

Through the Bible

LUKE-III

Zac Poonen



Illustrations by Vinay Kuruvilla

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CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

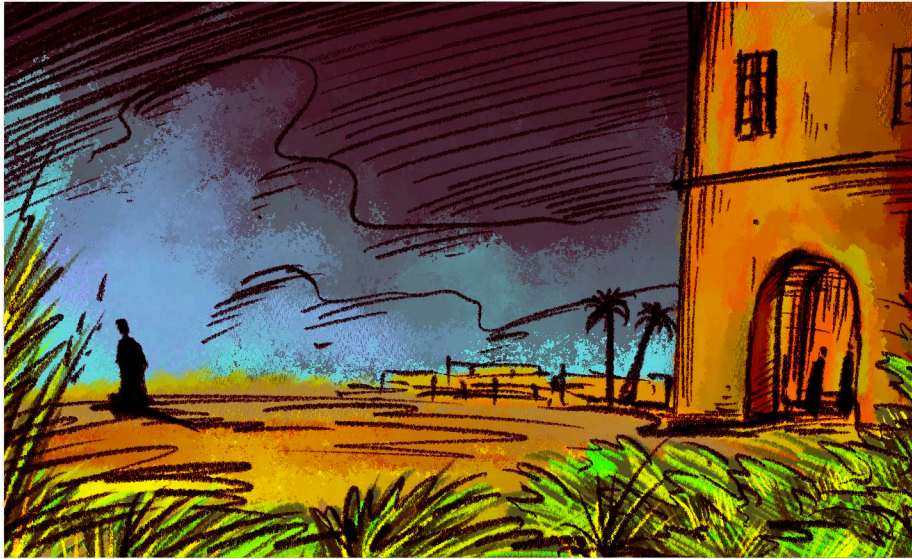
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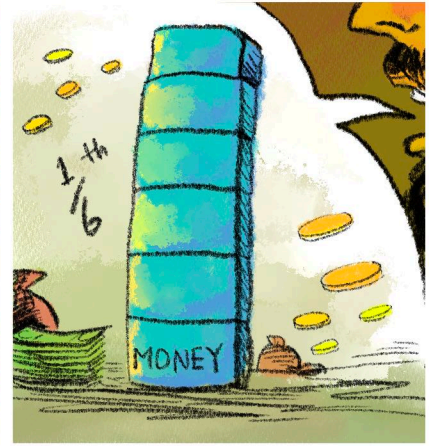
THE FATHER KEPT LOOKING.. AND ONE DAY, THE FATHER SAW SON RETURNING -- AND HE **RAN** TO WELCOME HIM. **EVERY** BROTHER AND SISTER IN THE CHURCH MUST BE A SERVANT OF THE LORD AND MUST **SHARE FELLOWSHIP** WITH THE FATHER'S **HEART** FOR THOSE WHO ARE **LOST**.



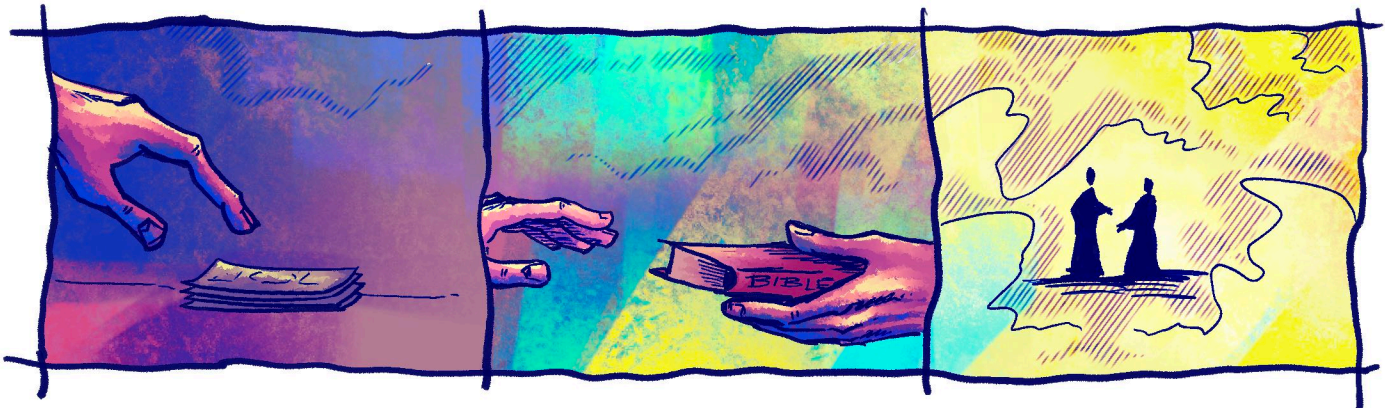
THE **OLDER** SON, HOWEVER, DID **NOT** SHARE THE **PASSION** OF HIS **FATHER'S** HEART. HE WORKED **HARD** FOR HIS FATHER AND ALWAYS **OBEYED** HIM (VERSES 28, 29). BUT HE HAD **NO PASSION** FOR THE **LOST**.. NO **FELLOWSHIP** WITH THE **HEART** OF HIS FATHER. THERE ARE **TWO** TYPES OF CHRISTIAN **WORKERS** AND **ELDERS**. ONE IS LIKE THE **FATHER** IN THIS STORY, FULL OF **LOVE** AND **COMPASSION**. THE OTHER IS LIKE THE **ELDER** BROTHER, **HARD** AND **RIGID** AND **PROFESSIONAL**.



IN THAT STORY, AT THE **BEGINNING**, THE **ELDER SON** IS **INSIDE** THE HOUSE AND THE **YOUNGER SON** **OUTSIDE**. BUT WHEN THE STORY **ENDS**, THE **YOUNGER SON** IS **INSIDE** AND THE **ELDER SON** **OUTSIDE**. **MANY** WHO ARE **FIRST** NOW WILL BE **LAST** IN GOD'S KINGDOM. **MANY** CHRISTIANS WILL BE **OUTSIDE** THE KINGDOM, BECAUSE THEY HAD NO **FELLOWSHIP** WITH THE **HEART** OF THE **FATHER**.



CHAPTERS 16 TO 21 DEAL WITH THE SUBJECT OF **MONEY**. JESUS SPOKE A LOT ABOUT MONEY. IN THE **GOSPELS**, YOU WILL FIND THAT **16%** OF HIS TEACHING REFERS TO **MONEY** -- **ONE** IN EVERY **SIX** VERSES.



THE FIRST PARABLE JESUS SPOKE HERE WAS ABOUT AN UNRIGHTEOUS STEWARD. THE ESSENCE OF THAT STORY IS THAT HE **PLANNED** FOR HIS **FUTURE**. THEN JESUS SAID, "MAKE FRIENDS FOR **ETERNITY** THROUGH **MONEY**." FOR THAT STEWARD, HIS FUTURE WAS ONLY ON THIS **EARTH**. FOR US, **OUR** FUTURE IS IN **ETERNITY**. HE **PREPARED** FOR HIS FUTURE USING THE **POWER** OVER **MONEY** THAT HE HAD. WE MUST ALSO MAKE **FRIENDS** FOR **ETERNITY** BY USING OUR MONEY TO SPREAD THE **GOSPEL** AND WIN **SOULS**. THEN ONE DAY PEOPLE WILL MEET YOU IN **HEAVEN** AND SAY, "BECAUSE YOU GAVE YOUR **MONEY** FOR THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL, I WAS **SAVED** AND I AM **HERE**" (16:9).



AND THEN JESUS SAID THESE VERY STRONG WORDS, "IF YOU ARE **NOT** FAITHFUL WITH **EARTHLY** WEALTH, WHO WILL GIVE YOU THE **TRUE** RICHES?" (16:11). THE **TRUE** RICHES ARE THE **DIVINE** NATURE, THE ANOINTING OF THE **HOLY** SPIRIT AND REVELATION ON THE **WORD** OF **GOD**.



JESUS THEN SAID THAT **NO** **SERVANT** COULD SERVE **TWO** **MASTERS**. YOU CANNOT SERVE BOTH **GOD** AND **MONEY** (16:13). YOU HAVE TO MAKE A **CHOICE**. THE PHARISEES HAD **MISSIONARY** PROGRAMMES BUT THEY WERE ALSO GREAT **LOVERS** OF **MONEY** (16:14).

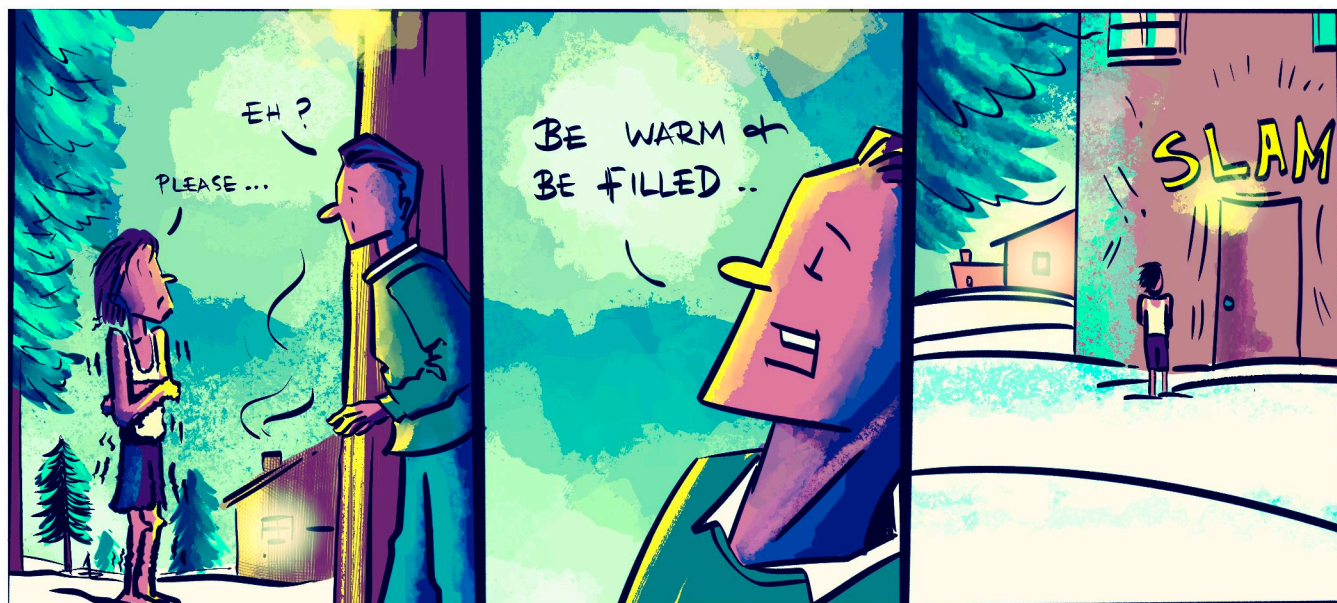


JESUS SAID TO THEM, "YOU JUSTIFY YOURSELF IN THE SIGHT OF *MEN* (YOU TRY TO APPEAR VERY *SPIRITUAL* BEFORE *MEN*). BUT GOD KNOWS YOUR *HEARTS*. THAT WHICH MEN VALUE *HIGHLY* IS AN *ABOMINATION* IN THE SIGHT OF GOD" (16:15). ARE YOU *GOOD-LOOKING* OR *INTELLIGENT* OR *RICH* OR *HIGHLY QUALIFIED*? THERE IS *NOTHING WRONG* WITH ANY OF THESE. BUT *DON'T* IMAGINE THAT GOD PLACES ANY *VALUES* ON THESE. WHAT GOD VALUES IS *HUMILITY* AND *REVERENCE* FOR HIM, WHICH THE *WORLD* DOES NOT VALUE.

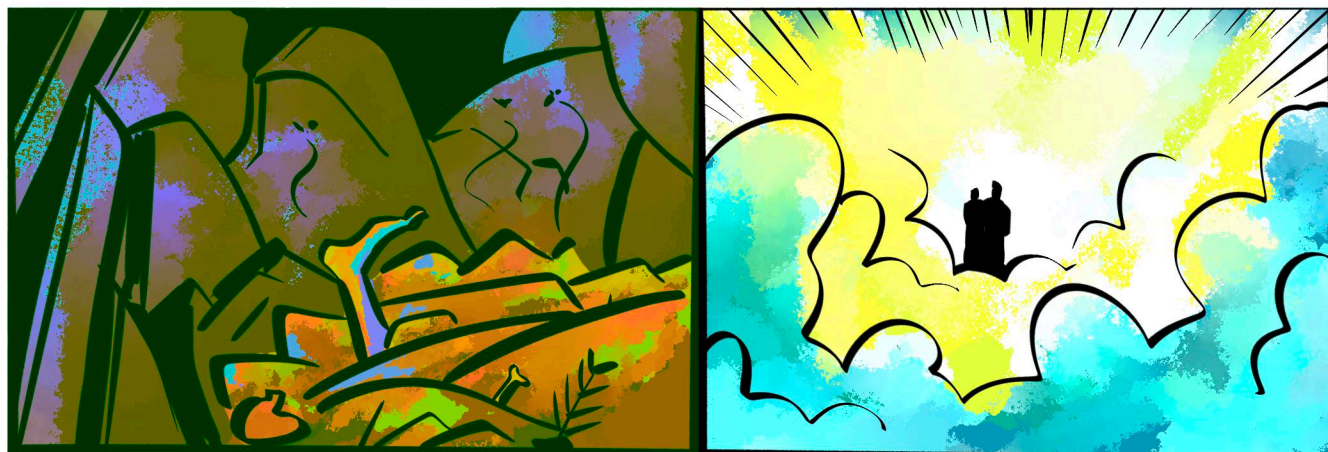


THEN JESUS TOLD THE *TRUE* STORY OF A CERTAIN *RICH* MAN AND A BEGGAR NAMED *LAZARUS* (16:19).

THIS IS NOT A PARABLE FOR JESUS NEVER USED ANY NAMES (LIKE LAZARUS AND ABRAHAM) IN ANY PARABLE. THIS IS THE TRUE STORY OF A MAN WHO WAS *ENTRUSTED* WITH A LOT OF *MONEY* BY GOD, BUT WHO USED IT ALL *SELFISHLY* FOR HIMSELF AND DID NOT USE ANY OF IT TO BLESS HIS *NEEDY BROTHERS* WITH. HE DID NOT CARE FOR THE POOR BEGGAR, LAZARUS WHO SAT AT HIS GATE. LAZARUS WAS HIS OWN BROTHER -- FOR THEY WERE BOTH CHILDREN OF *ABRAHAM, ISAAC* AND *JACOB*.



BUT THAT **RICH** MAN DID NOT **CARE** FOR **LAZARUS**. THAT PROVES THAT HE DID NOT HAVE ANY **LIVING** FAITH IN GOD. JAMES SAYS, "WHAT **USE** IS IT, MY BRETHREN, IF SOMEONE SAYS HE HAS **FAITH** BUT HAS NO **WORKS**?" JAMES 2: 14-17



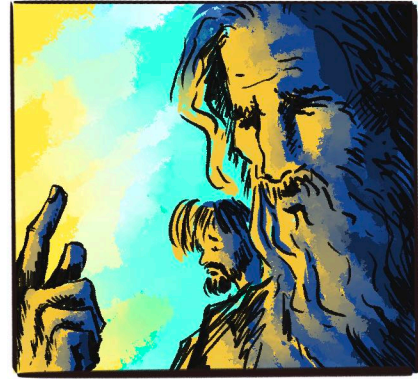
SALVATION IS BY **FAITH** -- AND THAT **RICH** MAN WENT TO HELL BECAUSE HE HAD **NO LIVING** FAITH. WHEN LAZARUS DIED, **NOTHING** IS SAID ABOUT HIM BEING **BURIED** (16:22). **PERHAPS** HIS BODY WAS THROWN INTO THE **GARBAGE DUMP**. BUT WHAT DID THAT MATTER TO LAZARUS, WHEN HE HIMSELF WAS IN **PARADISE**.



THE **RICH** MAN, HOWEVER, GOT A **GRAND** BURIAL. THE **CHIEF-PRIEST** (EQUIVALENT OF AN ARCH- BISHOP) MUST HAVE BEEN THERE (BECAUSE RELIGIOUS **LEADERS** USUALLY ATTEND THE FUNERALS OF THE **RICH**), AND HE MUST HAVE SAID MANY **GOOD** THINGS ABOUT THIS **RICH** MAN. **BUT** THE MAN WAS IN **HELL** WHILE HIS **FUNERAL** WAS **GOING** ON!



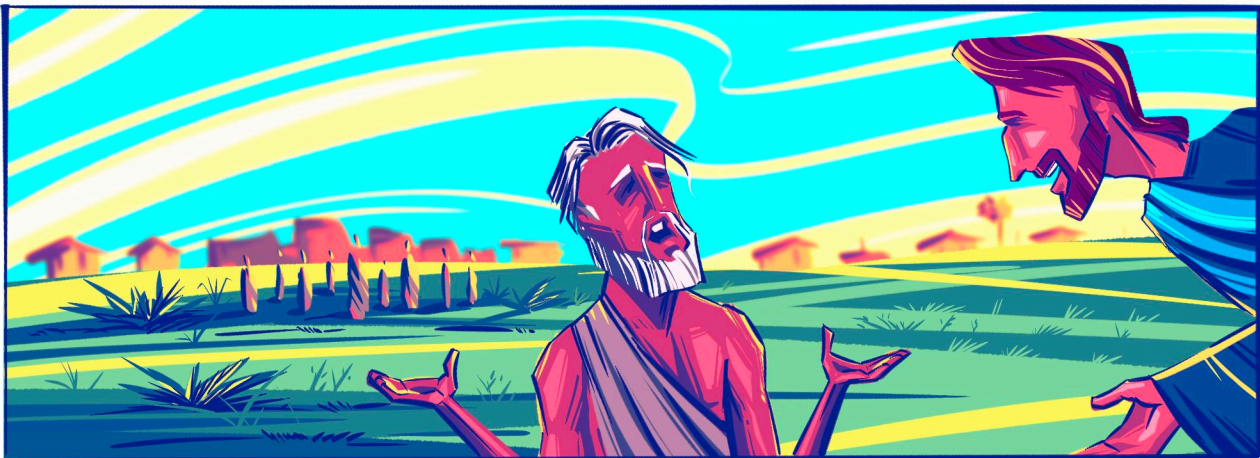
IF **GOD** HAS GIVEN YOU **MONEY**, HE EXPECTS YOU TO USE IT TO BLESS **OTHERS**. THERE WAS **ONE MORE** REASON WHY THE RICH MAN WENT TO HELL. HE DISCOVERED IT WHEN HE REACHED HELL -- HE HAD NOT **REPENTED** (16:30). AND HE DISCOVERED THAT IF LAZARUS WAS IN PARADISE, IT WAS BECAUSE LAZARUS HAD **REPENTED** AND **BELIEVED**.



IN 17:3, 4 JESUS SPOKE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF **FORGIVING** OTHERS, **EVEN** IF THEY **SIN** AGAINST **US** **SEVEN** TIMES IN A **SINGLE** DAY.



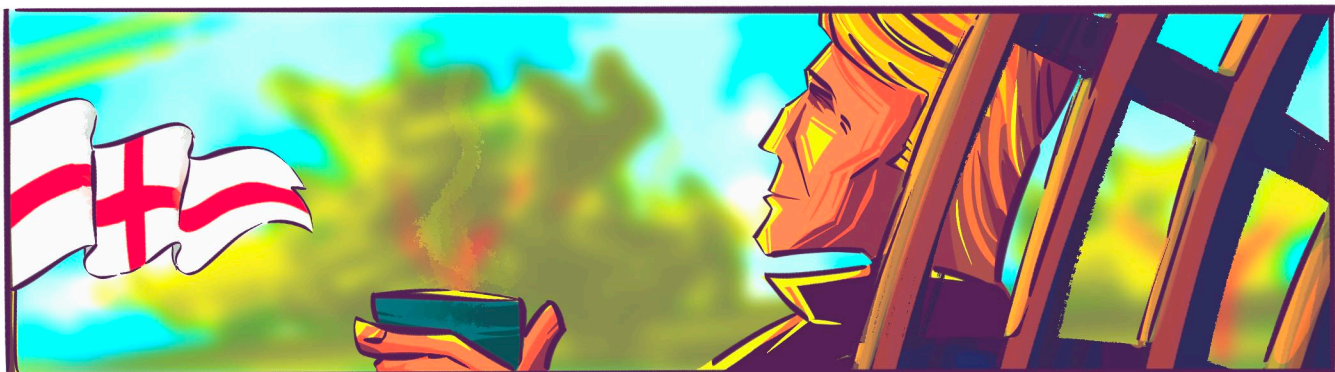
IN 17:10, HE SAID THAT **EVEN AFTER** WE OBEY **EVERY SINGLE COMMAND** OF THE LORD, WE CAN **STILL** CONSIDER OURSELVES ONLY AS "**UNWORTHY SERVANTS**", BECAUSE WE **ONLY** DID WHAT WE **SHOULD** HAVE **DONE**. IN A WORLD, WHERE **EVEN** CHRISTIANS ARE HANKERING AFTER **THEOLOGICAL** DEGREES, HERE IS A **GOOD** DEGREE TO GET: "**U.S. -- UNWORTHY SERVANT**"! HOW MANY ARE INTERESTED IN PLACING **THAT** DEGREE AFTER THEIR NAMES? BUT WHEN CAN WE GET THIS DEGREE? ONLY WHEN WE HAVE **OBEYED EVERY SINGLE COMMAND** OF THE LORD! WE ARE WHAT WE ARE ONLY BY THE **GRACE OF GOD** (1 CORINTHIANS 15:10). HAVE A **SOBER** ESTIMATE OF YOURSELF -- YOU WILL KEEP ON RECEIVING **GRACE** FROM **GOD**.



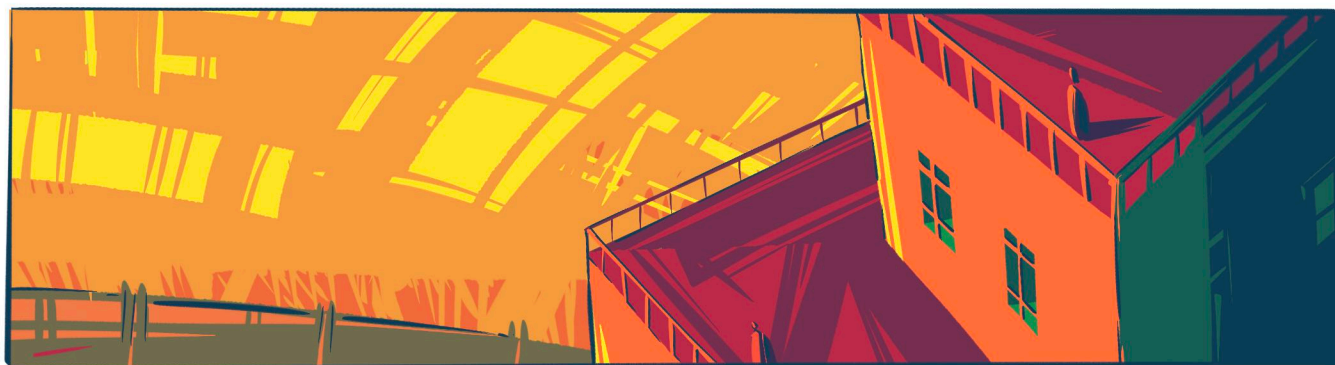
IN 17:12--19, WE READ OF 10 **LEPERS** WHO WITH A **LOUD** VOICE ASKED THE LORD TO **HEAL** THEM. THEY WERE **ALL HEALED**. BUT ONLY **ONE** OF THEM CAME **BACK** TO THE LORD AND WITH A **LOUD** VOICE GAVE **THANKS**. AND BECAUSE HE GAVE **THANKS**, HE GOT SOMETHING **MORE**. "**YOUR FAITH HAS SAVED YOU**" (VERSE 19). THE OTHER **NINE** GOT ONLY **PHYSICAL** HEALING. THIS MAN WAS A **DESPISED SAMARITAN**, BUT HE GOT WHAT THE OTHER **NINE RESPECTABLE** JEWS DID **NOT** GET -- **SALVATION**. YOU GET MORE FROM THE LORD WHEN YOU **THANK** HIM FOR HIS BLESSINGS.



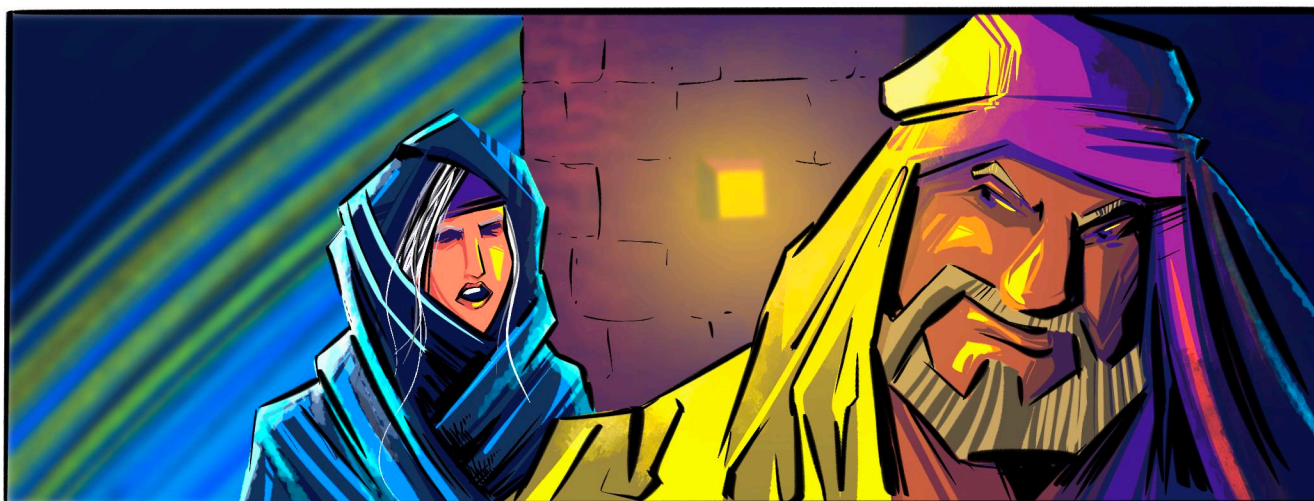
THEN JESUS SPOKE ABOUT HIS **SECOND** COMING. WHAT WE READ IN MATTHEW 24 IS **REPEATED** BY THE HOLY SPIRIT HERE, BECAUSE HE DOES NOT WANT ANYONE TO BE **DECEIVED**. **DON'T** BELIEVE THOSE WHO SAY, 'LOOK, HE HAS COME HERE OR THERE (**SECRETLY**).' HIS COMING WILL BE **SEEN** BY **EVERYONE**, JUST AS THE **LIGHTNING** THAT FLASHES FROM ONE PART OF THE SKY TO ANOTHER. **ALL** BELIEVERS WILL BE ON EARTH DURING THE GREAT **TRIBULATION** THAT **PRECEDES** HIS RETURN -- BECAUSE THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE AWAY HIS **BEST** SOLDIERS FROM EARTH AT A TIME WHEN HE NEEDS THEIR **WITNESS** THE **MOST** -- DURING THE REIGN OF THE **ANTICHRIST**.



THE DOCTRINE OF A **SECRET RAPTURE** AROSE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN **ENGLAND** IN THE MID-1800S -- AND ITS ECHOES ARE NOW HEARD **ALL** OVER THE WORLD. I AM NOT SURPRISED THAT THIS DOCTRINE WAS INVENTED BY **COMFORT-LOVING** CHRISTIANS IN A COUNTRY (ENGLAND) THAT HAD **NOT** FACED **PERSECUTION** FOR CENTURIES.



AND WHEN THE LORD **DOES** FINALLY **COME**, A FEW WILL BE **RAPTURED** TO MEET HIM IN THE **AIR** AND TO WELCOME HIM TO EARTH. **MANY** WILL BE **LEFT BEHIND**. SO THE LORD TOLD US TO BE **PERPETUALLY** READY. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU ARE ON THE **ROOF** OF YOUR HOUSE, YOU **SHOULD NOT HAVE** TO **GO DOWN** TO YOUR HOUSE. PERPETUAL READINESS MEANS THAT YOU HAVE **SETTLED ALL** MATTERS AT ALL TIMES WITH **NO ATTACHMENT** TO **MATERIAL** THINGS



IN 18:1--7, JESUS AGAIN SPOKE ABOUT **PERSISTENCE** IN PRAYER. HERE THE NEED IS **PERSONAL** DELIVERANCE FROM THE OPPRESSION OF SATAN. THE **WIDOW** IS A PICTURE OF A **BELIEVER**. THE LORD ALWAYS PICTURED BELIEVERS AS **WEAK** AND **HELPLESS** -- A WIDOW OR A SHEEP. THIS WAS SO THAT WE WOULD SEEK FOR HELP FROM **GOD** AND **NOT** **DEPEND** ON **OUR OWN ABILITIES**. WHEN WE ARE **FEARFUL** OR **DEFEATED** BY SIN, WE ARE BEING **HARASSED** BY SATAN. WE MUST SEEK **GOD** UNTIL WE ARE **FREED** FROM THIS **OPPRESSION**.



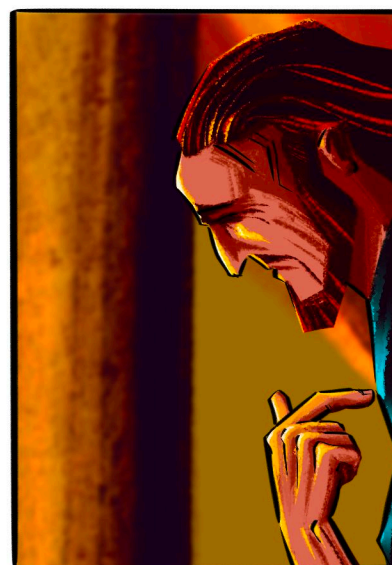
WE MUST DO THE **SAME**. JESUS CONCLUDED THE PARABLE, HOWEVER, BY STATING THAT WHEN HE **RETURNS** TO EARTH, HE WILL FIND VERY **FEW** WHO HAVE **FAITH** FOR SUCH A LIFE OF **PERPETUAL VICTORY** (18:8).

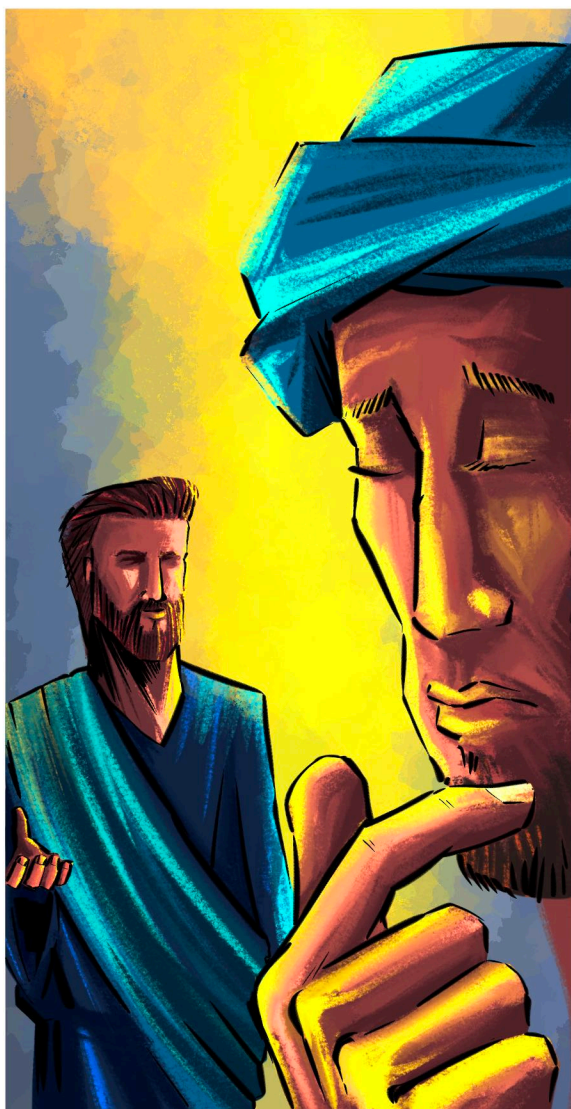


THE **MORE** WE **RECOGNISE** OUR **HELPLESSNESS**, THE **MORE** WE WILL GO TO **GOD** IN **PRAYER** AND **WEEP** ON OUR **PILLOWS** AT **NIGHT** FOR **VICTORY**. AND THEN WE WILL **GET IT!**



THE NEXT PARABLE THAT JESUS SPOKE (18:9--14) WAS TO EXPOSE THE PRIDE OF SELF-RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE -- THE PARABLE OF THE **PHARISEE** AND THE **TAX-COLLECTOR**. THE PHARISEE HERE WASN'T EVEN PRAYING TO GOD. HE WAS PRAYING TO **HIMSELF** (VERSE 11). HE HIMSELF WAS HIS **GOD!** A **PROUD** MAN WORSHIPS **HIMSELF**, AND **BOASTS** ABOUT HIS PRAYING, FASTING, TITHING, MISSIONARY WORK ETC. THE POOR **TAX-COLLECTOR** PRAYED SAYING, "BE MERCIFUL TO ME THE **SINNER**". HE CALLED HIMSELF "**THE SINNER**" AS IF HE WAS THE **ONLY** **SINNER** ON EARTH. THEREFORE HE WENT **HOME JUSTIFIED**.





THEN COMES TWO MORE INCIDENTS RELATED TO **MONEY**. IN THE FIRST ONE, A **RICH YOUNG RULER** WAS **UNWILLING TO PAY THE PRICE** TO FOLLOW **JESUS** AND **TURNED AWAY** FROM HIM (18:18--27).



THE SECOND INCIDENT IS ABOUT **ZACCHEUS**, A RICH **TAX-COLLECTOR** WHO HAD CHEATED **MANY** PEOPLE IN HIS LIFE (19:1--10). BUT **ZACCHEUS** BEING **EAGER** TO MEET THE LORD CLIMBED UP INTO A **TREE** TO SEE HIM. AS **JESUS** WALKED ALONG THAT ROAD, THE **HOLY SPIRIT** PROMPTED HIM TO STOP AND LOOK **UP** INTO THAT TREE. THE LORD THEN TOLD **ZACCHEUS** THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO **VISIT** HIS HOUSE.



ZACCHEUS WAS **THRILLED**. BUT AS THE LORD CAME IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE, "**ZACCHEUS STOPPED**" (VERSE 8) AND SAID (AS IT WERE), "LORD, YOU ARE **HOLY**. YOU CAN'T COME TO **MY** HOUSE BECAUSE I HAVE BUILT IT WITH **UNRIGHTEOUS** MONEY THAT I GOT BY **CHEATING** MANY PEOPLE. BUT LORD, I'M NOW GOING TO GIVE **HALF** MY MONEY TO THE POOR AND I AM GOING TO RETURN **FOUR** TIMES THE MONEY I TOOK FROM ALL THOSE WHOM I CHEATED." **HOW DID ZACCHEUS CHANGE?** **JESUS NEVER PREACHED A SERMON** ON **RIGHTEOUSNESS** THERE. IT WAS THE **LIGHT** THAT WENT **OUT** FROM **JESUS** THAT **CONVICTED** **ZACCHEUS**.



IN 19:11--20, WE READ YET ANOTHER PARABLE RELATED TO **MONEY**. A NOBLE- MAN WHO WAS GOING ON A LONG JOURNEY CALLED HIS TEN SLAVES AND GAVE THEM EACH SOME MONEY AND TOLD THEM TO DO **BUSINESS** WITH IT. ONE SLAVE WAS SO **FAITHFUL** IN INVESTING IT, THAT HE PRODUCED **TEN MINAS** WITH THAT ONE MINA. ANOTHER MAN PRODUCED **FIVE MINAS**, WHILE YET ANOTHER **WRAPPED UP** THE MINA IN A HANDKERCHIEF, **BURIED** IT UNDER THE GROUND, AND GAVE IT BACK TO THE MASTER WHEN HE RETURNED. HE DIDN'T COMMIT ANY **SIN**. HE JUST **WASTED** HIS ONE LIFE.



IN THE PARABLE IN MATTHEW 25, THE AMOUNTS GIVEN WERE **DIFFERENT**. THAT PARABLE WAS ABOUT **GIFTS**. BUT IN THE PARABLE **HERE**, THE AMOUNT GIVEN TO EACH PERSON IS THE **SAME**. THIS REFERS TO **TWO** THINGS. FIRST OF ALL, TO OUR **TIME**. WE ALL HAVE THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME EVERY DAY -- 24 HOURS. SECONDLY, THIS REFERS TO OUR **BODY**. WE ALL HAVE THE **SAME** BODY AND ARE **TEMPTED** IN EXACTLY THE SAME WAY



IN 19:30, WE READ OF JESUS ENTERING JERUSALEM ON A **DONKEY**. **KINGS** RODE ON **HORSES**, BUT JESUS CHOSE A DONKEY. HE DID IT TO SHOW THAT ALL THAT IS **BIG** AND **GREAT** IN THE EYES OF THE **WORLD** IS **DESPICABLE** BEFORE **GOD**. IT'S A GREAT **ENCOURAGEMENT** TO KNOW THAT EVEN IF WE ARE AS **STUPID** AS **DONKEYS**, THE **LORD** **NEEDS** US AND WANTS TO **USE** US FOR **HIS PURPOSES**.



THAT DONKEY GOT A LOT OF **HONOUR** THAT DAY -- AND SO MAY **YOU**, WHEN THE **LORD** **USES** **YOU**. BUT IF THAT DONKEY **IMAGINED** THAT PEOPLE WERE APPRECIATING **IT**, THEN IT WAS **SADLY MISTAKEN**. THEY WERE **HONOURING** THE **LORD**. THE **MOMENT** JESUS GOT **OFF**, IT **REVERTED** TO THE SAME **OLD** DONKEY IT WAS BEFORE -- AND NOBODY **HONOURED** IT ANY MORE. THAT'S A GOOD LESSON FOR US TO KEEP IN MIND. WHEN PEOPLE APPRECIATE US, IT IS **CHRIST** IN **US** THAT THEY ARE APPRECIATING.



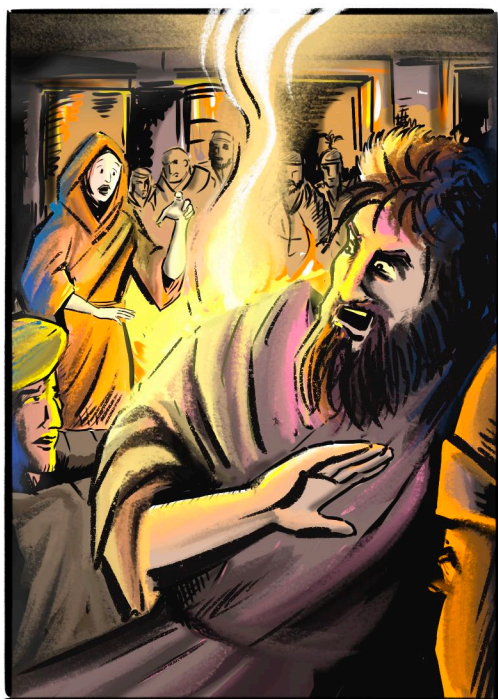
IN CHAPTER 21, WE READ ABOUT THE **SECOND COMING** OF THE LORD. THERE WILL BE **PERSECUTION** AND EVEN OUR RELATIVES MAY BETRAY US. BUT WE NEED **NEVER FEAR**, BECAUSE **NO-ONE** CAN **TOUCH** EVEN A **HAIR** ON OUR HEAD **WITHOUT** THE **LORD'S PERMISSION** (VERSE 18).



IN 22:24, WE SEE THAT EVEN AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS OF **LISTENING** TO THE LORD, THE **DISCIPLES** WERE STILL DISCUSSING WHO WAS THE **GREATEST** AMONG THEM. THE LORD DID NOT SELECT **PERFECT** PEOPLE AS HIS DISCIPLES -- AND HE WAS VERY **GENTLE** IN **CORRECTING** THEM. HE KNEW THAT **WHEN** THEY WERE **FILLED** WITH THE **HOLY SPIRIT**, THEY WOULD ALL BE **CHANGED** -- AND THEY WERE.



IN 22:31, WE READ OF JESUS WARNING SIMON PETER THAT **SATAN** HAD ASKED **GOD** FOR **PERMISSION** TO **SIFT** HIM LIKE **WHEAT** -- AND **GOD** HAD **GIVEN** **SATAN** THAT **PERMISSION**. THIS REMINDS US OF THE STORY OF **JOB**, WHERE TOO, **SATAN** HAD TO **TAKE** **GOD'S PERMISSION** BEFORE HE COULD TROUBLE **JOB**. **GOD** WILL **NEVER ALLOW** **SATAN** TO TEMPT US **BEYOND** WHAT WE ARE **ABLE** TO **BEAR** (1 CORINTHIANS 10:13).



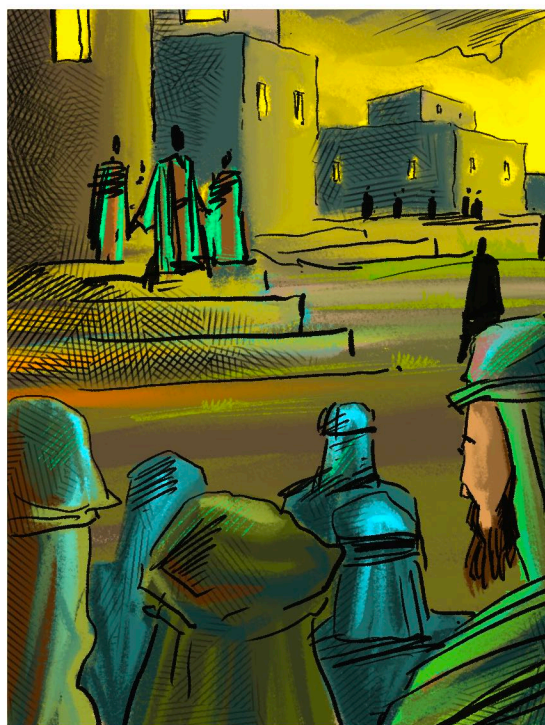
AND JESUS TOLD PETER THAT WHEN **SATAN** TEMPTED HIM, HE WOULD **FALL** -- NOT JUST **ONCE** BUT **THREE TIMES**. YET JESUS NEVER PRAYED THAT PETER WOULD **NOT** **FALL**. HE ONLY PRAYED THAT **PETER'S FAITH** WOULD NOT **FAIL**. WHY DID JESUS NOT PRAY THAT PETER WOULD NOT **FALL**? BECAUSE PETER WAS SO **PROUD** THAT **NOTHING** LESS THAN **FALLING INTO SIN** WOULD **HUMBLE** HIM.



IT IS ONLY WHEN WE **FALL** -- **REPEATEDLY** -- THAT WE RECOGNISE THAT **NOTHING GOOD** DWELLS IN OUR **FLESH** AND THAT WE CAN **NEVER OVERCOME SIN** ON OUR **OWN**. AND WHEN WE HAVE MADE A **MESS** OF OUR LIFE AND HIT **ROCK BOTTOM** -- WHEN WE HAVE COME TO THAT **ZERO** POINT, TO AN **END OF CONFIDENCE** IN OUR **OWN ABILITY** -- THEN WE MUST NOT LOSE FAITH. **GOD** STILL **LOVES** US AND HE WILL **MAKE** US **OVERCOMERS**. **FAILURE** ACCOMPLISHES A **PURPOSE** IN **GOD'S PLAN**.



PETER'S **FAILURE** AND HIS **WEeping BITTERLY** FOR HIS FAILURE WAS ALL **PREPARATION** FOR PENTECOST. IF HE HAD **NOT** FALLEN SO DEEPLY INTO SIN THAT NIGHT, HE WOULD HAVE **STOOD** UP ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST AS A **PROUD** MAN **LOOKING DOWN** ON ALL THE **SINNERS** THERE.



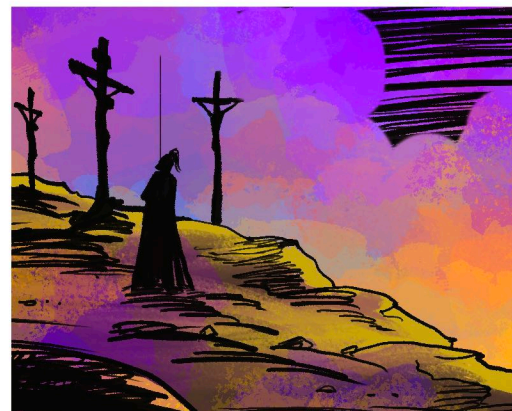
BUT AS A **BROKEN** MAN, HE LOOKED AT THEM AS **SINNERS** JUST LIKE **HIM**. HE FELT THAT HE WAS THE **BIGGEST SINNER** OF ALL. THAT'S THE TYPE OF PERSON GOD PICKS UP, FILLS WITH THE **HOLY SPIRIT**, AND USES IN HIS SERVICE. AND WHEN GOD USED HIM **MIGHTILY** THAT COULD **NOT** GO TO PETER'S HEAD ANY MORE



IN 23:40--42, THERE ARE **TWO** LESSONS THAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THE **THIEF** ON THE CROSS, WHO WAS **SAVED**. FIRST OF ALL, HE RECOGNISED THAT **JESUS** HAD DONE **NOTHING** WRONG. HOW? THAT THIEF HAD SEEN SO MANY PEOPLE WHO, WHEN THEY WERE BEING CRUCIFIED, WOULD **CURSE** AND SWEAR. BUT HERE HE SAW SOMEONE SAYING, "**FATHER, FORGIVE THEM**" IT IS WHEN OTHERS SEE A **FORGIVING** NATURE IN US, THAT THEY TOO WILL BE **CONVICTED** OF THEIR **SIN**. THE **ROMAN CENTURION** ACKNOWLEDGED THIS TOO. THE **SECOND** THING WE SEE IS THAT WHILE THE OTHER THIEF WANTED TO BE TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS (BELIEVING THAT HE DID NOT **DESERVE** TO DIE), THIS THIEF ADMITTED THAT HE **DESERVED** TO BE **CRUCIFIED**. PARADISE HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO ARE **HONEST**.



IN 24:13--33, WE READ OF TWO DISCIPLES WALKING TO **EMMAUS** AND THE RISEN **JESUS** JOINING THEM. IT WAS A SEVEN MILE JOURNEY AND THAT WOULD HAVE TAKEN **TWO** TO **THREE** HOURS OF A LEISURELY **WALK**. AND FOR ALL THAT TIME, THEY HAD A **BIBLE** STUDY FROM **GENESIS** TO **MALACHI**.





HE SHOWED THEM "**CHRIST**" IN ALL THOSE **SCRIPTURES** (24:27). AND THEIR **HEARTS BURNED** WITHIN THEM AS HE SPOKE (24:32). THAT'S HOW IT IS WHEN **JESUS** SPEAKS. THOSE WHO **PREACH** THE WORD MUST **LONG** TO PREACH LIKE THIS -- WHERE PEOPLE'S **EYES** ARE **OPENED** AND THEIR **HEARTS BURN** WITHIN THEM AS THEY HEAR THE WORD.



FINALLY, AFTER APPEARING TO HIS ELEVEN DISCIPLES, HE TOLD THEM TO **WAIT** IN JERUSALEM UNTIL THEY WERE "**ENDUED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH**" (24:49). THEY OBEYED HIM AND SPENT THE NEXT TEN DAYS **PRAISING** GOD (24:53). IT WAS IN THAT ATMOSPHERE OF **PRAISE** THAT THE **HOLY SPIRIT** FELL ON ALL OF THEM IN THE UPPER ROOM. THE SPIRIT FALLS ON PEOPLE EVEN TODAY IN A SIMILAR ATMOSPHERE! **HALLELUJAH!**