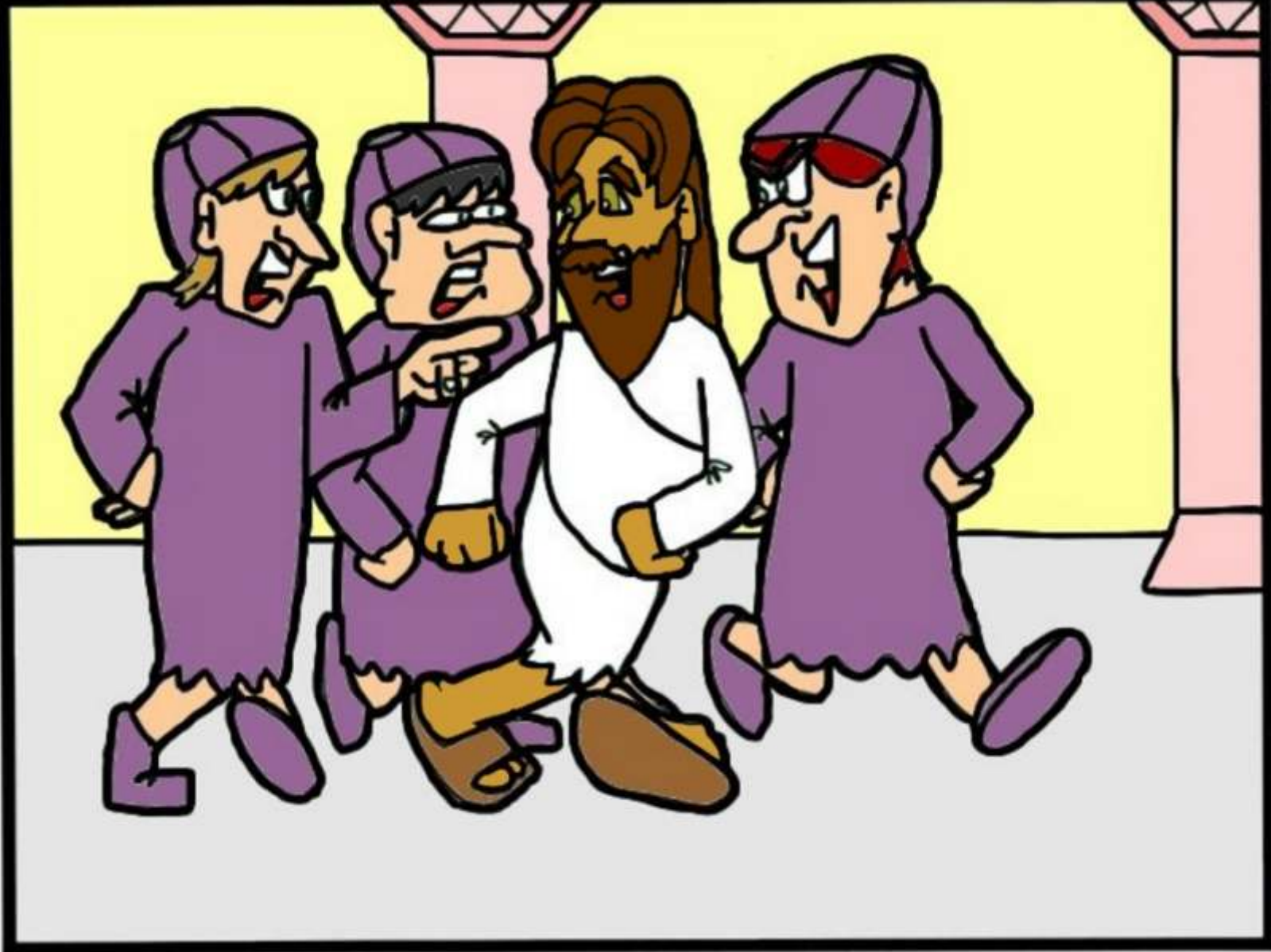


# Rulers Question Jesus' Authority

(Based on Mark 11:17-12:12,  
Matthew 21:23-46, Luke 20-1:29)

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Some Pharisees asked, "Who told you that you could do these things?" "I'll ask you one question and if you answer, then I will tell you," said Jesus. "Was John baptizing because God told him to, or was it just a man's idea?"



"If we say God told him to do it, then Jesus will say, why didn't you listen to John? If we say it was just a man's idea, then the people will throw stones at us until we are dead. Everyone says that John was a prophet."





"Jesus, we can't tell you," they answered. "Then I can't tell you either," answered Jesus. "But tell me what you think about this."



A man had two sons and he said to the first son, 'Go work in the vineyard today.' 'I will not,' answered the first son. But he changed his mind and went and worked after all.

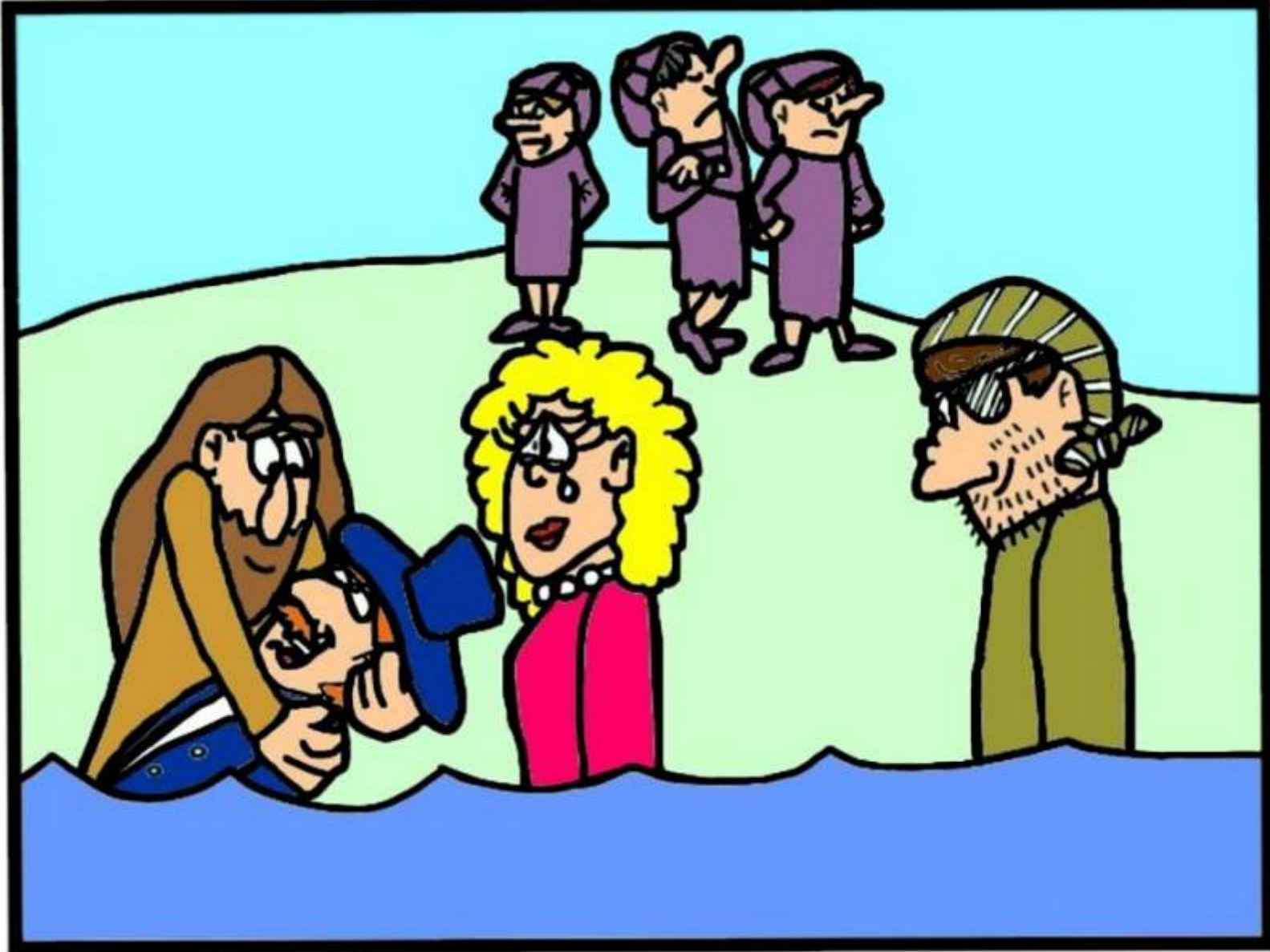


Then the father came to his second son and said, 'Son go and work in the vineyard.' 'Yes sir. I'm going,' answered the second son. But he didn't go.





Which of the boys did what his father wanted?" asked Jesus. They answered, "The first son."



Jesus said, "The tax collectors and people who did bad things are coming into God's Kingdom but you are staying outside. They changed their ways when they listened to John. But you didn't. You didn't even think about it and believe later."





Lord, help me to listen to your  
Word and do what you want.