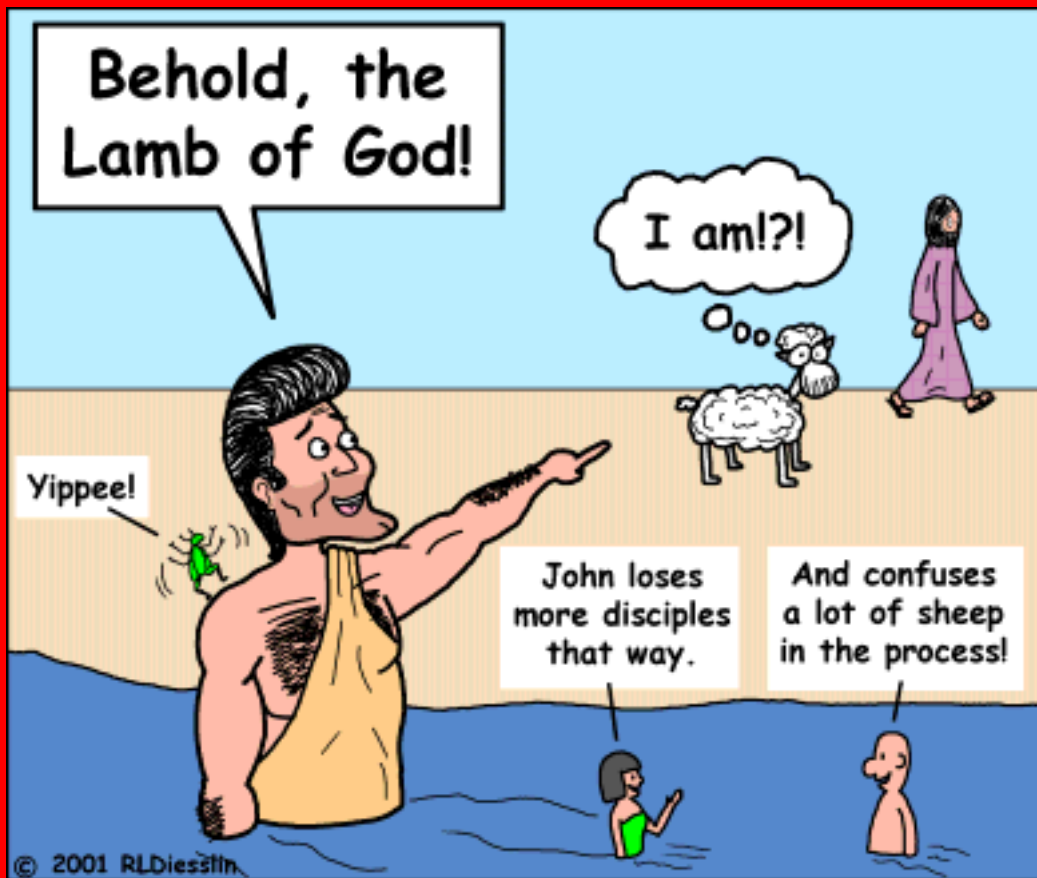


The Cartoon Gospel of Mark Excerpt

Cartoons and Meditations on Selected Scripture from the
Gospels of Mark and John



by Richard L. Diesslin

The Cartoon Gospel of Mark Excerpt

**Cartoons and Meditations on Selected Scripture
from the Gospels of Mark and John**

*Unique cartooning of Gospel
Passages adds a fresh
interpretation, challenging the
reader to a new dimension of
understanding.*

Richard L. Diesslin

This Cartoon Gospel of Mark Excerpt may be distributed freely and may not be sold except to recover media costs.

Full Copyright Protection applies to the actual book:

The Cartoon Gospel of Mark

2002

ISBN 0-9702244-4-3

Copyright © 2002 by Richard L. Diesslin, author/cartoonist. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system without permission from Richard L. Diesslin (e-mail at RLDes@aol.com, website <http://members.aol.com/rldes/index.htm>).

Printed in the United States of America.

PREFACE

The Gospel scripture selections follow the Common Lectionary Readings for Church Year B, which is based primarily on the Gospel of Mark - hence the name, *The Cartoon Gospel of Mark*.

The Cartoon Gospel of Mark is unique because it is cartooning of scripture passages instead of scripture illustration or normal Christian cartooning (which primarily lampoons church life). The purpose is to add freshness to the interpretation of the passages. It should challenge the reader to (re-) read these verses and see if it adds a new dimension to his/her understanding.

The Cartoon Gospel of Mark attempts to portray biblical characters as real people trying to know and follow God's will. It is all too easy to read the Bible and be left with the feeling that they are rigid, perfect, even superhuman characters instead of people with the same possibilities that you and I have. The cartoons are meant to be stimulating and humorous and are based on researched interpretation. Each one is "defensible" theologically (with the exception of minor cartoonist privilege now and then), even though the point is to assist the reader in his/her own analysis of the actual scripture passage. Hopefully, the humor and challenge stand on their own merit.

The scripture passages are excerpted from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, since most of the original research was done from this translation.

Thank you for reading *The Cartoon Gospel of Mark*. I hope it entertains you and enriches your spiritual life.

-R.L.D.

Table of Contents by Church Year

First Sunday of Advent	11
Second Sunday of Advent.....	13
Third Sunday of Advent	15
Fourth Sunday of Advent.....	17
First Sunday After Christmas	19
Second Sunday After Christmas	21
Epiphany	23
Baptism of the Lord	25
Second Sunday after Epiphany	27
Third Sunday after Epiphany	29
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	31
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	33
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany	35
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany	37
Eighth Sunday after Epiphany	39
Transfiguration (Last) Sunday after Epiphany	41
First Sunday of Lent	43
Second Sunday of Lent	45
Third Sunday of Lent.....	47
Forth Sunday of Lent	49
Fifth Sunday of Lent	51
Sixth Sunday of Lent	53
Easter Sunday	55
Second Sunday of Easter	57
Third Sunday of Easter	59
Fourth Sunday of Easter	61
Fifth Sunday of Easter	63
Sixth Sunday of Easter.....	65
Seventh Sunday of Easter	67
Pentecost	69
Trinity Sunday	71
Sunday 5/29-6/4.....	73
Sunday 6/5-11	75

Table of Contents by Church Year

Sunday 6/12-18	77
Sunday 6/19-25	79
Sunday 6/26-7/2	81
Sunday 7/3-7/9	83
Sunday 6/10-7/16	85
Sunday 7/17-7/23	87
Sunday 7/24-30	89
Sunday 7/31-8/6	91
Sunday 8/7-8/13	93
Sunday 8/14-8/20	95
Sunday 8/21-8/27	97
Sunday 8/28-9/3	99
Sunday 9/4-9/10	101
Sunday 9/11-17	103
Sunday 9/18-9/24	105
Sunday 9/25-10/1	107
Sunday 10/2-8	109
Sunday 10/9-15	111
Sunday 10/16-22	113
Sunday 10/23-29	115
Sunday 10/30-11/5	117
Sunday 11/6-12	119
Sunday 11/13-19	121
Sunday 11/20-26	123

Table of Contents by Title

Wake-Up Call ... for Whom?	12
Take Me to the River	14
Baptize This ...!.	16
And Now a Word from Our Sponsor	18
Raising the Son of God.	20
Lighten Up	22
Why Politicians Never Fool Anyone	24
A Story for Entertainment Tonight	26
You Ain't Seen Mutton Yet	28
Discipleship 101	30
Stronger than Dirt	32
Fishing for Some Peace and Quiet	34
Don't Lose Face	36
Up on the Roof	38
Sewing and Wine Making 101	40
Say What!?!	42
GOOD News, What's That!?!	44
Crossword Puzzle	46
Jesus' Temple Tantrum	48
T-Shirts of Old	50
Telephone Drill	52
Donkey Duty	54
A Rolling Stone Gathers No Moss	56
Proof Positive	58
Drop in Anytime!	60
Who Pulled the Wool over Your Eyes?	62
Fruit by the Foot	64
Bearing Good Fruit	66
We All Have To Grow Up Sometime.	68
You're in Good Hands	70
Air-Borne Again?	72
Sunday Brunch	74
Read the Directions.	76

Table of Contents by Title

Jesus and the Beanstalk	78
Dramamine Anybody?	80
Parenting 101	82
Loophole?	84
How To Get a Head in Life	86
Workin' 9 to 5	88
Walking on Water?	90
Wonder Bread	92
It's a Miracle	94
Who are We Having for Dinner?	96
Beating a Bread Horse	98
Miss Manners' Spirituality	100
Expectorating Someone!?!	102
Opinion Poll	104
Service with a Smile	106
The Devil Made Me Do It	108
You Had To Ask	110
Stupid Animal Tricks	112
Go Ask Dad	114
Crowd Mentality	116
Love God and Your Neighbor as Yourself	118
A Penny for Your Thoughts	120
The Rolling Stones	122
Politics as Usual	124

Sunday 6/19-25

Mark 4:35-41

Boating Incident

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side."

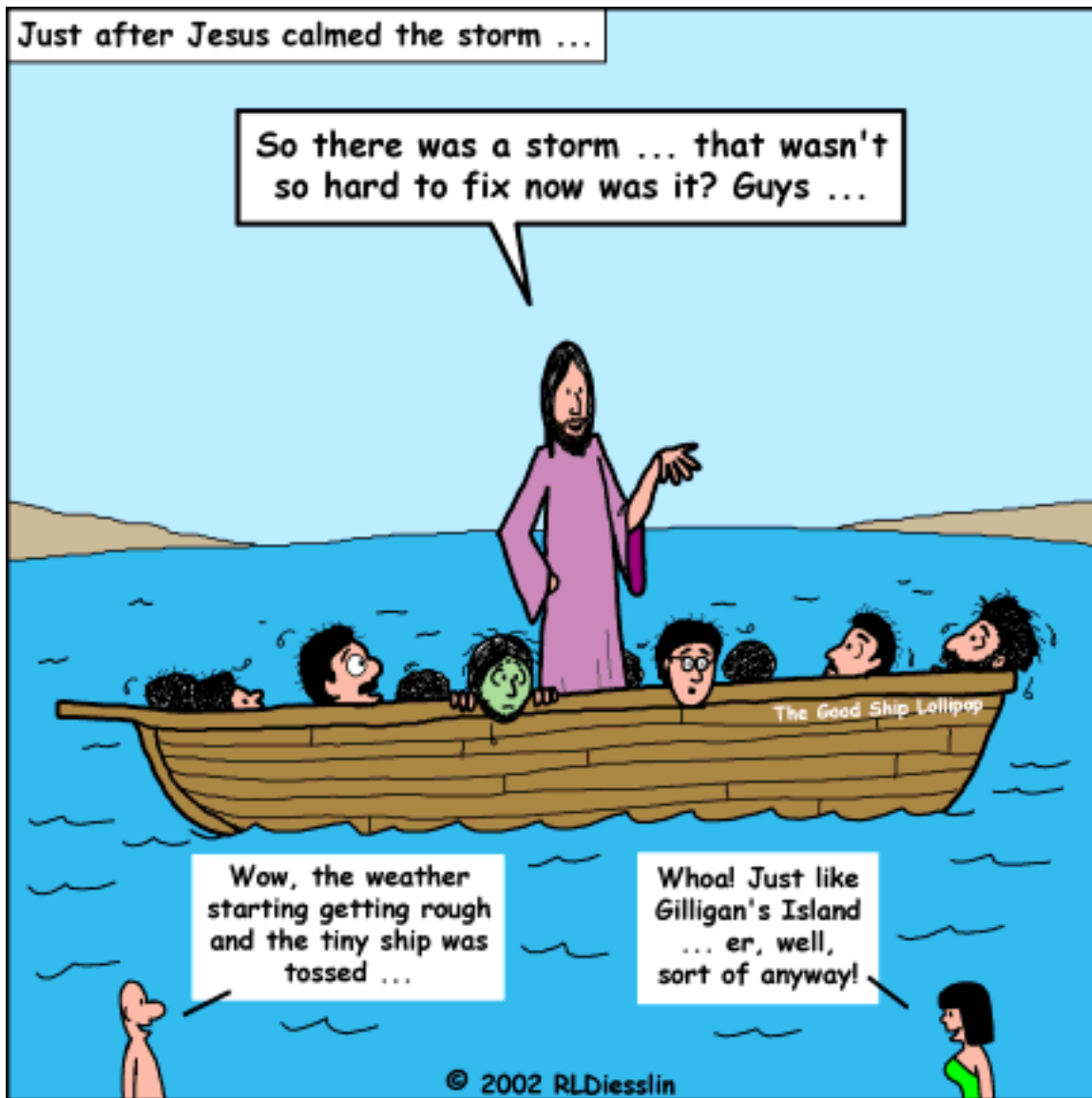
And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped.

But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Dramamine Anybody?



Imagine being in the boat when Jesus calmed the storm. Kind of eerie and awesome to have that kind of power. May we find the strong faith Jesus is alluding to in this passage, after we pick up our jaws from the bottom of the boat!

Sunday 6/26-7/2

Mark 5:21-43

First Aid Jesus Style

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea.

Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live."

So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him.

Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.

Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?"

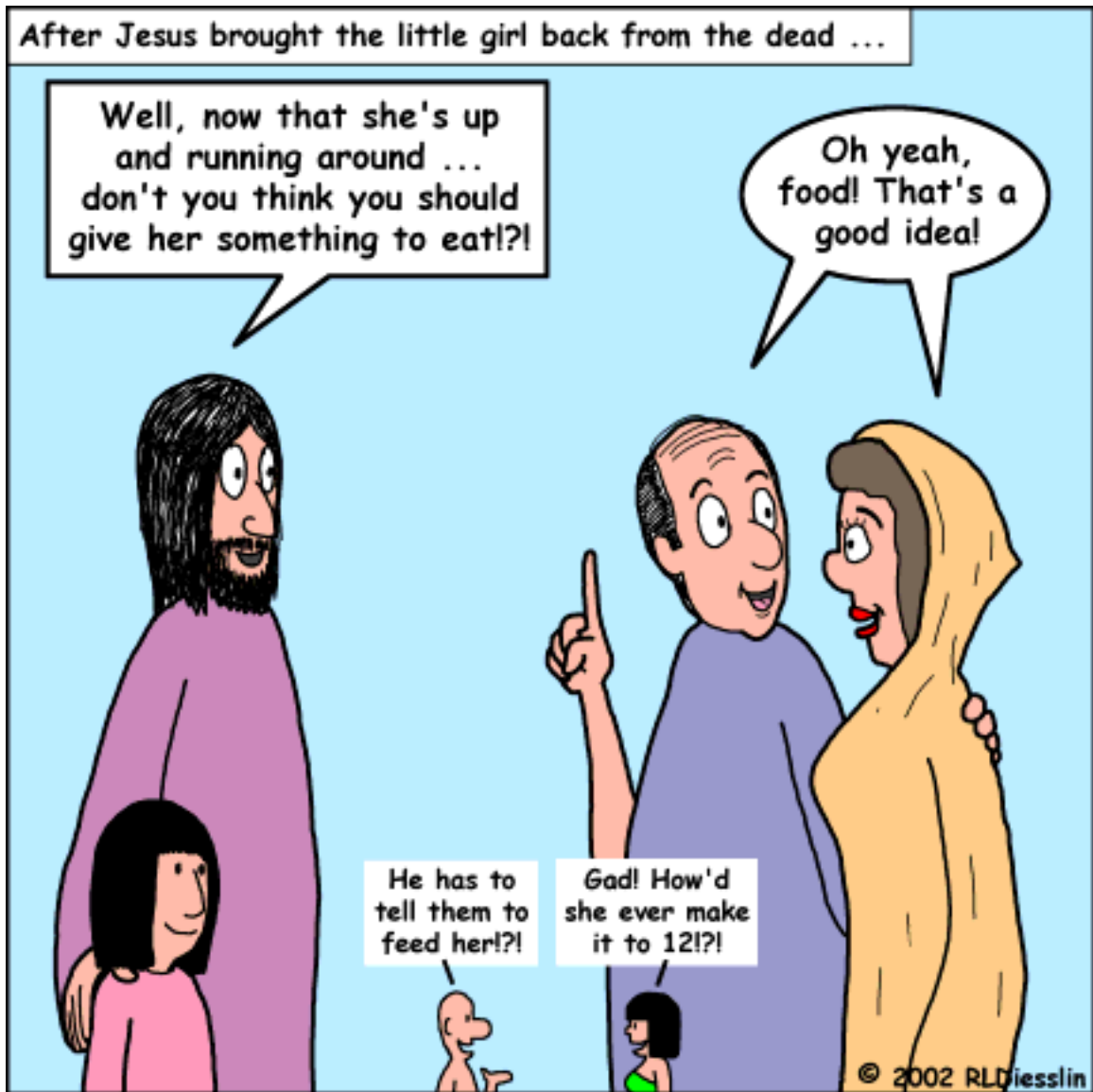
And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth.

He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?"

But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Parenting 101



Jesus shows no prejudice in whom he heals. Even if they have sinned, his strongest charge is go and sin no more - a post-requisite, not a pre-requisite. May we approach others with the unconditional love of God first and foremost, and then hope that they catch on!

Sunday 7/3-7/9

Mark 6:1-13

No Respect I Tell Ya ...

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded.

They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.

Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house."

And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching.

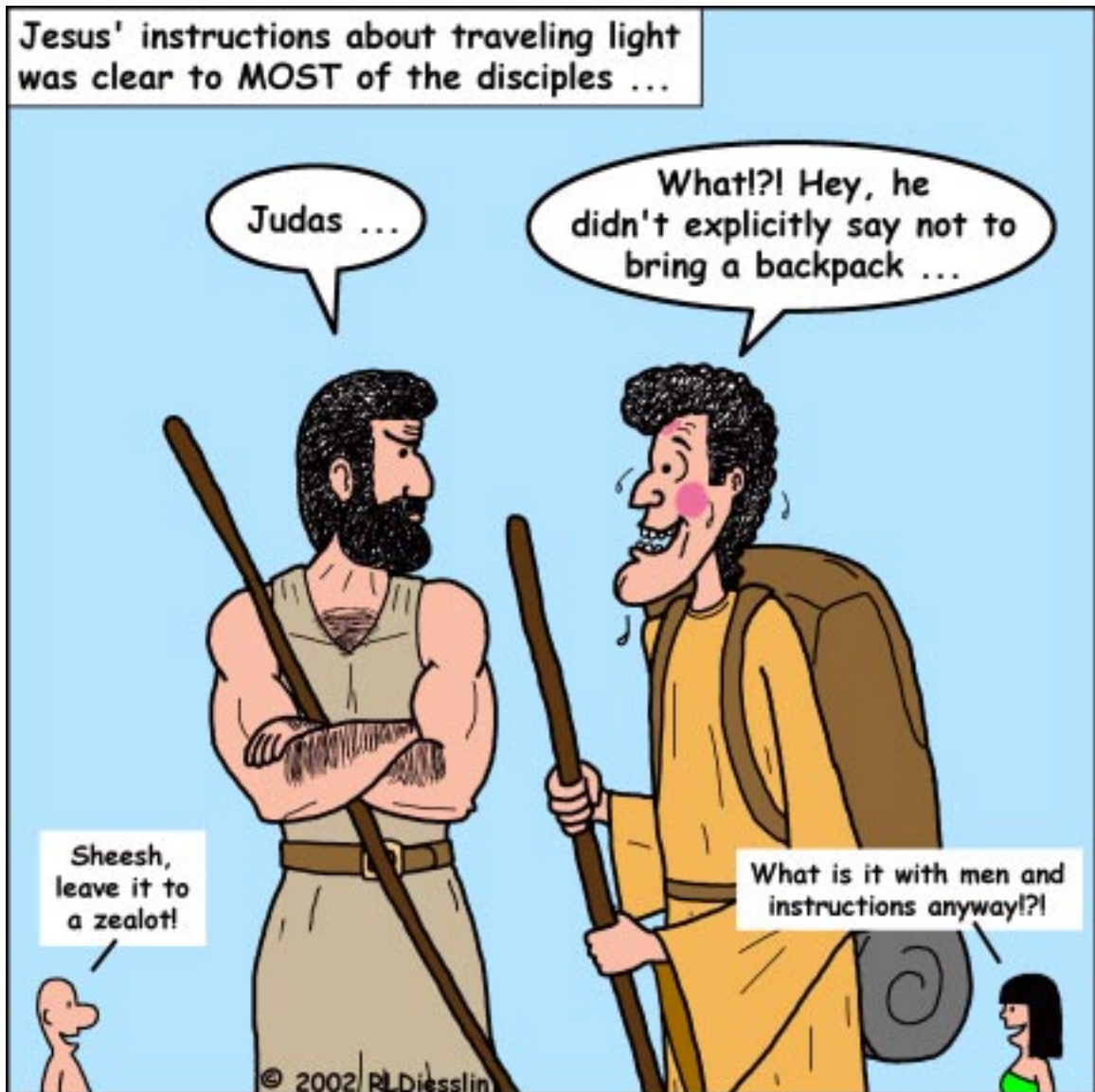
Disciples' On-the-job Training

He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics.

He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them."

So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Loophole?



The disciples were sent out to deliver and demonstrate Jesus' gospel message. They were to travel light, trusting in God to provide for their needs and not to take pay for their efforts, just basic room and board. Even though God's unconditional love is the good news, how can we receive it unless we repent (a.k.a., have a change of heart)? May what we know of God's love transform our heart and translate into our actions.

Sunday 6/10-7/16

Mark 6:14-29

Herodias Gets Her Way

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her.

For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee.

When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom."

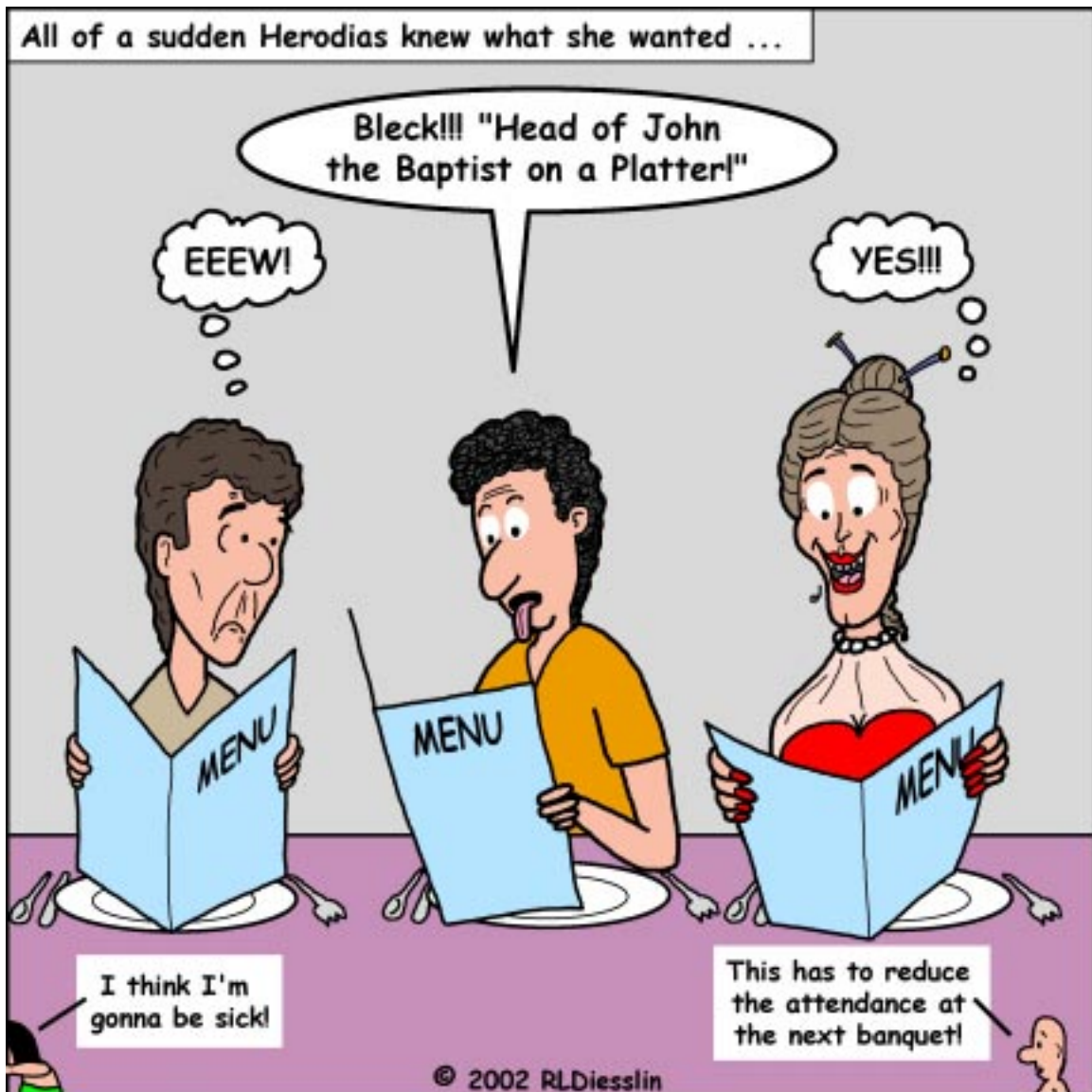
She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?"

She replied, "The head of John the baptizer."

Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

How To Get a Head in Life



This passage reads like a soap opera! Herodias is at once Herod's niece (daughter of Aristobulus, his half-brother), sister-in-law, wife and just plain evil. Herod seems to fear peer pressure more than he fears a messenger from God, so John dies a very inglorious death. How often are we like Herod, compromising our faith to peer pressure? May we have the strength to be more like John the Baptist who held fast to his beliefs, even in the face of great personal risk.

Sunday 7/17-7/23

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

The Doctor Is In

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught.

He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.”

For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Workin' 9 to 5



Think your job is tough? Try healing, teaching and ministering to a crowd of people all day long - without complaining about the boss! Jesus had a short, but intense, public ministry, one that has forever changed the shape of the world. Awesome in its shortness, awesome in its longevity, awesome in its simplicity and awesome in its profundity! Did I mention awesome?

Index of Scripture Passages

J			
John			
01.1-18	21	02.13-22	39
01.35-42	27	02.23-3.6	73
01.6-8,19-28	15	03.20-35	75
02.13-22	47	04.26-34	77
03.1-17	71	04.35-41	79
03.14-21	49	05.21-43	81
06.1-21	89	06.1-13	83
06.24-35	91	06.14-29	85
06.35,41-51	93	06.30-34,53-56	87
06.51-58	95	07.1-8,14-15,21-23	99
06.55-69	97	07.24-37	101
10.11-18	61	08.27-38	103
12.20-33	51	08.31-38	45
15.1-8	63	09.2-9	41
15.26-27	69	09.30-37	105
15.9-17	65	09.38-50	107
16.4b-15	69	10.17-31	111
17.6-19	67	10.2-16	109
18.33-37	123	10.35-45	113
20.19-31	57	10.46-52	115
		11.1-11	53
		12.28-34	117
		12.38-44	119
		13.1-8	121
		13.24-37	11
		16.1-8	55
L		Matthew	
Luke		02.1-12	23
01.26-38	17		
02.22-40	19		
24.35-48	59		
M			
Mark			
01.14-20	29		
01.1-8	13		
01.21-28	31		
01.29-39	33		
01.40-45	35		
01.4-11	25		
01.9-15	43		
02.1-12	37		

Hope You Enjoyed This Shareware Excerpt!

How to Obtain The Complete E-Book

Use my web site order form at: www.the-cartoonist.com

- Credit Cards welcome using Pay Pal. All orders will be confirmed prior to shipping/billing.

Via e-mail at: rich@the-cartoonist.com

Thank you in advance for your review this shareware e-book excerpt and for honoring my copyrights. Cartooning is what I do for a living, so I'm counting on your honesty and integrity to make e-publishing a viable option for me and others. I am using the shareware model for free excerpts (pass them around generously), and an e-commerce approach for selling entire books (not excerpted) and CD-ROMs.

I hope you found this informative and entertaining. If so, please consider purchasing this or one of my other books (listed below).

Books by the Author

The Cartoon Ten Commandments, Diesslin, Richard L., Dayton:Diesslin, 2001\$11

A Journey Through Christian Theology, edited by Anderson, William P.; illustrated by Diesslin, Richard L., Minneapolis:Fortress, 2000. List Price: \$29 my website: \$22

A Journey Through Christian Theology Color Cartoons CD, CD-ROM, Dayton:Diesslin, 2000.
.....\$15

Cartoon Gospel Series by the Author

The Cartoon Gospel of Matthew, (Year A) Diesslin, Richard L., Dayton:Diesslin, 2001\$15

The Cartoon Gospel of Mark, (Year B) Diesslin, Richard L., Dayton:Diesslin, 2002\$15

The Cartoon Gospel (of Luke), (Church Liturgical Year C) available as :

- Paperback - New Berlin:Liturgical Publications, 1990.\$11
- Color Cartoons CD - Dayton:Diesslin, 2000.\$15

The Cartoon Gospels, (The Complete One-Volume Set of Cartoon Gospels in Book/Verse Order - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) Diesslin, Richard L., Dayton:Diesslin, 2002\$20

And more to come!

Note: prices subject to change without notice, please refer to my website for the latest details!
Prices already include shipping and handling (no hidden charges).

This PDF file is Shareware and is not for sale or resale. It is strictly a promotion for the full e-book and should be distributed freely. It may not be used or included in any other collection of cartoons or other kinds of works. (refer to the copyright at the beginning of this document)