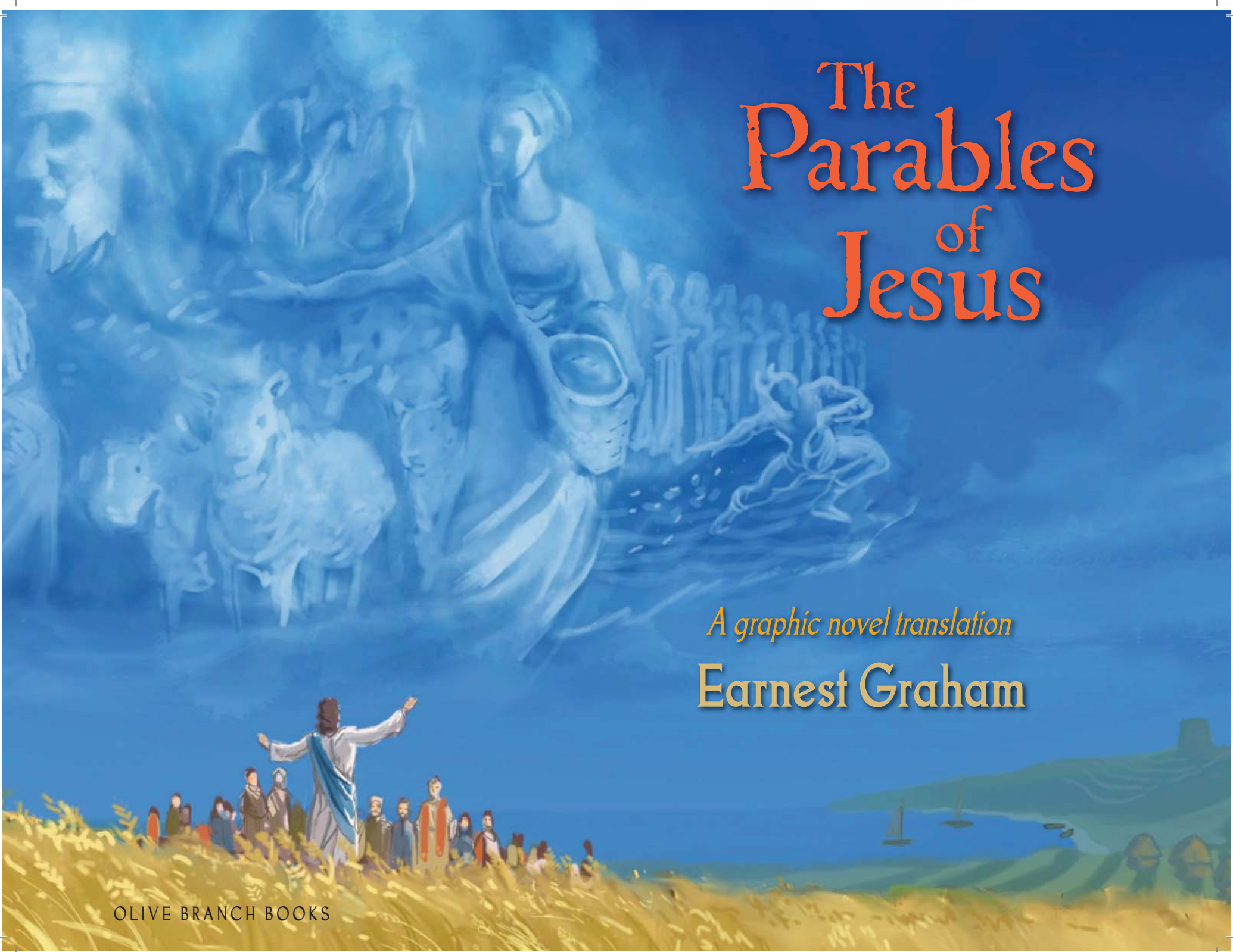




The Parables of Jesus

A graphic novel translation

Ernest Graham

OLIVE BRANCH BOOKS

“And Jesus told them many things in parables” (Matthew 13:3)

How do you answer questions of the heart? How do you describe things no one has seen? How do you speak truths too hard to hear? These questions challenged Jesus regularly as he sought to tell people about the nature of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, and the realities of life. And frequently, he would do this by telling stories, *parables* that invite the hearer to think on the deeper truths.

To describe what the “Kingdom of Heaven” is like, Jesus used examples familiar to his listeners in first century Palestine—farmers sowing seeds, weeds and wheat; a mustard seed, yeast, precious items, fishing nets, land owners and bridesmaids with candles. To illustrate what it means to love one’s neighbor, he told the story of a Good Samaritan. To show the length that God goes to rescue even one person who has gone astray, he told stories of a lost sheep, a lost coin and a lost son.

These stories transcend time and place, and speak to people in greatly different places in life. The stories Jesus told still engage the heart and seep into the imagination. They still invite us into the mystery and revelation of God and the Kingdom of Heaven, if we have “ears to hear.”

I offer the visual retelling of these stories as a meditation on the parables Jesus told. They are not intended to be definitive images of the stories; rather, my hope is that they will inspire you to think of how the parables of Jesus address the questions of our lives and times.

Blessings and peace,

Earnest Graham III

Dedication

This book is dedicated to my parents, **Earnie and Jeannette**—who offered encouragement and support all of the years I sat hunched over a drawing board, learning to tell stories through art.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank the many people who helped bring these stories to life:

My wife **Shirley** for her honesty, insight and companionship along the way.

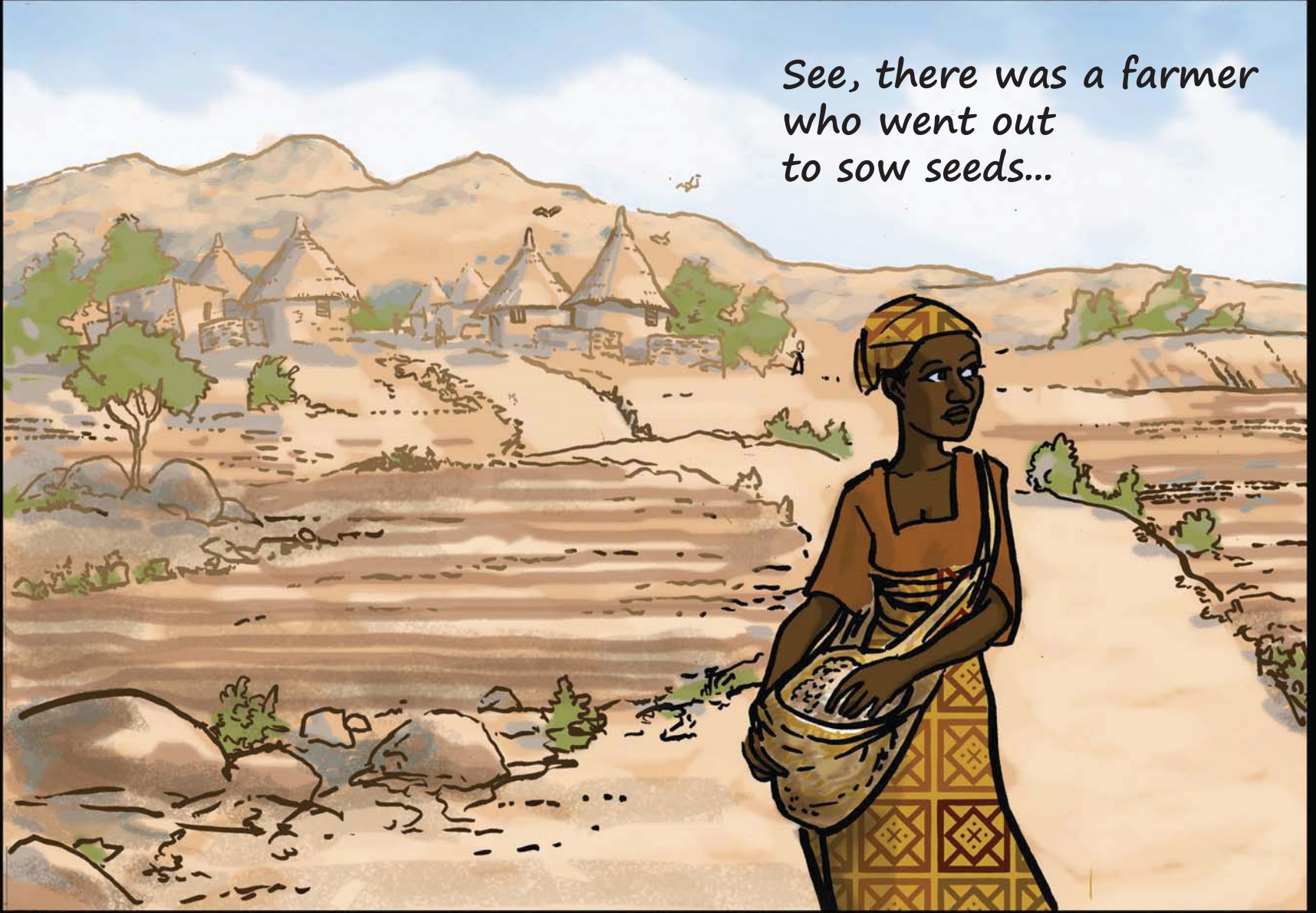
My son **Evan**, who helps me to see the stories with fresh eyes.

The members of Bible studies at St. Francis in Great Falls VA, St. John’s in Suffolk VA, and St. Matthew’s in Chesterfield VA, whose wisdom and experiences helped me to hear the parables.

The **Rev. Dr. Keith Emerson** and St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Suffolk, who sponsored the “Parable of the Good Samaritan.” They have been dedicated supporters of sharing the good news through Graphic Novel.

Justin Moore and **Olive Branch Books** for making the book accessible and available to the wider community.

And to the many readers who gave valuable feedback on the Bible comic translations as they were developing, one Bible comic at a time.



See, there was a farmer
who went out
to sow seeds...





Some
fell on
the
rocks



and immediately
sprang up...



... but withered
in the sun,
because there
was no depth of
soil.

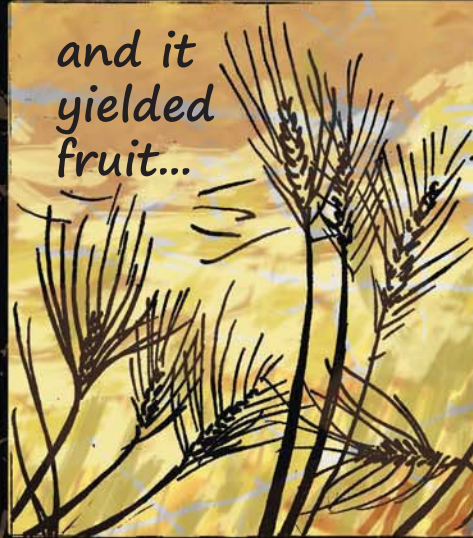


And some fell
among the
weeds...

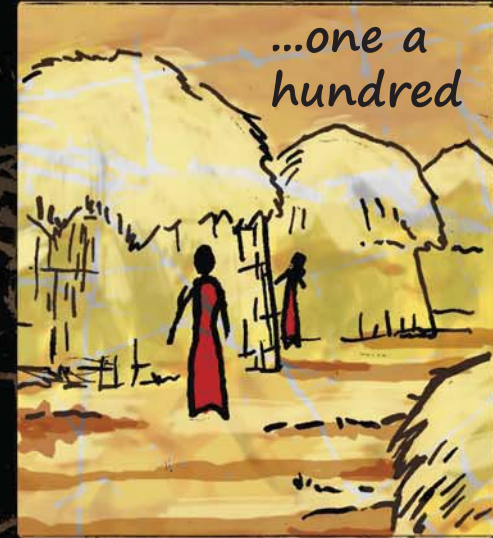




But some of the
seed fell upon
good soil...



and it
yielded
fruit...



...one a
hundred



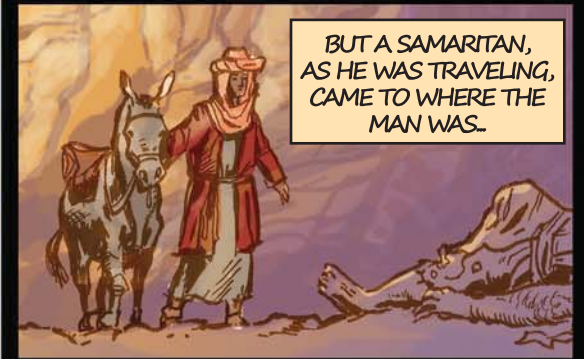
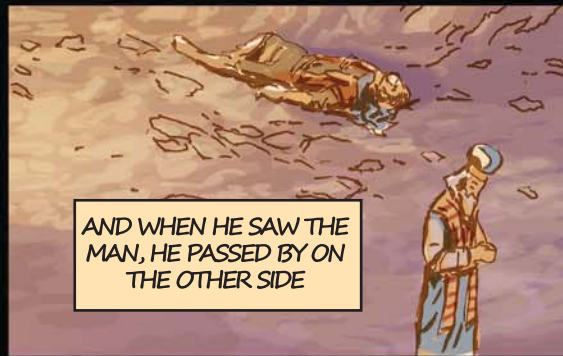
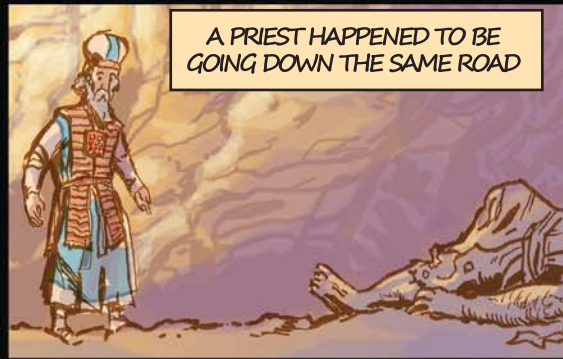
but
another
sixty...

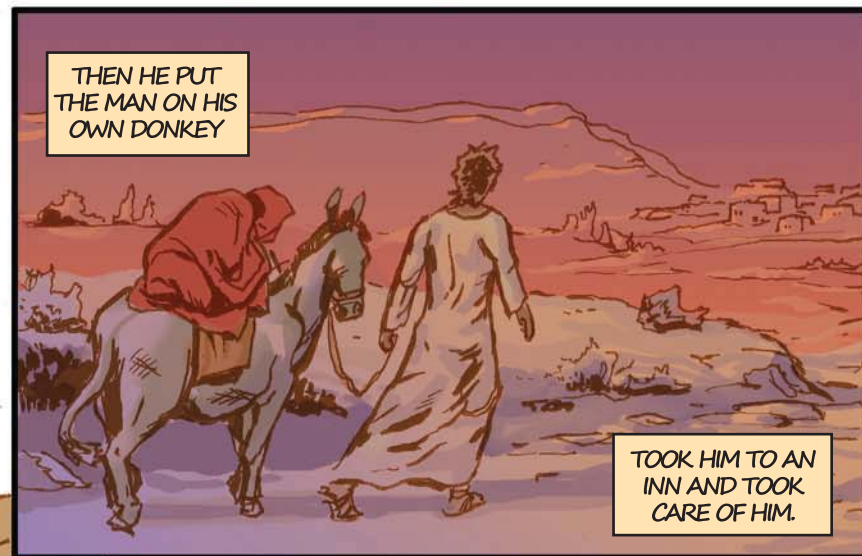


...and another
thirty.

*“Let those who have ears to hear
-- listen.”*





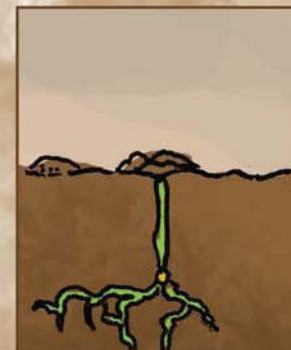


JESUS TOLD THEM
ANOTHER STORY:

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A MUSTARD SEED



...IT IS THE
SMALLEST
OF SEEDS...



...BUT WHEN
IT GROWS, IT IS
THE GREATEST
OF SHRUBS.



“THE KINGDOM
OF HEAVEN
IS LIKE A
TREASURE
HIDDEN IN
A FIELD...



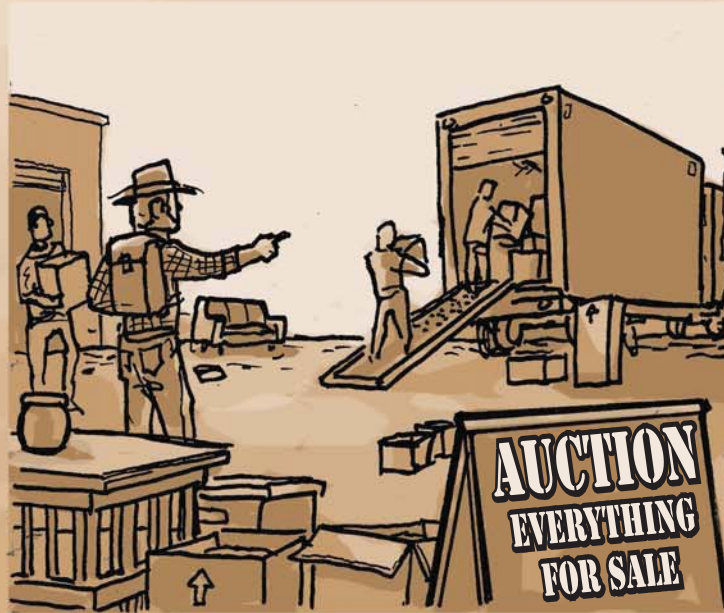
WHICH A MAN,
HAVING FOUND...



COVERED IT UP.



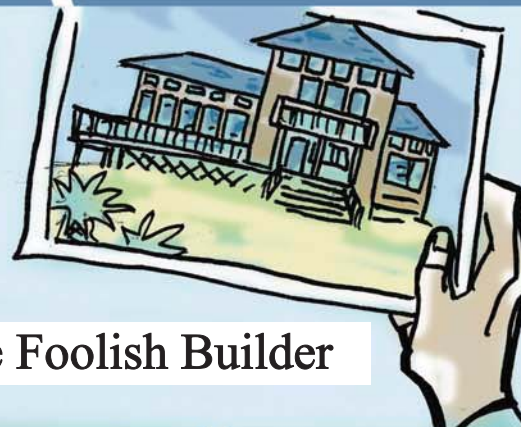
HE GLADLY SELLS
EVERYTHING HE HAS...



The Wise Builder



The Foolish Builder

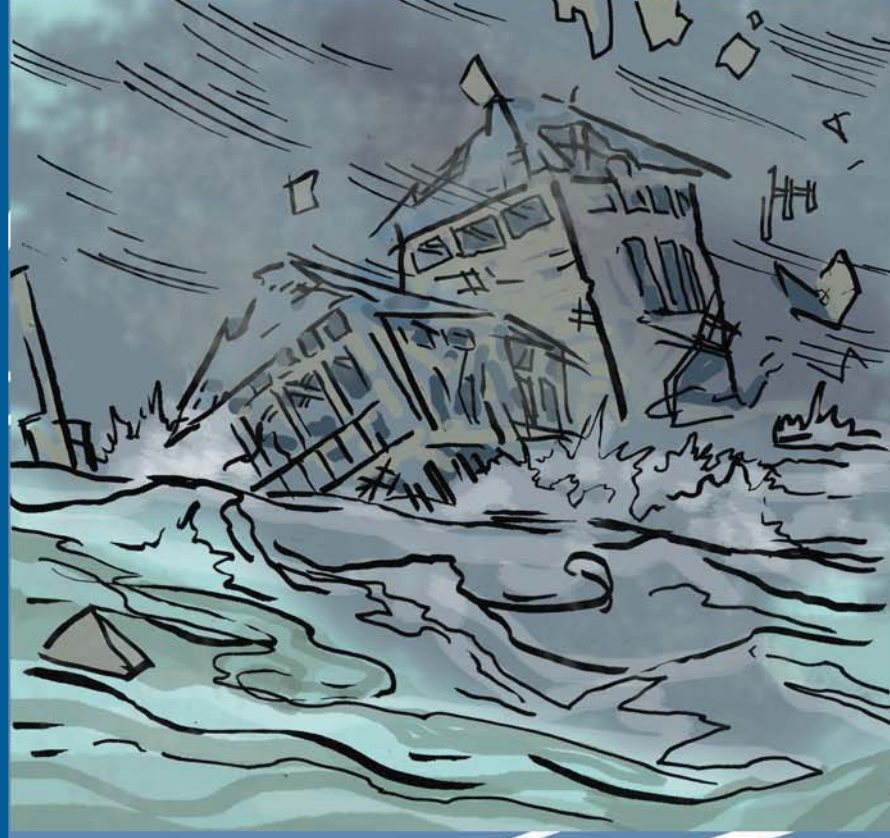














“Whoever hears these words of mine and does them will be like the **The Wise Builder**

...But whoever hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like the foolish builder.”