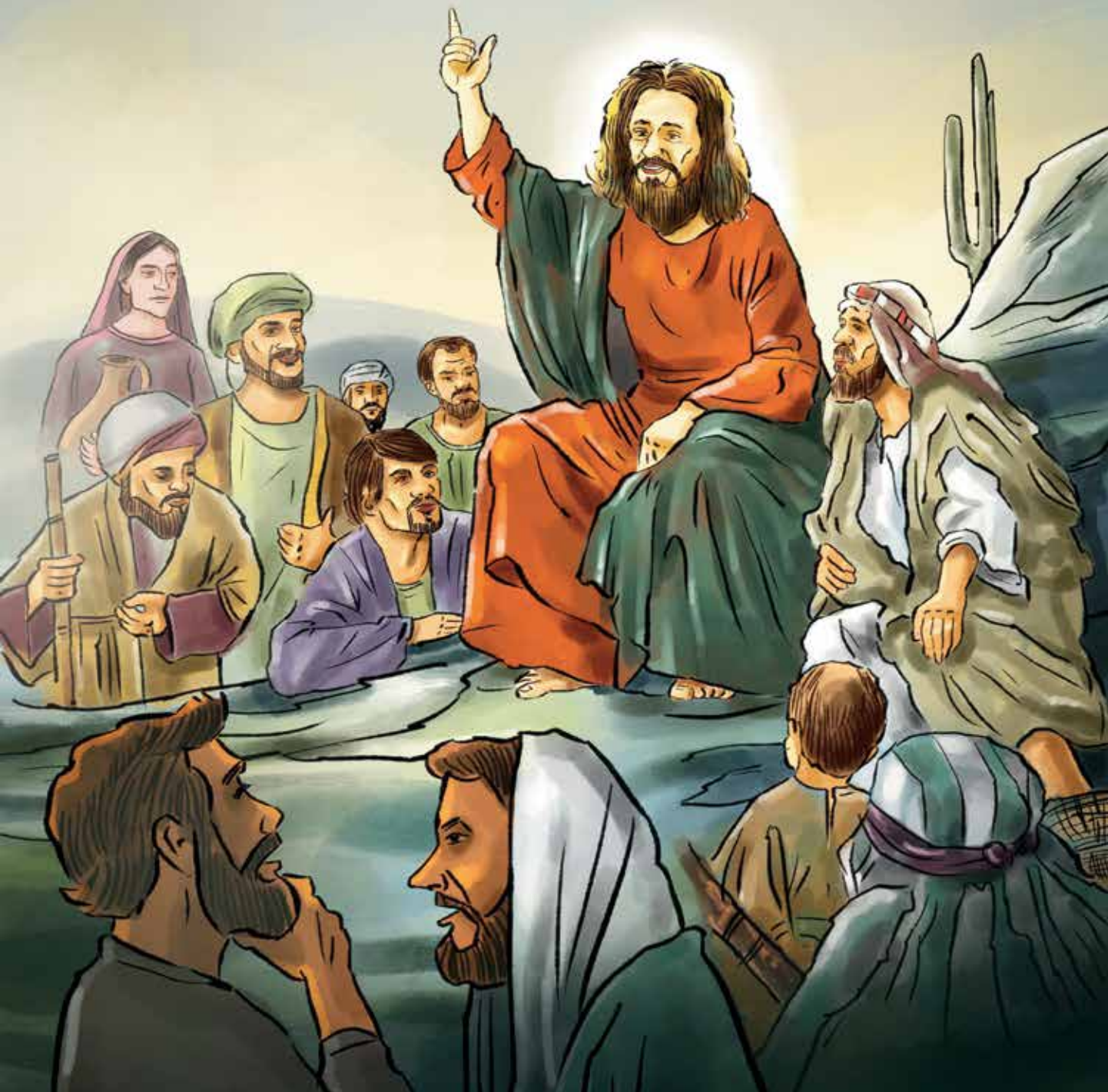


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Jesus And His Parables



Jesus often spoke in parables or short stories that could easily be understood by everyone. At the heart of His teachings was the Kingdom of God, and He drew upon everyday human life to impart moral and spiritual knowledge.



The Jews in His time were waiting for God to send a messiah or saviour to defeat their enemies and restore the glory of Israel. But Jesus came to establish a different kingdom; that of His heavenly Father.

Through parables, Jesus showed how a compassionate Father would unite the people of Israel by defeating evil and build a spiritual kingdom that will grow in the hearts of ordinary men and women. He called upon the people of Israel to choose eternal life in God's presence.

Jesus said that the greatest Commandment was to love God, and one another beyond boundaries of caste and religion. But the Jews felt that caring for people of their own religion and nationality was enough.

Once a lawyer decided to test Jesus and asked, "Who is my neighbour?" Jesus narrated the parable of the 'Good Samaritan'. Through the simple story of a Samaritan helping a Jewish man left injured by robbers and ignored by his own people, He explained that anyone in need was our neighbour, regardless of religion, nationality or any other distinction.

The Gospels contain over 50 parables that encourage people to take action, better their lives and the lives of others. They reveal the true meaning of the Kingdom of God on earth, where love, justice, forgiveness and reconciliation will reign.

All humans shall be treated as the image of God, Jesus said, for they are all His children and must love and serve one another as sisters and brothers.



Word of God

Matthew 13: 10 – 11, 13 – 14

Then the disciples came to Jesus and asked Him, "Why do you use parables when you talk to the people?"

Jesus answered, "The knowledge about the secrets of the Kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. The reason I use parables in talking to them is that they look, but do not see, and they listen, but do not hear or understand. So the prophecy of Isaiah applies to them: 'This people will listen and listen, but not understand; they will look and look, but not see...'

Insight



St. Thomas, one of the 12 disciples of Jesus Christ, arrived in India and sowed the seeds of Christianity in Kerala. Most of the Christians in Kerala claim to be 'Thomas Christians', those who were evangelised by Saint Thomas. Christianity in India has a 2000-year-old legacy.

