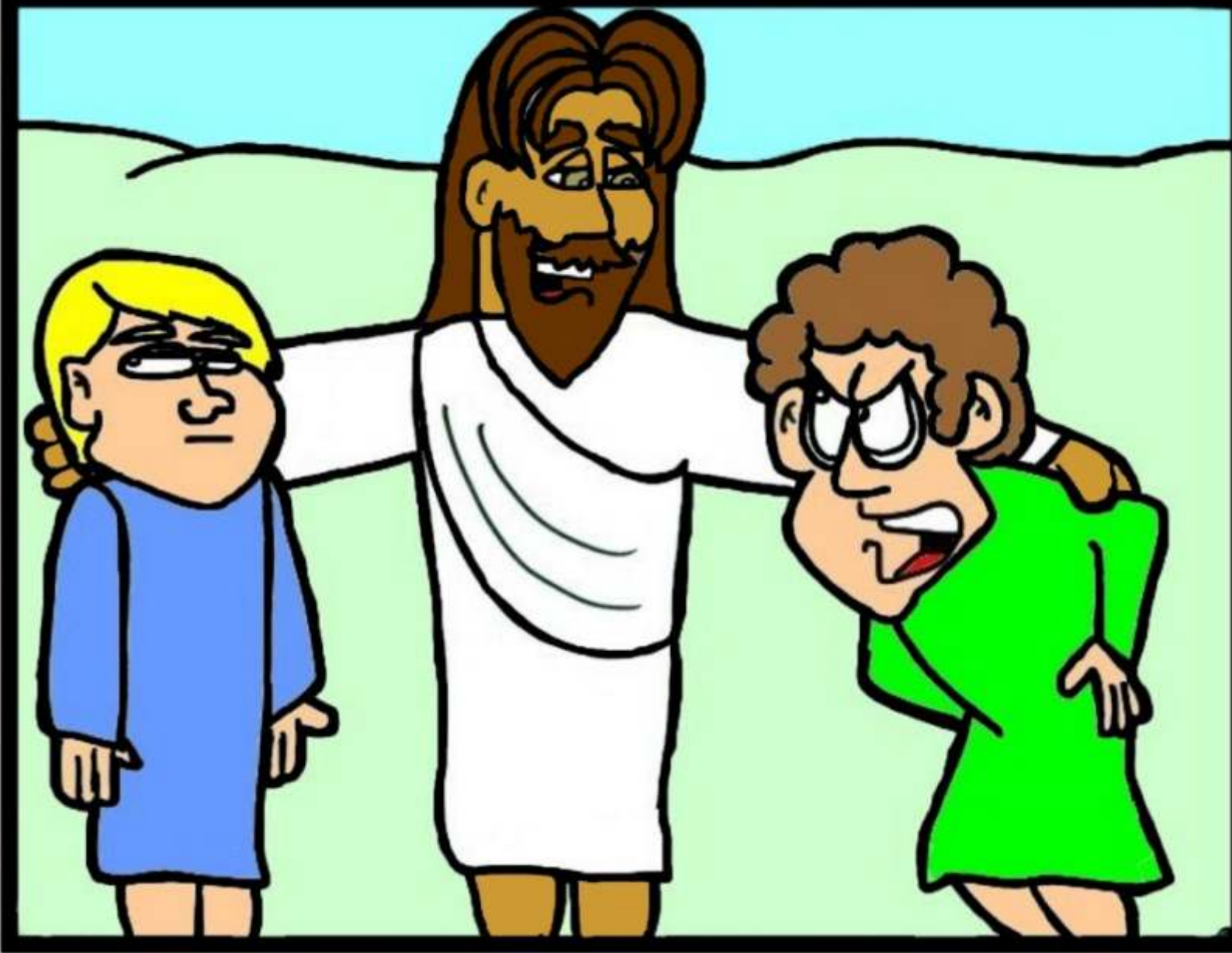


Parable of Unmerciful Servant

(Based on Matthew 18:21-35)

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"Lord how many times shall my brother do something bad to me and I have to forgive him, up to 7 times?" Jesus looked at Peter and answered, "I don't say up to 7 times, but up to 70 times 7!"



Then Jesus told this story. "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who ordered all the people who owed him money, to pay up. One by one his servants began to pay the money they owed to the king.



Then a man was brought before the king. 'This man owes you millions of dollars!' said the king's treasurer. 'That's a lot of money! Pay it now Mister!' said the King. 'But I can't,' sobbed the man.



‘Take him out and sell him as a slave,’ ordered the King to his soldiers. ‘Sell his wife and kids too. Then sell all his stuff.’



The servant threw himself on the ground in front of the king and begged. 'Please have patience with me and I will pay you everything I owe you.'



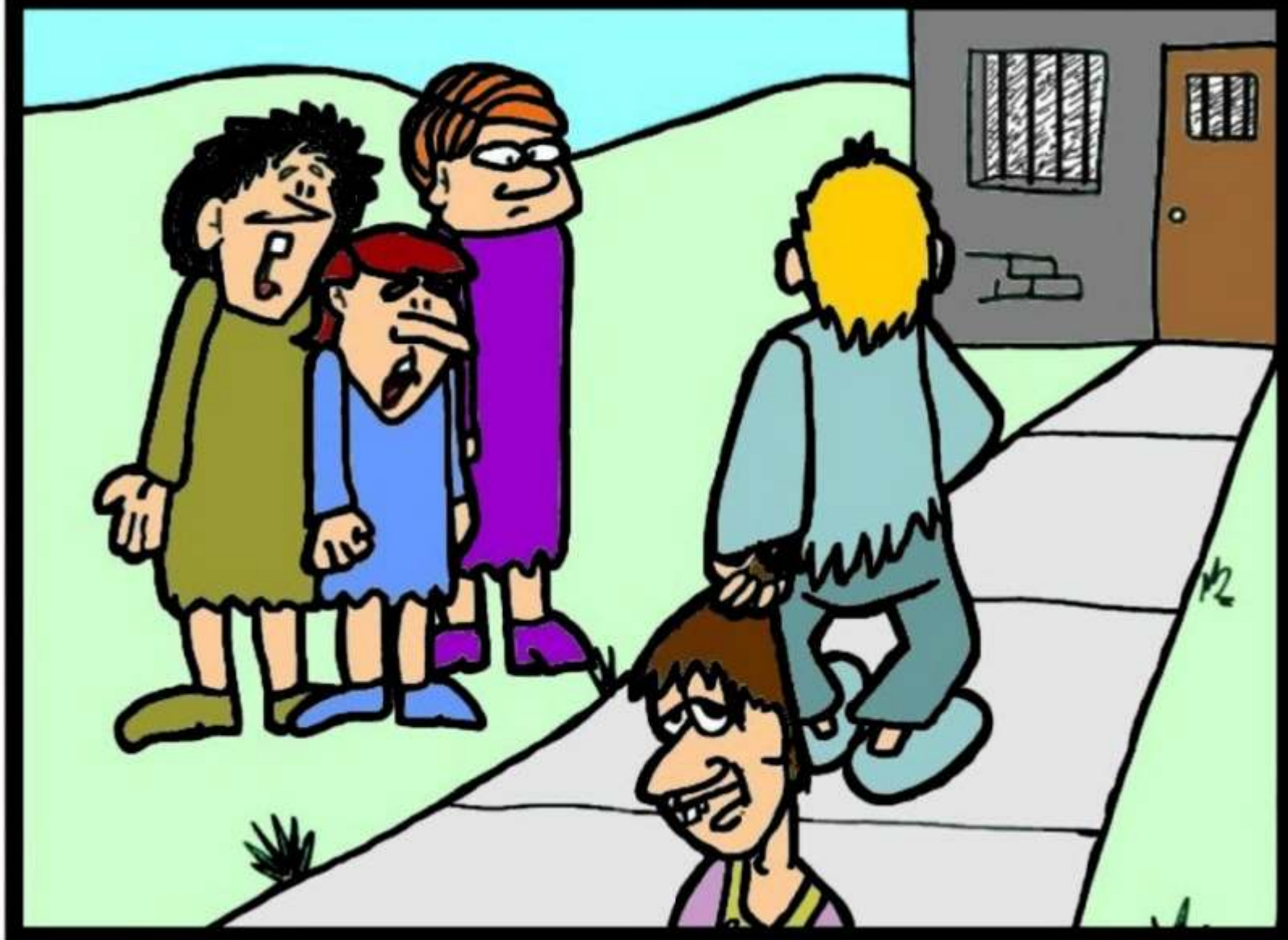
The king's heart was deeply touched by the man's sad situation. 'Let him go. I hereby forgive you the debt. You don't have to pay me back,' said the King. The servant breathed a sigh of relief and went out into the street, a free man. 47-07



As soon as he could, he found this certain guy who owed him some money. 'Hey you!' said the servant. 'You owe me 5 dollars!' The servant grabbed his friend by the throat and said, 'Pay it up right now!'



His friend loosed himself from the throat grab and fell down on his knees. He begged saying, 'Have patience with me and I will pay you everything I owe to you!'



The servant who had been forgiven so much was not kind like the king had been. He didn't feel sorry one little bit for the man who owed him 5 dollars. 'I'm throwing you into jail until you pay me everything you owe to me!'



The people who saw went and told the king. The king was furious and called for the servant. 'You wicked servant! I forgave because you begged me. Shouldn't you have also felt sorry for your friend?'



‘Take him to the torturers until he pays me everything he owes me!’ commanded the King.”



When Jesus finished the story he looked right into the eyes of his disciples and said, “My Heavenly Father will do the same thing to you if each of you, from your heart, does not forgive his brother for the bad things he does.”



Lord, help me to be quick to forgive others. Thank you for forgiving me for the bad things I have done.