

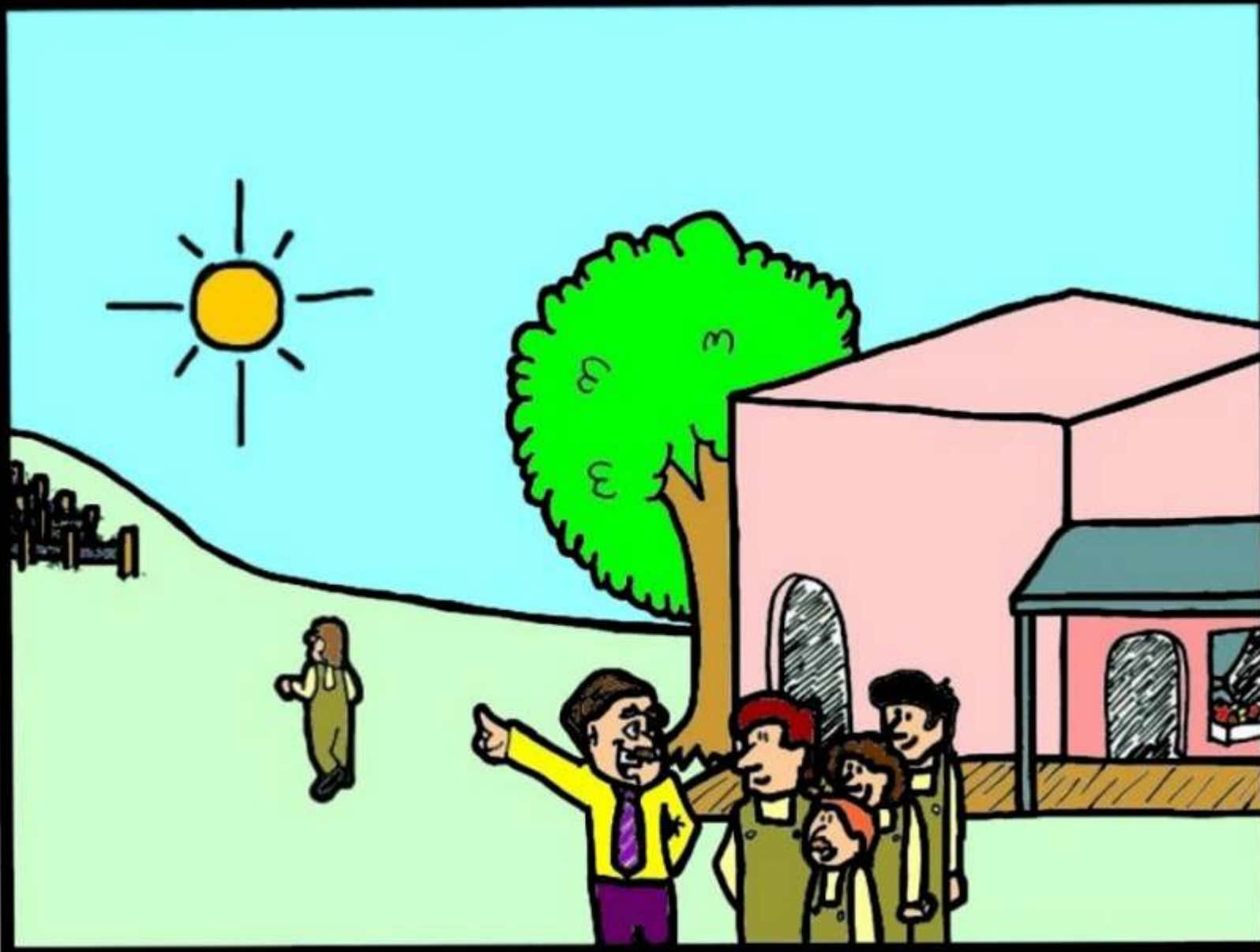
The Generous Landowner

(Based on Matthew 20:1-16)

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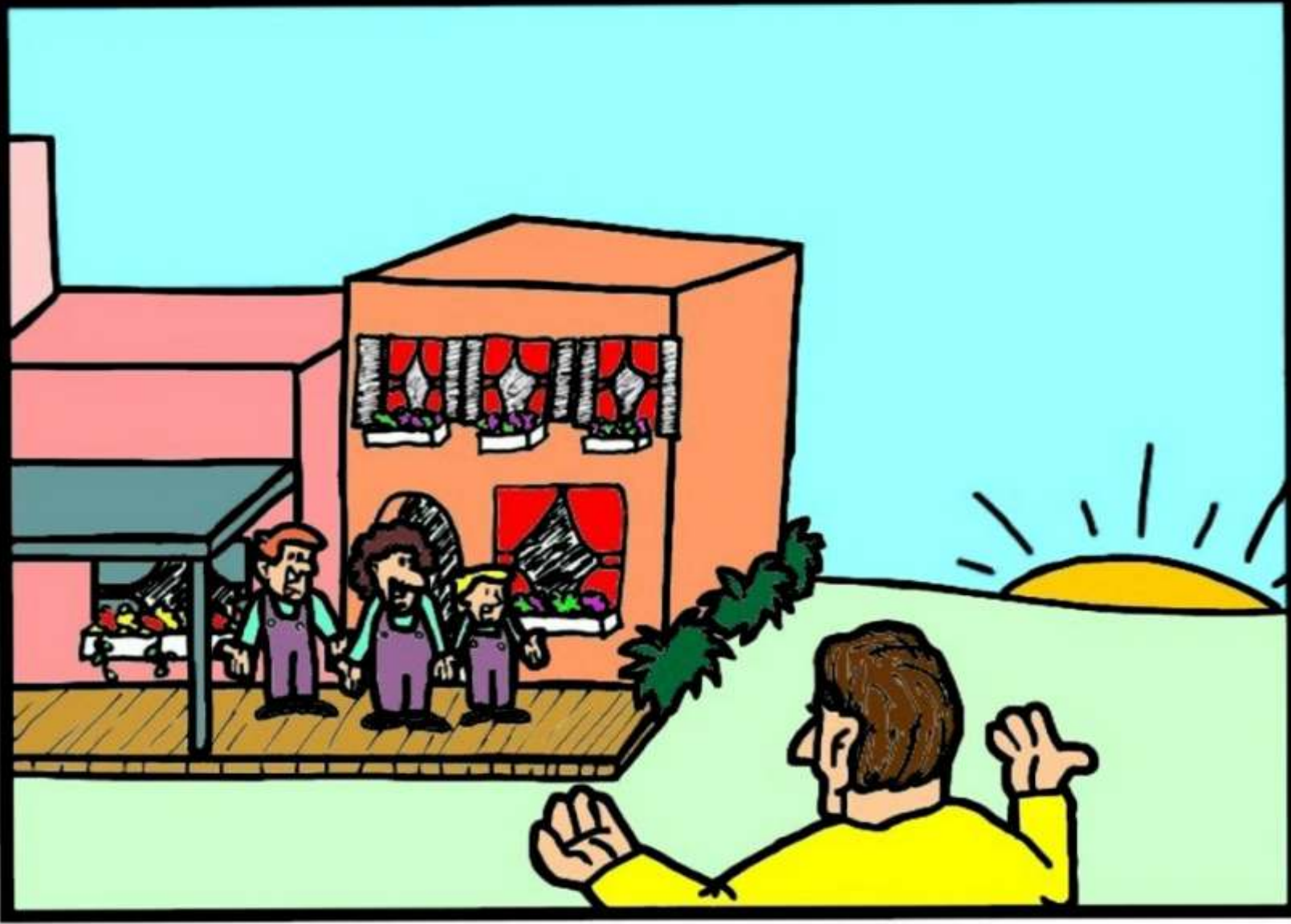
Jesus taught, "The kingdom of God is like a man who went early in the morning to hire workers to pick grapes in his vineyard. He made a deal with the workers that he would pay them a denarius (a Roman silver coin) each day.



At about 9:00 o'clock in the morning the landowner went to the market and he saw people standing doing nothing. 'Do you want a job?' he asked. The people said, 'yes' and the landowner promised to pay them whatever was right.



Later at about noon the landowner went to the market again. He found more people standing doing nothing. He made the same deal with them.



At 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon he went to the market again and found people standing doing nothing. 'Why are you doing nothing all day?' he asked. 'No one hired us,' answered the people. The people agreed to go and work in the vineyard.



One hour later the workday was over and all the people came to be paid. Everyone received a denarius, even the people who only worked for an hour.



The people who had worked from early in the morning, thought that they would get paid more. But they received a denarius. Then they started to grumble. ‘You paid the people who worked for one hour the same as us who worked all day under the hot sun.’



‘Friend,’ answered the landowner. ‘I am not ripping you off. Didn't we make a deal that you would work all day and I would pay you a denarius?’ The workers said, ‘Yes, this was the agreement.’ ‘Well then take your money and go on your way. Are you cranky because I am good?’ answered the landowner.”



Jesus finished his teaching by saying, "So the last shall be first and the first shall be last."



Lord, thank you for being so good. Help me not to be jealous when you bless others, especially if I think they don't deserve it.