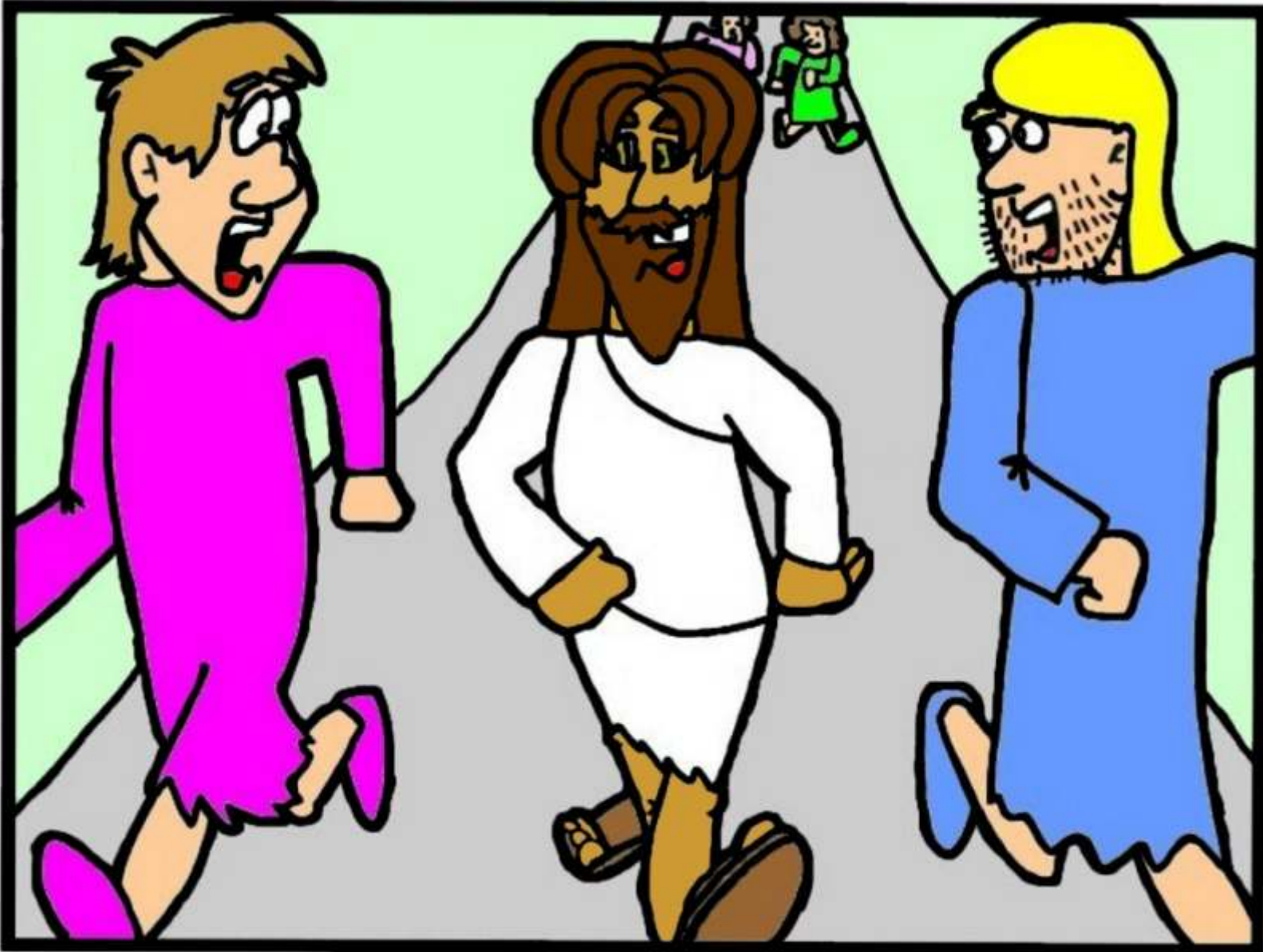


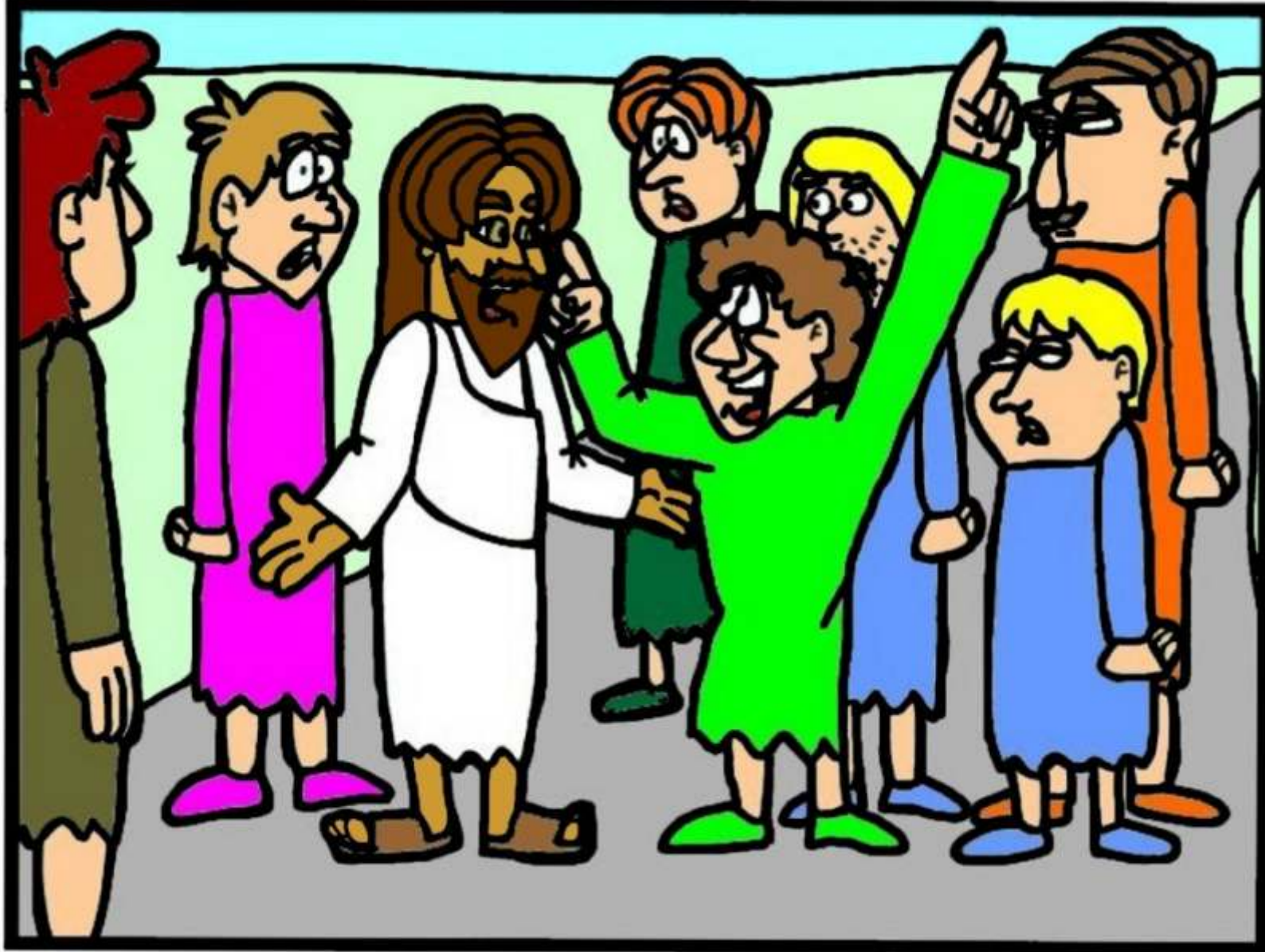
The Cost of Following Jesus

(Based on Mark 8:27-9:1, Matthew 16:13-28,
Luke 9:18-27)

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One day as Jesus and his disciples were traveling, he asked, "Who do people say I am?" "Some say John the Baptist, Elijah or one of the prophets," answered the disciples.



"But who do you say that I am?" asked Jesus. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," answered Peter.



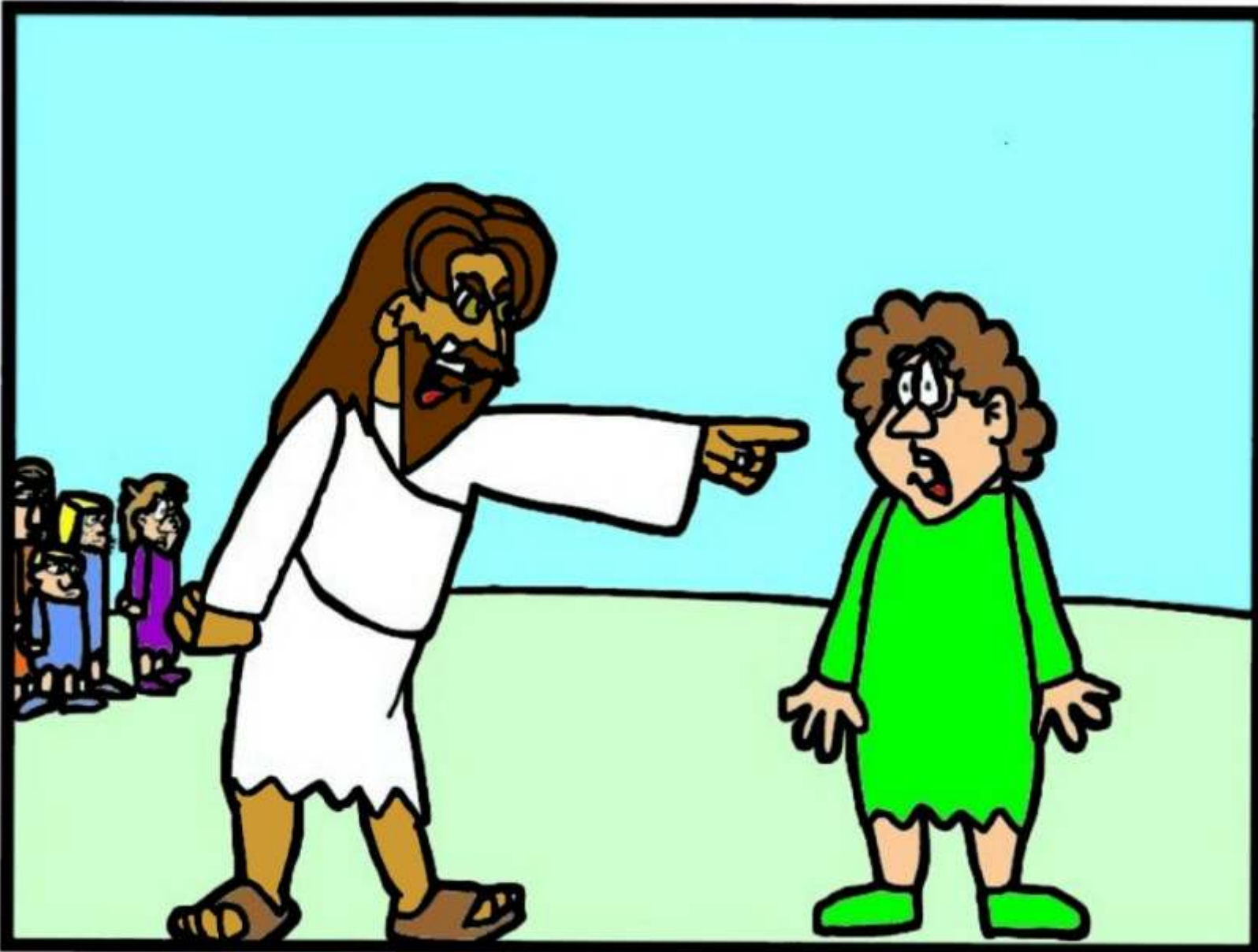
"You are blessed because it wasn't a person on earth who showed you that, but my Father who is in Heaven," said Jesus.



From that moment, Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he was going to be killed in Jerusalem. "When we get to Jerusalem the boss priests and their helpers will kill me, but I will be raised up on the third day."



Peter took Jesus by himself and began to give him a tongue-lashing. "Jesus this will NEVER happen to you!"



Jesus turned around and seeing his disciples, he said to Peter, "Get behind me Satan! You are a stumbling block unto me. You are not thinking about the things of God but you are thinking about the things of men."



Jesus called the crowds and his disciples to him. "If anyone wants to be my follower he has to say 'No' to himself, take up his cross and follow me.



Whoever wants to save his life will lose it. Whoever loses his life for my sake and the good news, will save it. What good is it for a person to gain everything in this world but lose his soul?"



Lord, help me when I need to say “no” to the things I want to do, in order to obey you.”