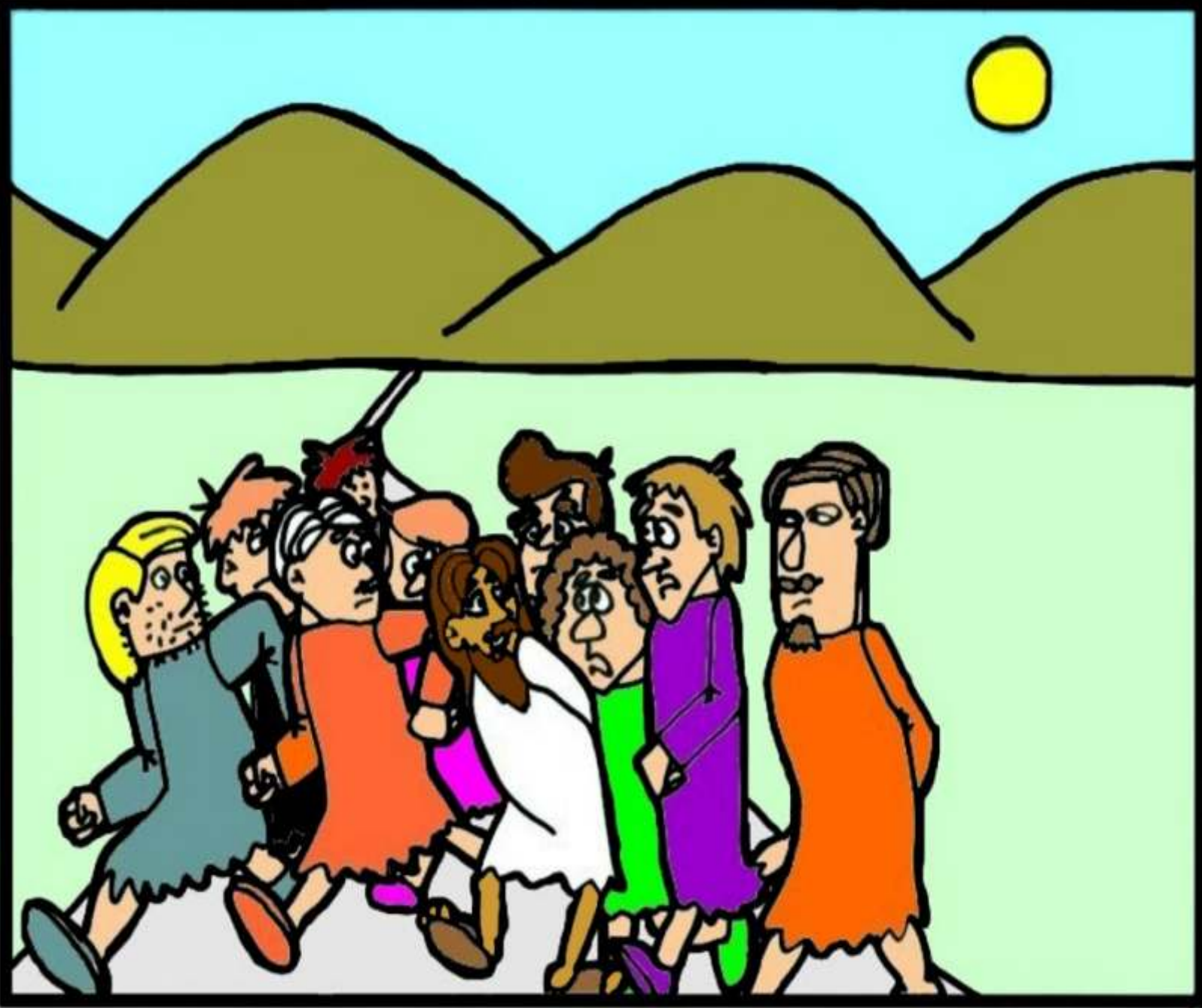


Selfish Ambition of James and John

(Based on Matthew 20:17-28, Mark 10:32-45,
Luke 18:31-34)

Copyright © 2007 Patricia Loranger



One day as Jesus and his disciples traveled on the road to Jerusalem he began to tell them the things that were going to happen to him when he arrived in Jerusalem.



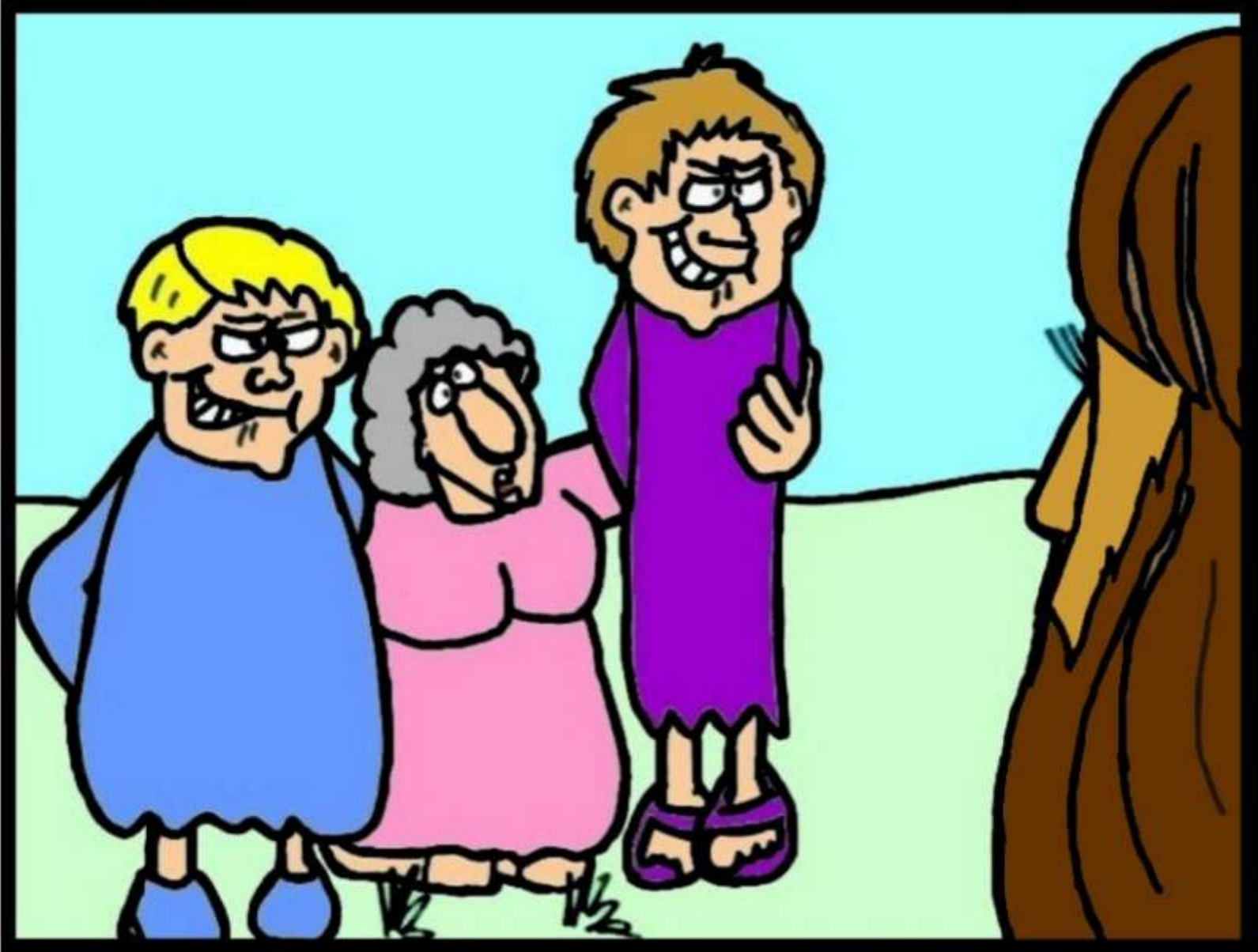
"I am going to be handed over to the boss priests and the phony religious people. They are going to decide I should be killed. They will hand me over to the Roman soldiers.



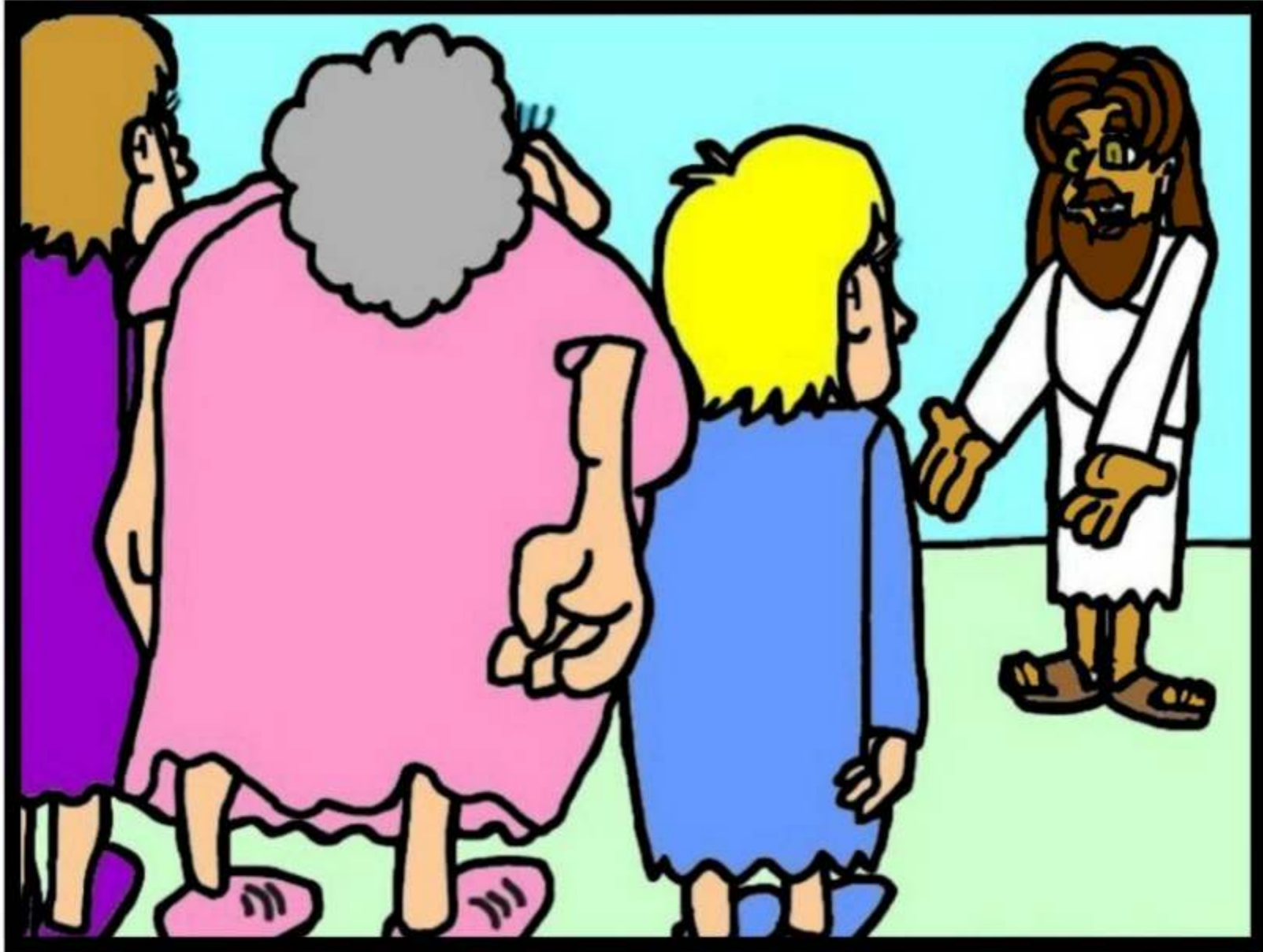
They will make fun of me. They will spit on me.



They will whip me. They will nail me to a cross and kill me but on the third day after this, I will rise up again.



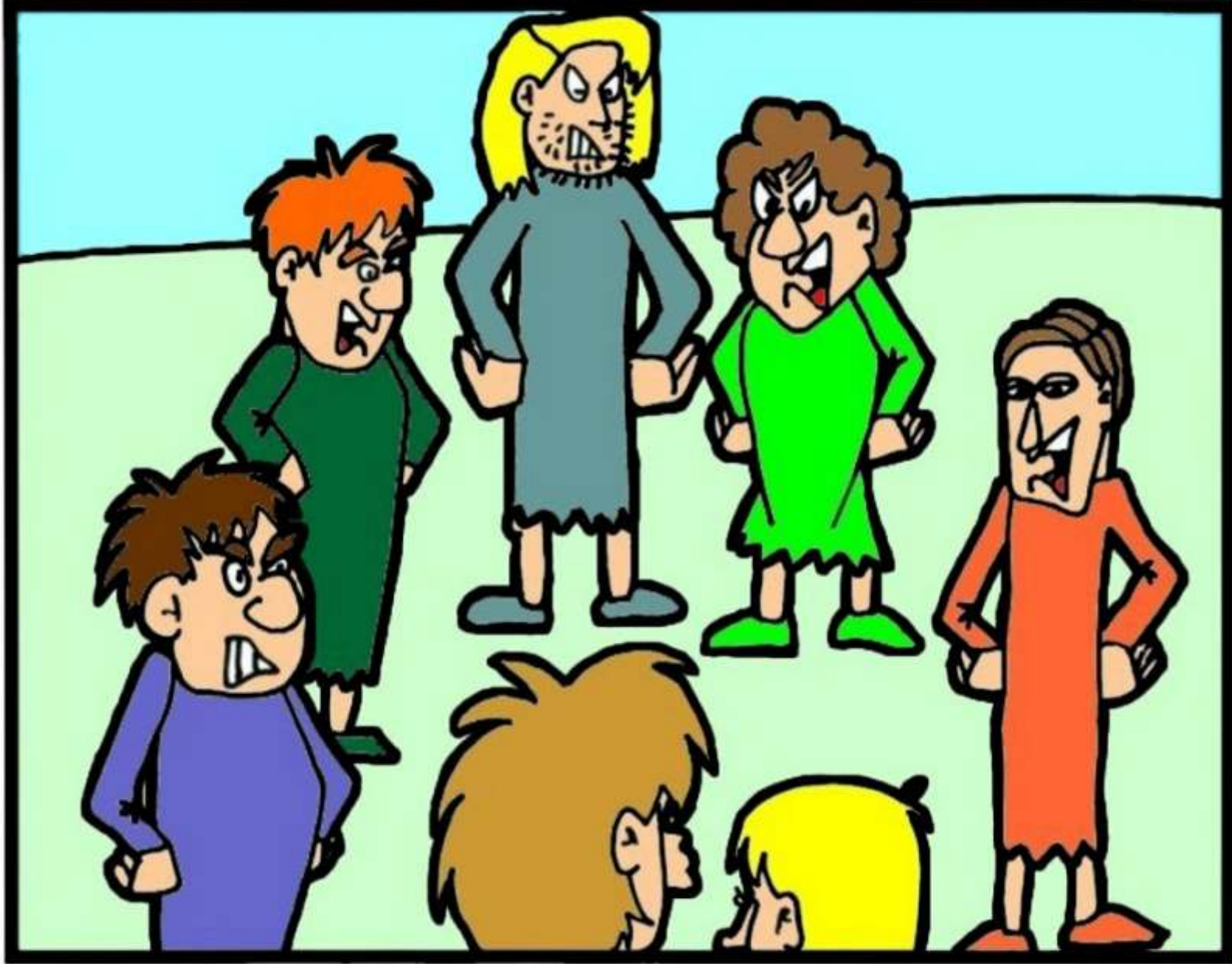
James and John's mom came to Jesus. She came and kneeled down before him. "Lord Jesus, make a command that these two sons of mine, James and John may sit, one at your right side and the other on your left side in your kingdom," she said.



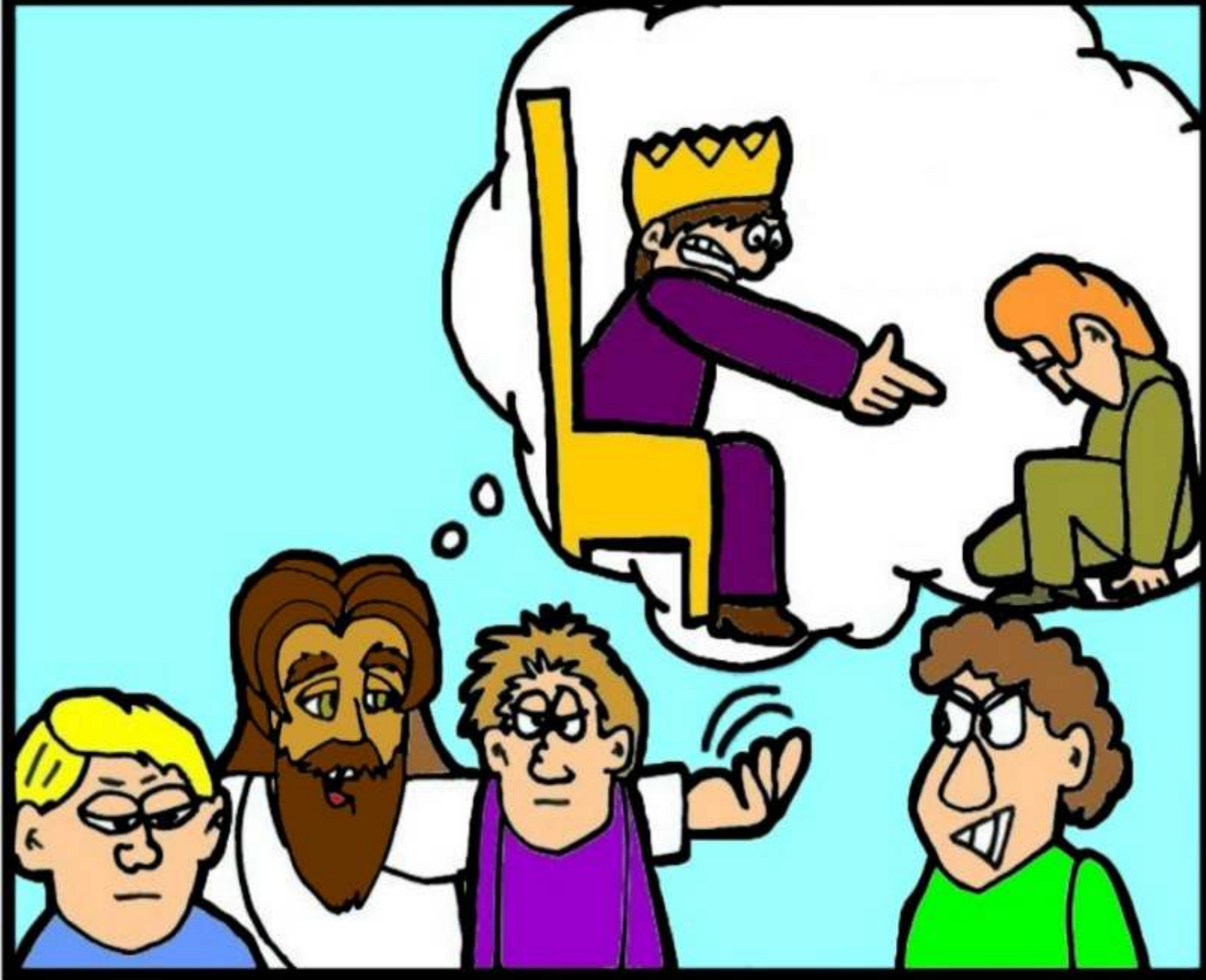
Jesus answered, "You don't know what you're asking. Can you boys drink the cup that I am about to drink and be baptized with the baptism I am about to be baptized with (the suffering he was about to receive)?"



The boys looked at each other and said, "Sure." Jesus smiled and said, "You will indeed, but to sit on my right and left side is not for me to decide. My father is preparing people for those jobs."



The other disciples were downright cranky when they heard what James and John wanted. "Who do they think they are? They want to be the bosses over us! Hmpff!!!! Never!!!! They're not going to be the bosses over us!"



"Everyone come together, come close to me," said Jesus. "You know that in this world, rulers and leaders lord it over the people and boss them around. This is NOT the way I want you guys to act."



The people among you that will be great, will be servants, and whoever wants the first position has to serve like a slave.



Hey look at me," said Jesus. "I didn't come to be served, but I came to serve and to give my life as a ransom to rescue many people."



Lord, help me to find great happiness in serving others. I think I'll start by serving my family.