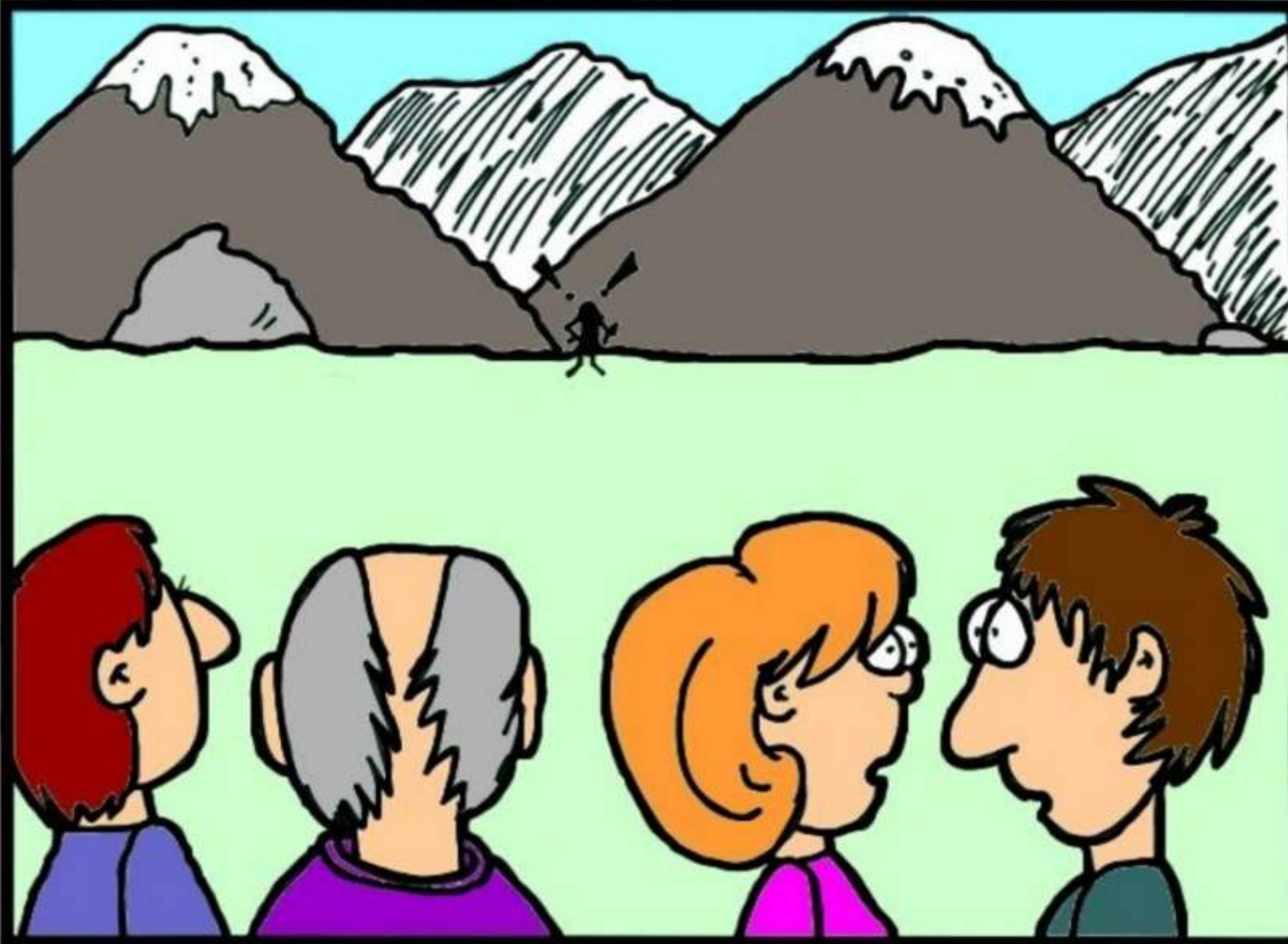


# John Baptist's Ministry

(Based on Matthew 3:1-17, Luke 3:1-23,  
John 1:29-34)

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“Repent! Change your ways!” cried a voice in the wilderness. It was John, Zachariah and Elizabeth’s son. Before long a huge crowd of people gathered to listen. John wore camel hair clothes and he ate locusts and wild honey.



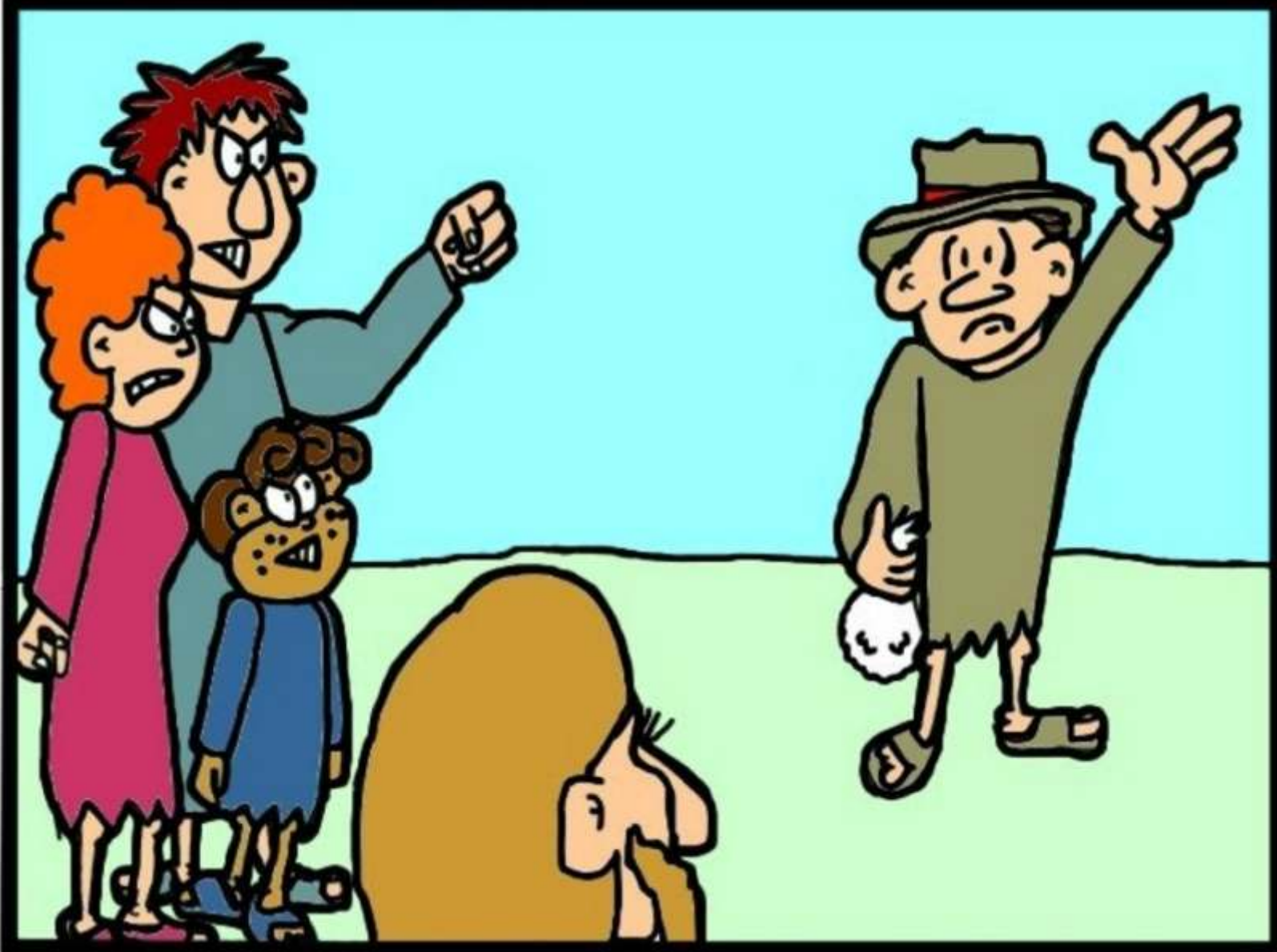
When John saw the phony religious Pharisees he yelled at them, “You children of snakes! Who warned you to run from God’s anger that is coming? Let your actions show that you have really changed!”



“And don’t think inside yourself that because Abraham is your ancestor, things are different for you! God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones!”



“What do we have to do?” gasped all the people. “He that has two coats should give one to the person that has no coat. He that has food should give some food to the people that have no food,” answered John.



“What about us?” yelled a tax collector. “Only collect the amount of money that you are supposed to collect,” answered John.



“What about us?” asked the soldiers. “What do we have to do?” “Don’t push people around and be mean to them. Don’t take anything that doesn’t belong to you. Be happy with the amount you get paid!” answered John.



“God sent me to dunk (baptize) you in the water, but someone is coming after me and I am not even good enough to untie his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”





One by one the people came to John in the river. They told him all the bad things they had done and then he baptized them by dunking them into the river.



One day Jesus came, but John tried to stop him. “I shouldn’t be baptizing you,” said John. “You should be baptizing me!” “Let it be this way for now,” answered Jesus. “It’s the right thing to do.”



As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens opened up and the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove and it landed on Jesus. “You are my Son and I love you. I am very pleased with you,” said a voice from heaven.



Lord, help me to show by my actions that you have come into my life and changed my heart.