN MY PEOPLE (WHOSE **DOCTRINES** WERE **RIGHT**) WERE ATTENDING **MEETINGS**, YOU (WHO HAD SOME **WRONG** **DOCTRINES**) CAME AND **HELPED** ME."



IN 10:38--42, JESUS TELLS US WHAT THE MOST **IMPORTANT** THING IN LIFE **REALLY** IS -- IT IS **NOT** TO SERVE THE **POOR** BUT TO **LISTEN** TO HIM AND DO WHAT HE TELLS US TO DO! HERE WE SEE **MARTHA** **FEVERISHLY SERVING** THE LORD, AND **MARY** **ATTENTIVELY LISTENING** TO HIM. **MARY'S** ACTIVITY LOOKED LIKE **LAZINESS** AND **INACTIVITY**, BUT JESUS REBUKED MARTHA FOR SERVING HIM AND TOLD HER THAT WHAT MARY WAS DOING WAS "THE **ONE THING NEEDFUL**" (VERSE 42). WE ARE NOT CALLED TO SPEND OUR LIFE "DOING **SOMETHING** OR THE OTHER FOR GOD", BUT TO "DO THE **WILL OF GOD**". "THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT A SERVANT IS THAT HE DOES JUST WHAT HIS **MASTER** TELLS HIM TO DO" (1 CORINTHIANS 4:2 - LIVING).



IN 11:1--13, WE READ THAT JESUS WAS **PRAYING** IN A CERTAIN PLACE AND HIS DISCIPLES **HEARD** HIM. AND THEY WERE **AMAZED**, BECAUSE THEY HAD NEVER HEARD ANYONE PRAY LIKE THAT. THEY HEARD JESUS TALKING **INTIMATELY** TO A **LOVING FATHER** AND **NOT** GIVING AN **IMPRESSIVE LECTURE** TO GOD (AS THEY HAD HEARD THE **PHARISEES** PRAYING IN THE SYNAGOGUES). SO THEY ASKED HIM TO **TEACH** THEM ALSO TO **PRAY** LIKE HE DID.



SO JESUS TAUGHT THEM TO TALK TO **GOD** AS THEIR **FATHER**. THIS WAS **REVOLUTIONARY**, BECAUSE **NO-ONE** IN ISRAEL'S HISTORY HAD EVER ADDRESSED **GOD** AS "DAD" (WHICH IS THE REAL MEANING OF THE **HEBREW** WORD "ABBA").



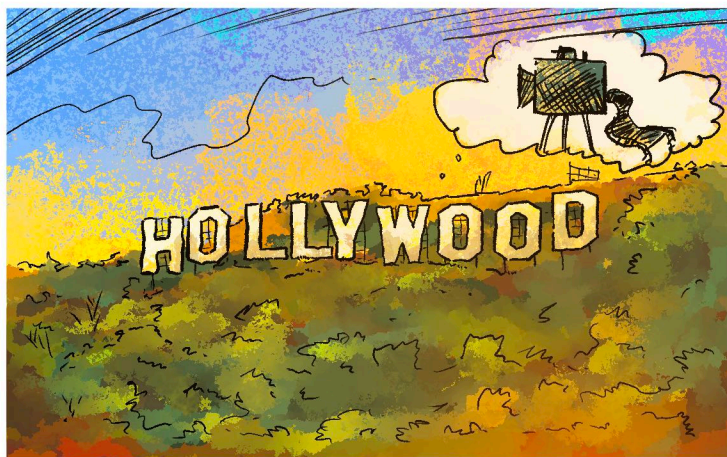
THEN JESUS TOLD THEM A **PARABLE** TO COMPLETE ANSWERING THEIR QUESTION ON PRAYER. A MAN HAD A **VISITOR** COME TO HIS HOUSE AT **MIDNIGHT** AND HE HAD **NO FOOD** TO SET BEFORE HIM. SO HE WENT TO HIS **NEIGHBOUR'S** HOUSE AND **KEPT BANGING** AWAY AT HIS DOOR **UNTIL** HE GOT SOME FOOD FROM HIM. THAT, JESUS SAID, WAS HOW THEY WERE TO SEEK FOR THE **POWER** OF THE **HOLY SPIRIT** (11:13). THE POINT HERE IS THAT YOU MUST, FIRST OF ALL, HAVE A **COMPASSION** AND A **BURDEN** FOR THE **NEEDY** PEOPLE WHOM **GOD** SENDS TO US.. THEN YOU MUST RECOGNISE THAT **GOD** ALONE CAN **GIVE** YOU WHAT IS **REQUIRED** TO **MEET** THEIR NEED. THEN **KEEP** ASKING HIM FOR THE **ANOINTING** AND **REVELATION** OF THE SPIRIT FOR A SPECIFIC WORD TO MEET THEIR PARTICULAR NEED.



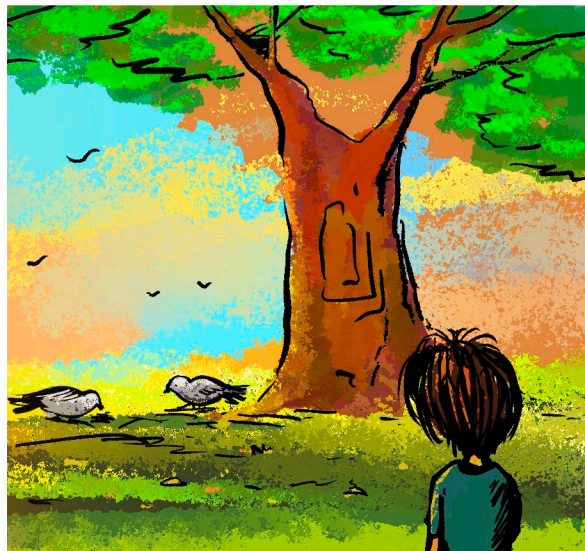
GOD IS A **BETTER FATHER** THAN ANY EARTHLY FATHER. SO HE WILL **NOT DENY** US ANYTHING THAT IS **GOOD** FOR US (VERSE 11). SO LET US "PURSUE AFTER LOVE -- AND EARNESTLY **DESIRE** THE **GIFTS** OF THE **SPIRIT**" (1 CORINTHIANS 14:1).



IN 12:1, JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES TO "BEWARE OF THE **LEAVEN** OF THE PHARISEES WHICH IS **HYPOCRISY**." THE WORD 'HYPOCRISY' IS NOT AN ENGLISH WORD BUT A **GREEK** WORD -- "**HUPOKRISIS**" WHICH MEANS "**ACTING**" OR "**PLAYACTING**". IN ANCIENT GREECE, A "**HYPOCRITE**" WAS AN **ACTOR**. SO WHAT JESUS WAS WARNING AGAINST WAS **ACTING** LIKE HOLY PEOPLE.



A HOLLYWOOD ACTOR MAY ACT AS JOHN THE BAPTIST (A HOLY MAN) IN A MOVIE. BUT AFTER THE FILM-SHOOTING IS OVER, HE GOES BACK TO HIS NORMAL LIFE OF DRINKING AND ADULTERY AND DIVORCE. THAT IS HIS REAL LIFE. THEN THE NEXT WEEK WHEN THE FILM-SHOOTING BEGINS AGAIN, HE BECOMES "A HOLY MAN" ONCE AGAIN. THE HOLLYWOOD ACTORS ARE ACTUALLY MORE HONEST THAN HYPOCRITICAL CHRISTIANS, IN THAT THEY DON'T PRETEND THAT THEIR ACT IS REAL OR THAT THEY ARE REALLY HOLY MEN ALL THE TIME. THESE CHRISTIANS, HOWEVER, PRETEND THAT THEY ARE REALLY HOLY ALWAYS!



IN 12:4--12, JESUS TELLS US NOT TO BE AFRAID OF PERSECUTION, BECAUSE THE VERY HAIRS ON YOUR HEAD ARE NUMBERED BY OUR FATHER. HE KNOWS THE STATE OF EVERY SPARROW IN THE WORLD, AND WE ARE OF MORE VALUE TO HIM THAN MANY SPARROWS.



GOD MAY ALLOW PEOPLE TO TAKE US TO COURT OR EVEN TO KILL US. BUT WE ARE NEVER TO BE AFRAID OF MEN. WE DON'T EVEN HAVE TO THINK WHAT WE WILL REPLY WHEN QUESTIONED. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL TEACH US IN THAT MOMENT, EXACTLY WHAT TO SAY (VERSE 12).



IN 12:13, WE READ OF A MAN WHO CAME TO THE LORD AND SAID, "LORD, TELL MY BROTHER TO DIVIDE THE FAMILY PROPERTY WITH ME." EVEN THOUGH HIS REQUEST MAY HAVE BEEN A GENUINE, RIGHTEOUS REQUEST, JESUS REFUSED TO GET INVOLVED IN SUCH A DISPUTE. JESUS CAME HERE ONLY TO HELP THOSE WHO WANTED TO GET PROPERTY IN HEAVEN -- NOT EARTH!



"SEEK GOD'S KINGDOM FIRST AND THESE OTHER THINGS WILL BE ADDED TO YOU" (12:31). EVERY CHRISTIAN MUST LIVE HIS LIFE ON EARTH IN SUCH A WAY THAT HE IS A LIVING PROOF OF THE TRUTH THAT THOSE WHO SEEK GOD'S KINGDOM FIRST WILL FIND ALL THEIR EARTHLY NECESSITIES ADDED TO THEM.



IN 12:35 WE ARE URGED TO BE IN **READINESS** FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD. IF THE LORD HAS GIVEN YOU **CHARGE** OVER OTHER **BELIEVERS**, BE **FAITHFUL** NOT TO **BEAT** THEM BUT TO GIVE THEM THEIR **FOOD** IN DUE SEASON (12:45). THERE ARE SOME PREACHERS WHO **INSTEAD OF FEEDING** THE SHEEP, **FLOG** THEM. WHEN THEY PREACH, THEY **DON'T** GIVE THE PEOPLE **FOOD** TO GROW **SPIRITUALLY**. THEY **HIT** THEM WITH ONE **BIBLE-VERSE** AFTER ANOTHER. THE LORD SAYS THAT HE WILL COME ONE DAY AND **PUNISH** ALL THOSE WHO **FLOGGED** HIS CHILDREN.

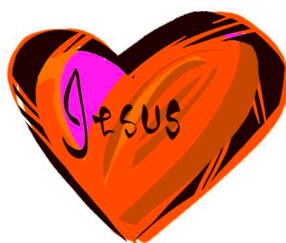


IN 13:34, WE SEE THE TREMENDOUS **COMPASSION** THAT **JESUS** HAD FOR **JERUSALEM** THAT HE **WEPT** OVER THE CITY.



IN 14:13, 14, WE FIND ONE OF THE COMMANDS OF THE LORD THAT VERY **FEW** BELIEVERS OBEY. HE SAID THAT WHEN YOU GIVE A **LUNCHEON** OR A **DINNER**, YOU SHOULD **INVITE** THOSE WHO **CANNOT** REPAY YOU. SPREAD A **BANQUET** OF **GOD'S WORD** FOR THOSE WHO **CANNOT** GIVE YOU ANY **OFFERINGS**.

IN 14:25--34, THE LORD LAID DOWN THE **THREE** ESSENTIAL CONDITIONS OF **DISCIPLESHIP**.



1. YOU MUST **LOVE JESUS** MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE (VERSE 26).



2. YOU MUST TAKE UP YOUR **CROSS** EVERY DAY AND FOLLOW **JESUS** (VERSE 27).

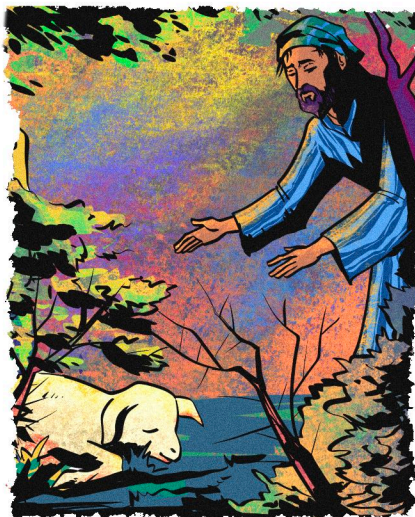


3. YOU CAN HAVE THINGS BUT YOU MUST **NOT POSSESS** ANYTHING ON **EARTH** (VERSE 33). TREAT THEM AS THINGS THAT BELONG TO GOD.



ONLY **DISCIPLES** ARE THE SALT WHICH HAS NOT **LOST** ITS TASTE (VERSE 34). TODAY, WE HAVE A LOT OF SALT THAT HAS **NO TASTE**, BECAUSE **EVANGELISTS** HAVE PREACHED **FORGIVENESS OF SINS WITHOUT MAKING PEOPLE DISCIPLES**.

IN THE THREE PARABLES IN CHAPTER 15, WE SEE PICTURES OF **FOUR** TYPES OF **BACKSLIDERS** -- A **LOST SHEEP**, A **LOST YOUNGER SON**, A **LOST ELDER SON** AND A **LOST COIN**



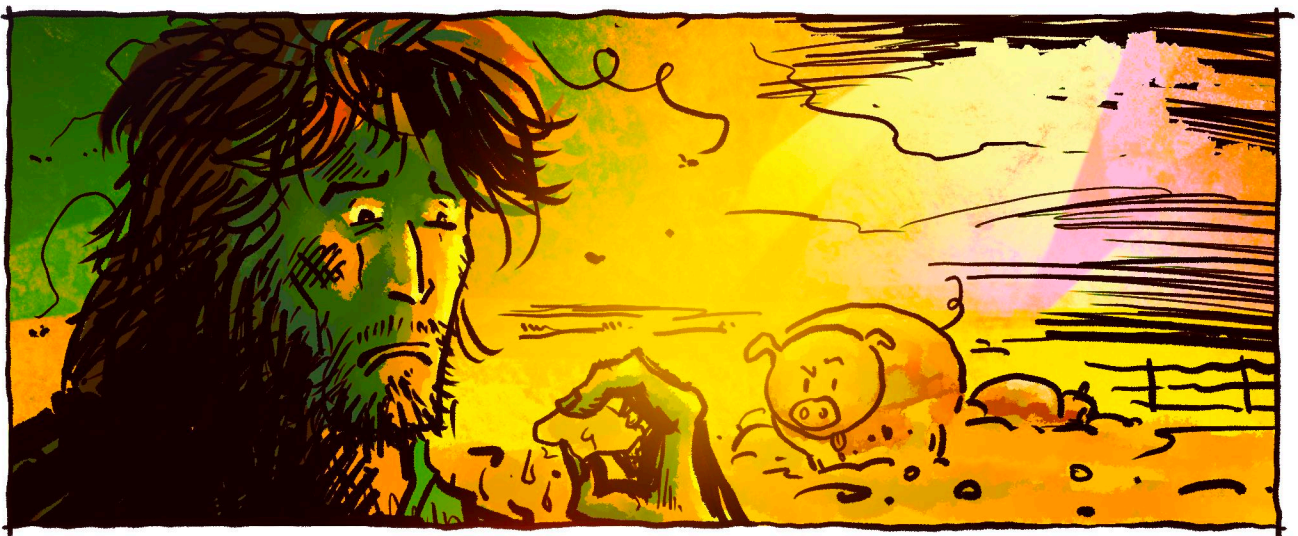
THE **LOST SHEEP** IS A PICTURE OF A BELIEVER WHO WENT **ASTRAY ACCIDENTALLY** OR THROUGH **CARELESSNESS**.

THE **SHEPHERD** IS A PICTURE OF **JESUS**, THE **SON OF GOD**. THE **TYPE OF FOLD** WE BRING A **LOST SHEEP** INTO IS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT. IF THE FOLD CONTAINS **99 SHEEP** WHO ARE FULL OF **SICKNESSES** AND WHO ARE **BITING** AND **TEARING** EACH OTHER APART, THEN THAT **LOST SHEEP** IS **BETTER OFF** IN THE **WILDERNESS** THAN INSIDE SUCH A FOLD. SO WE NEED **NOT ONLY** A MINISTRY THAT **GOES AFTER** THE **LOST SHEEP**, BUT ALSO A MINISTRY THAT **KEEPS** THE **99 SHEEP** HEALTHY (A PICTURE OF **99 RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE** WHO DON'T NEED TO REPENT OF ANYTHING!)

HOW IS THAT? IT IS BECAUSE THEY ARE **JUDGING** THEMSELVES AND **REPENTING EVERY DAY**.



THE **PRODIGAL SON** IS A PICTURE OF A **BELIEVER** WHO WENT AWAY IN **REBELLION** (AS OPPOSED TO THE CARELESSNESS IN THE CASE OF THE LOST SHEEP) AGAINST **GOD** AND THE **CHURCH**.



THE FATHER IS A PICTURE OF **GOD THE FATHER**. HE DOES **NOT** GO SEEKING FOR THE SON AS IN THE LOST SHEEP CASE. HE **WAITS** UNTIL THE SON REACHES THE **LEVEL** OF THE **PIGS** AND **COMES BACK** ON HIS OWN.



ONE THING THAT THE LOST SON **KNEW** WAS THAT HIS FATHER **LOVED** HIM. THAT WAS WHY HE DECIDED TO **COME HOME**. **HOW** DID THE **FATHER KNOW** THAT HIS SON WAS RETURNING **THAT DAY**? BECAUSE HE WAS **LOOKING** OUT OF THE WINDOW **EVERY DAY** TO SEE IF HIS SON WAS RETURNING.