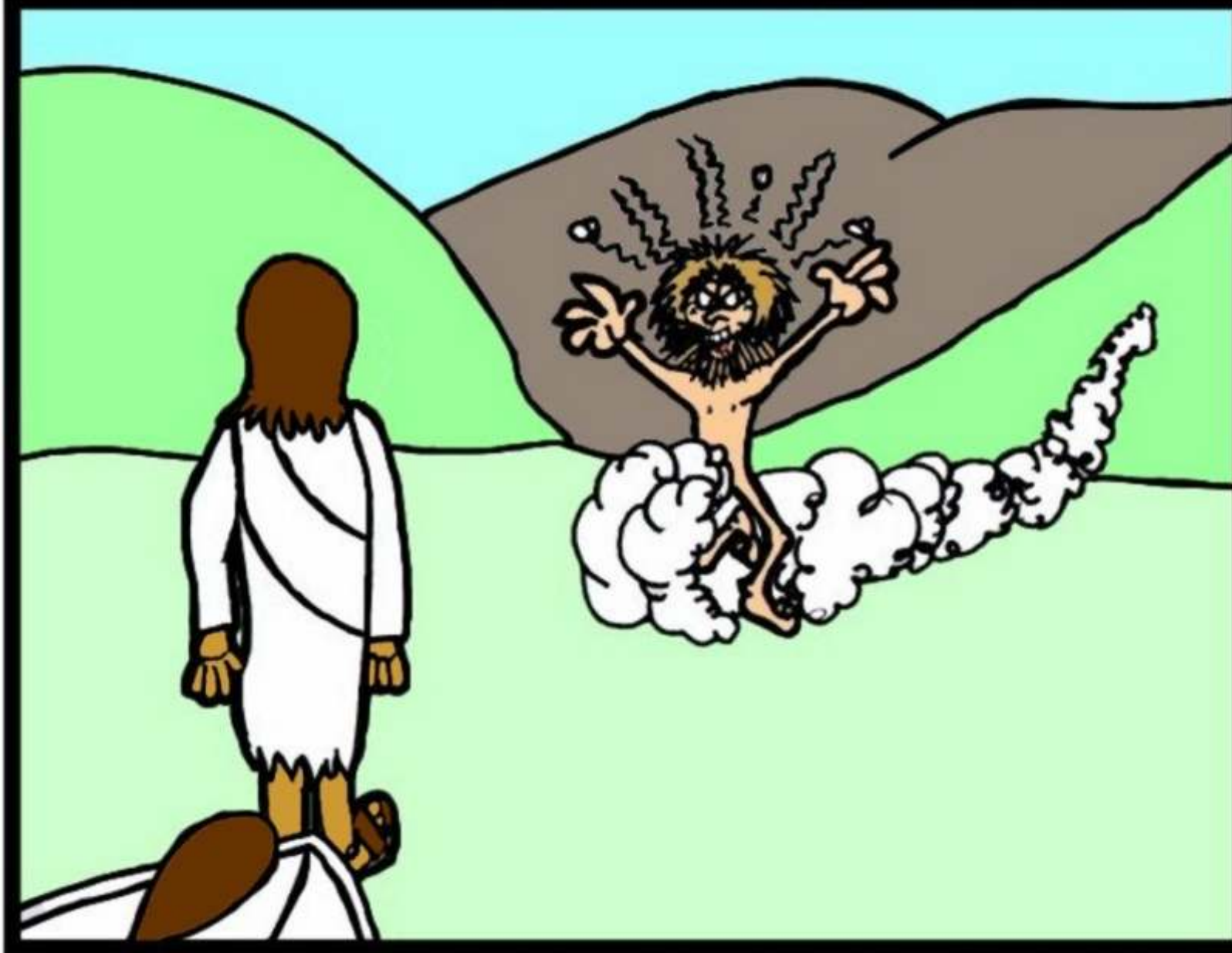


Maniac of Gadara

(Based on Mark 5:1-20, Matthew 8:28-34,
Luke 8:26-39,
Mark 7:31-37)

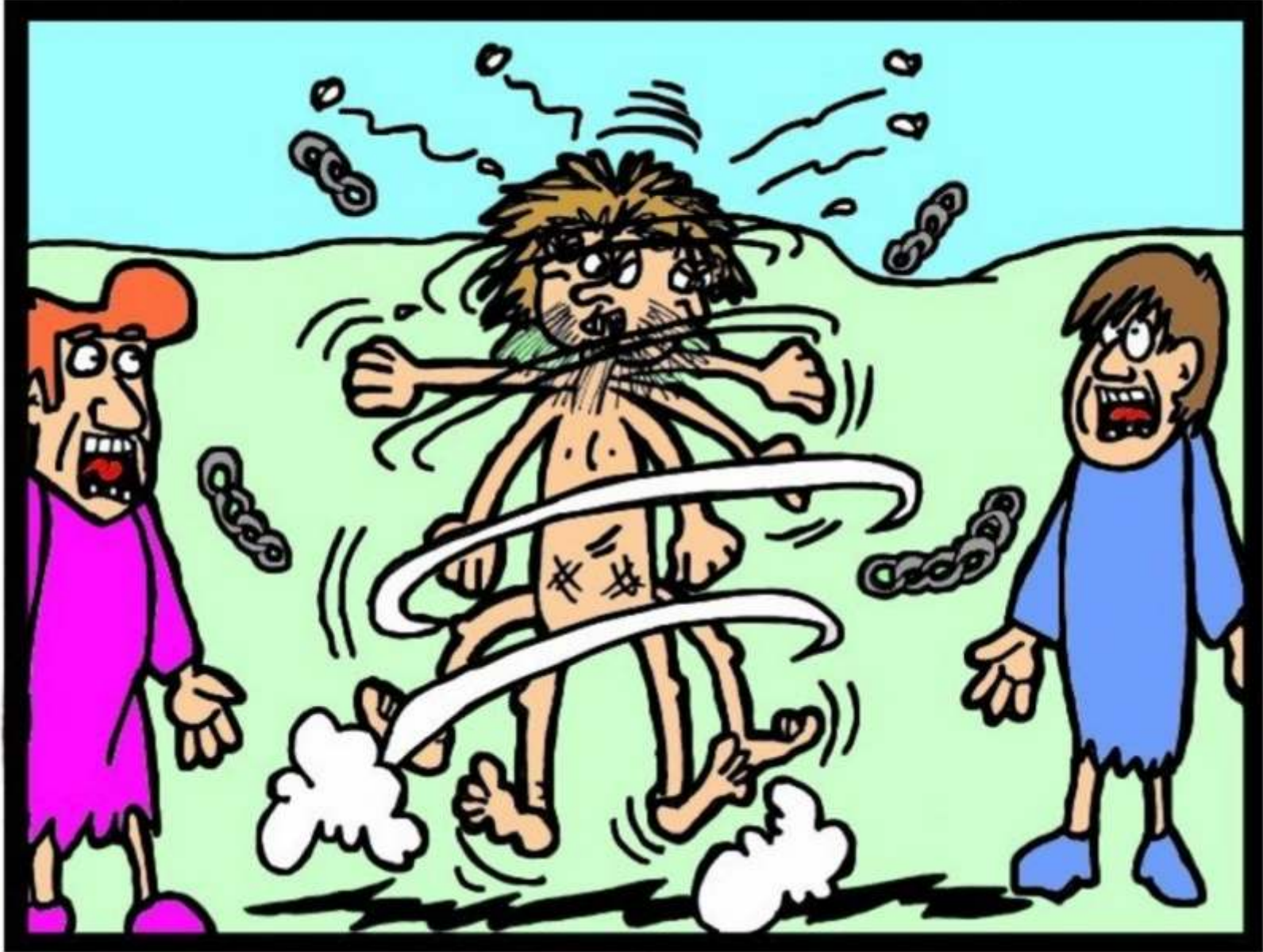
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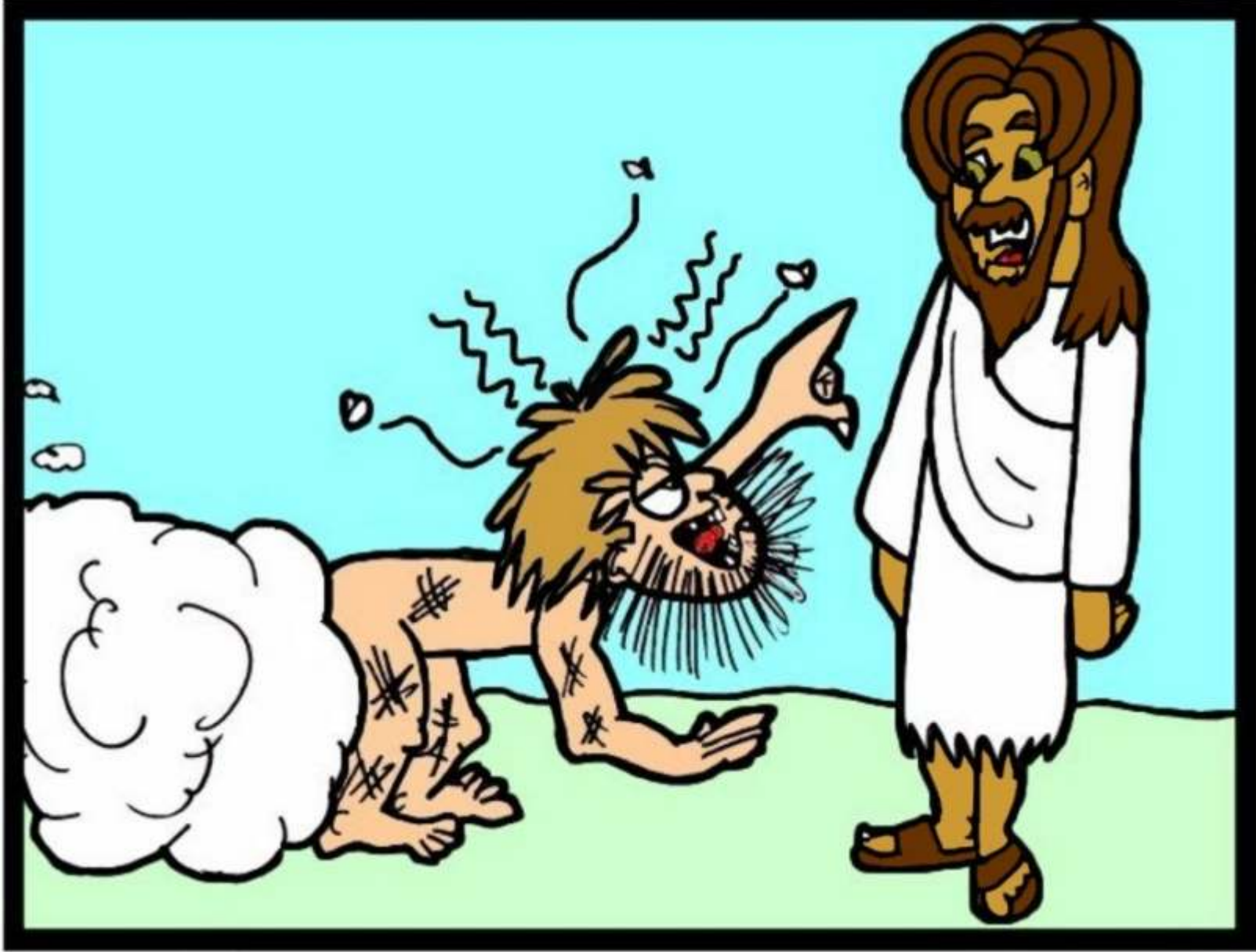
One day Jesus crossed the sea and came to the country of the Gerasenes. As soon as he got out of the boat, a very unusual thing happened. A man with no clothes came running to meet him! The man was a terrible mess.



The man had demons living inside him and the demons tortured him. He hardly ever slept. Day and night he would cry out as he wandered around the graveyard and in the mountains. He would cut himself with stones.



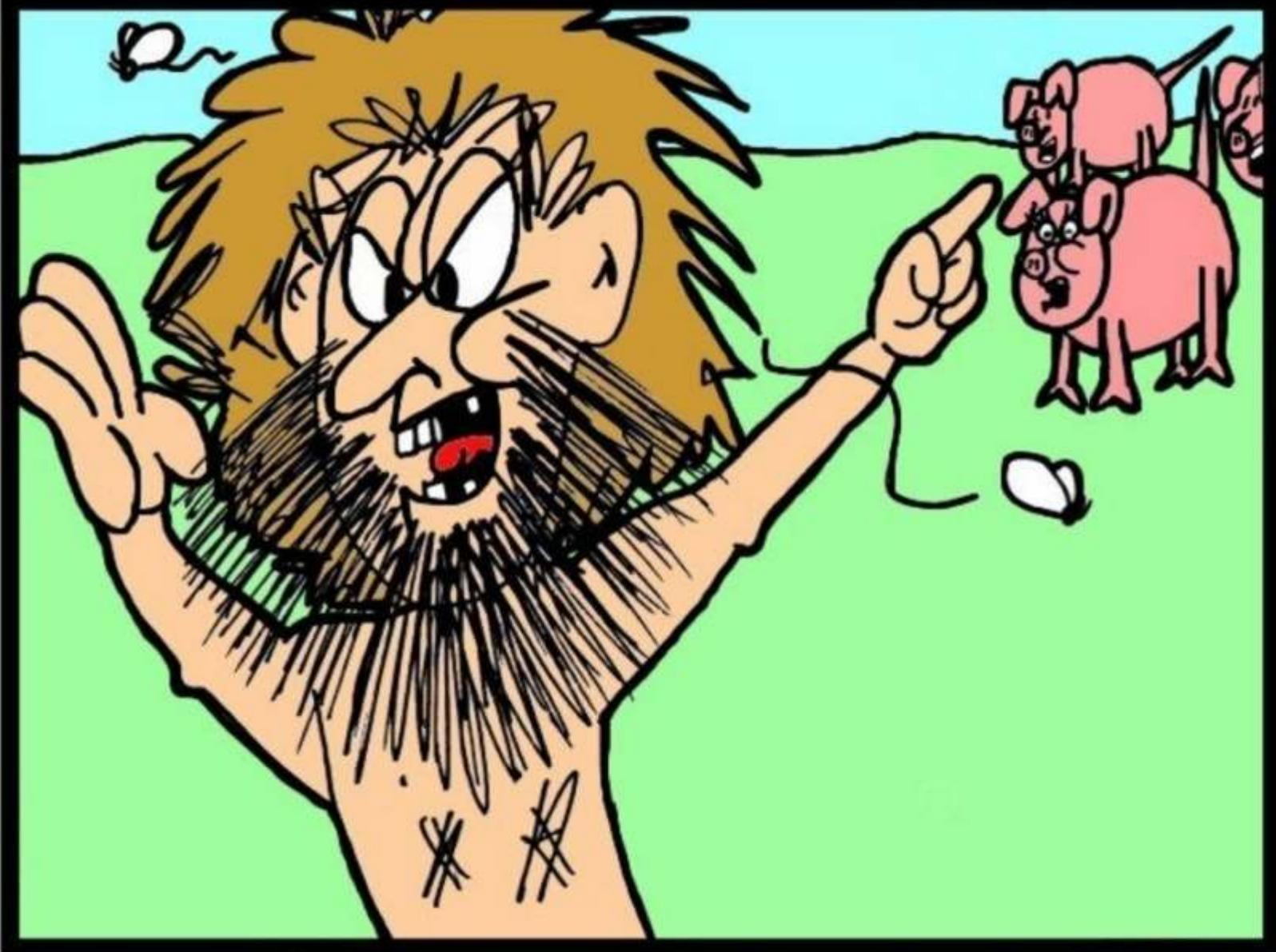
People tried to capture the man but they couldn't. They would chain him up, but he would break the chains. No one had the strength to overpower him.



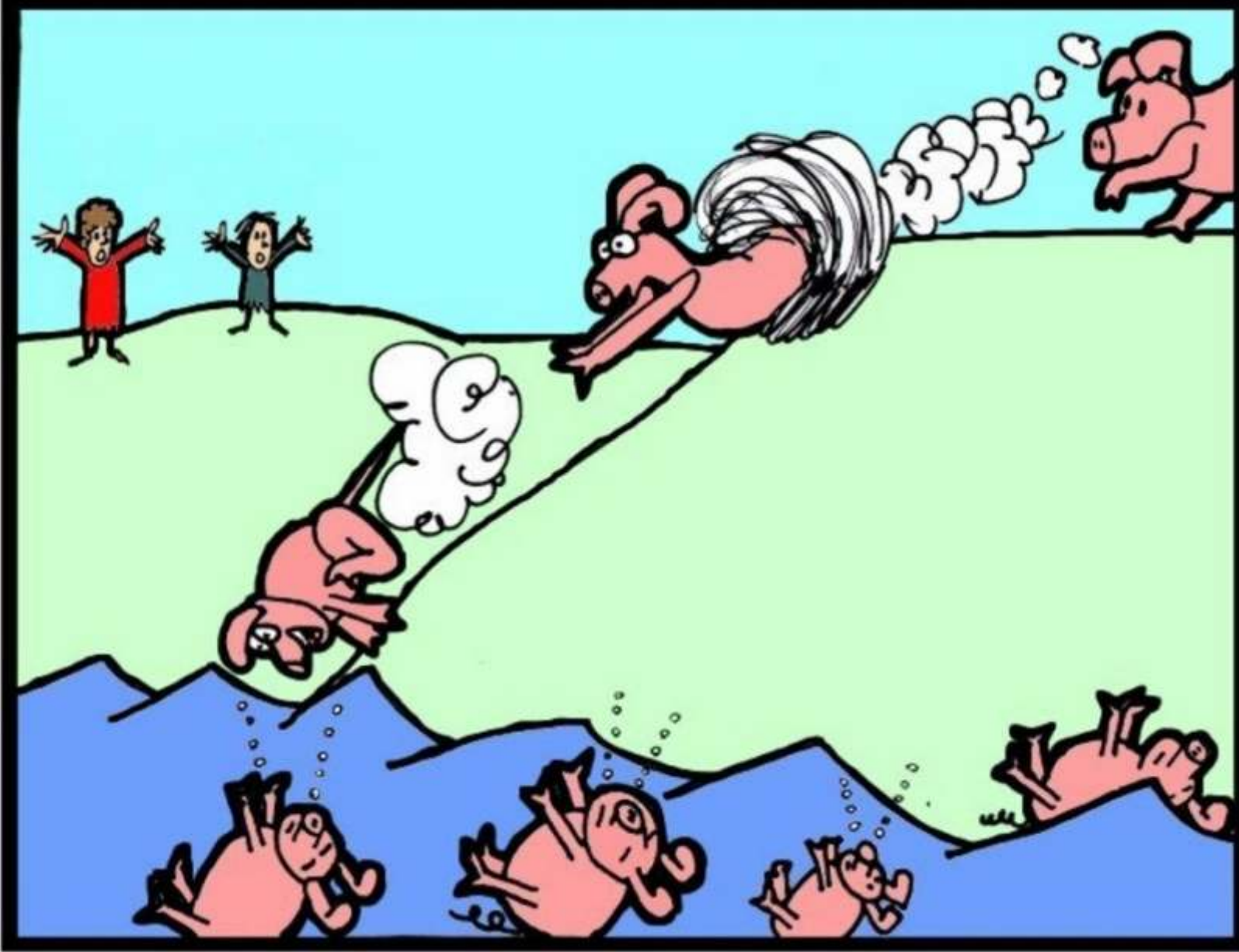
From far away the man saw Jesus coming and he ran to Jesus to worship him. But then he started yelling, "What have I to do with you, Jesus, you Son of the Most High God?"



"Come out of the man you evil spirit!" commanded Jesus. "I beg you, please don't torment us!" cried the evil spirit. "What's your name?" asked Jesus.



"Legion," answered the demon because many demons had entered into the man. "Please don't send us into the bottomless pit! Can we go and live in the herd of pigs that are feeding here on the mountain?"



Jesus gave permission. As soon as the demons entered into the pigs, all 2,000 pigs committed suicide. They rushed down the steep slope and drowned in the sea.



The whole city came out to meet Jesus. They found the man who used to have the demons, dressed and in his right mind (he wasn't acting strange anymore). He was listening to Jesus. The city people were very afraid and they asked Jesus to go away.



The man who used to have the demons begged to follow Jesus, but Jesus answered, "No. Go to your family and to your friends and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you and how he had mercy on you."



The man obeyed and he went into Decapolis (10 towns). He told everybody the great things Jesus had done for him. Everyone who heard his story was amazed. Later when Jesus returned to that area, many people believed in Him.



Lord, thank you that you can set people free. Help me to keep my heart filled with your Word and your Spirit.