
COMPELLED
FOUR
CORNERS

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A Four Corners comic

Version 1, Color Edition

WHO IS IN THIS STORY

Dele, Ruth, Simon of Cyrene, Jesus, Mama Ade, Alexander, Rufus, Tran

HOW TO READ A COMIC

1. Read each page from left to right, top to bottom.
2. Words in boxes tell the story.
3. Words in round balloons are people talking.
4. ***Slanted words are from the Bible (KJV). The small name under them tells*** you where to find them.

Four Corners, a publishing ministry of 508 Ministry

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Scripture quotations are from the King James Version (KJV). Bible words are printed exactly as the KJV has them.

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Monday. 5:30 in the morning.
Rent is due Friday. Dele is $300 short.
Come for Sunday dinner, Dele. I will make jollof rice!
I can't, Mama. I have to work.
You always work. Who is carrying you, my son?
Nobody. I carry me.


Order after order.
Stairs. Always stairs.
Have a good ni...
SLAM!
No tip. One star.
Nobody even sees me.


9:40 at night. The battery is almost dead.
A text from the landlord. "Friday. Or you are out."
God, if you are real… I can't carry all this.
The last bus was late. Of course it was.


In another part of the city, Mama Ade could not sleep either.
He did not even answer my last message.
Lord, my son is carrying too much. Please carry him.
Neither woman knew the other. God knew them both.


Across the city, Ruth was not asleep.
One for the bus. One for the bakery. One for whoever needs it.
Lord, who is tired tonight? Please put me next to them.
Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee
Psalms 55:22
She was sixty-five. She did not feel too old to be used.

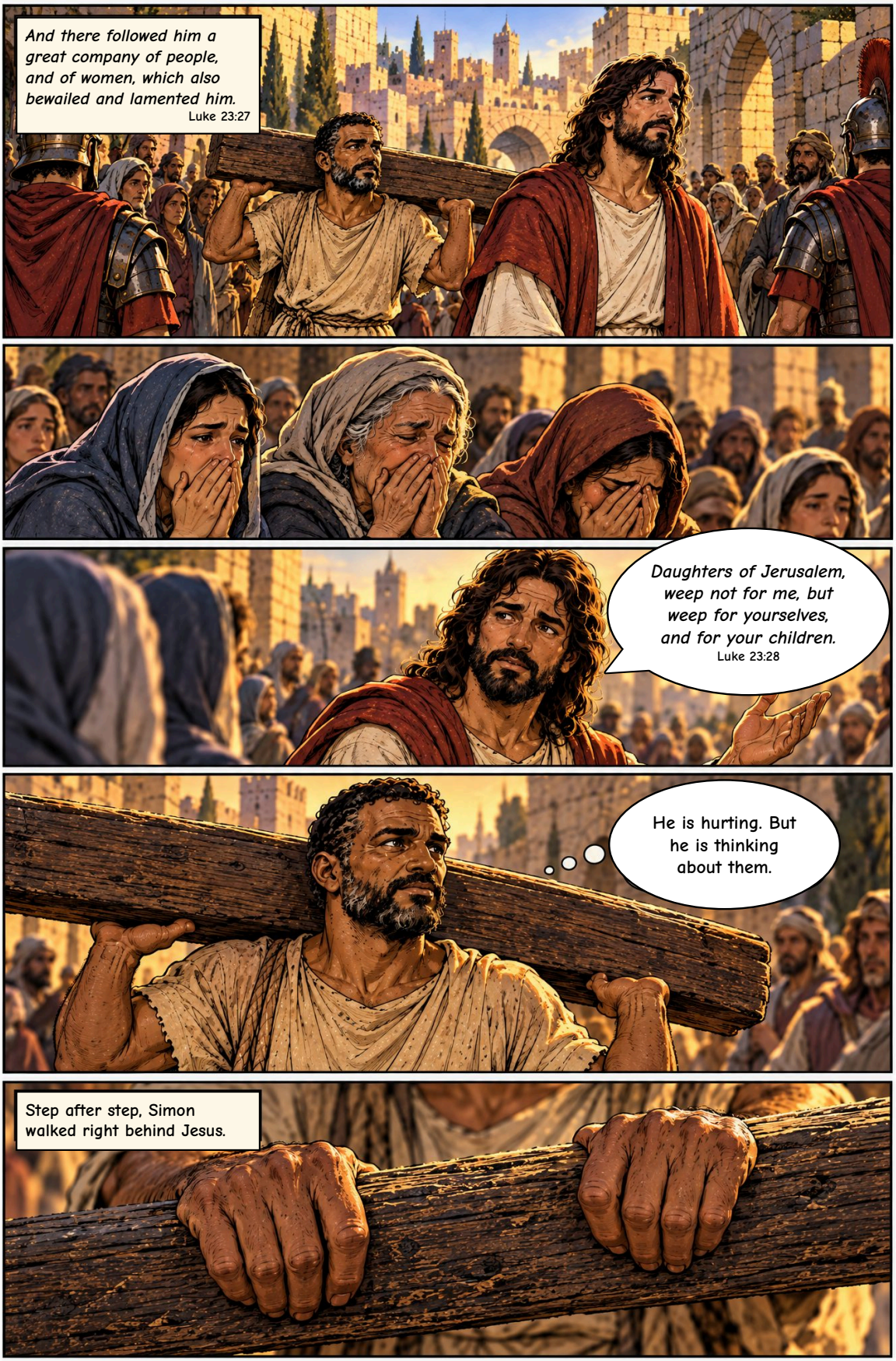

Ten hours. Forty-one orders.
And still not enough.
Long night, son?


Her name was Ruth.
Ma'am, I don't have time for church stuff.
This man didn't have time either. He was just passing by.
Jerusalem. Long, long ago.
Make way! Make way!

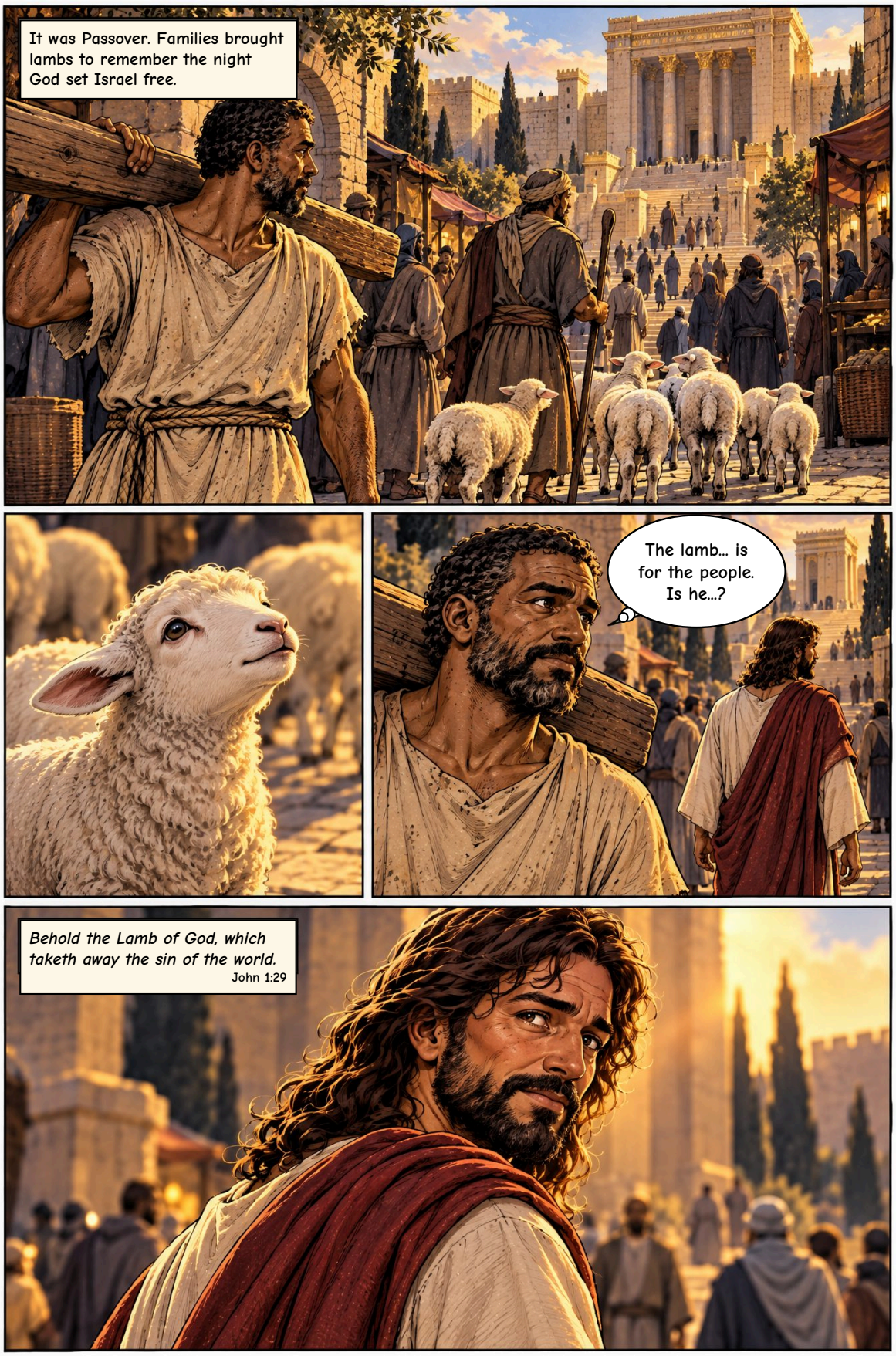

Simon came from Cyrene, in Africa. Now he farmed near the big city.
Father! Are we going to the city for the feast?
Yes! I will go first and buy what we need.
It was Passover week. The city was full of people.
What is all this noise?


The streets were packed for Passover. Then the crowd went quiet.
Who is that man?
They say he is Jesus of Nazareth. He healed my neighbor's son.
This is not my fight. I came to buy bread.
...and led him out to crucify him.
Mark 15:20


And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross.
Mark 15:21
You! Farmer! Come here!
This one can't go on. You carry it!
Simon did not choose this. But he picked it up.
It is so heavy...


And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him.
Luke 23:27
Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.
Luke 23:28
He is hurting. But he is thinking about them.
Step after step, Simon walked right behind Jesus.


The beam was rough and heavy. Simon's legs began to shake.
I'm sorry. I can't… I need a breath.
Jesus did not hurry him. He waited.
Why am I not angry? He has every right to be angry. I do not.
The road got harder. But Simon was not alone on it.


It was Passover. Families brought lambs to remember the night God set Israel free.
The lamb… is for the people. Is he…?
Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.
John 1:29

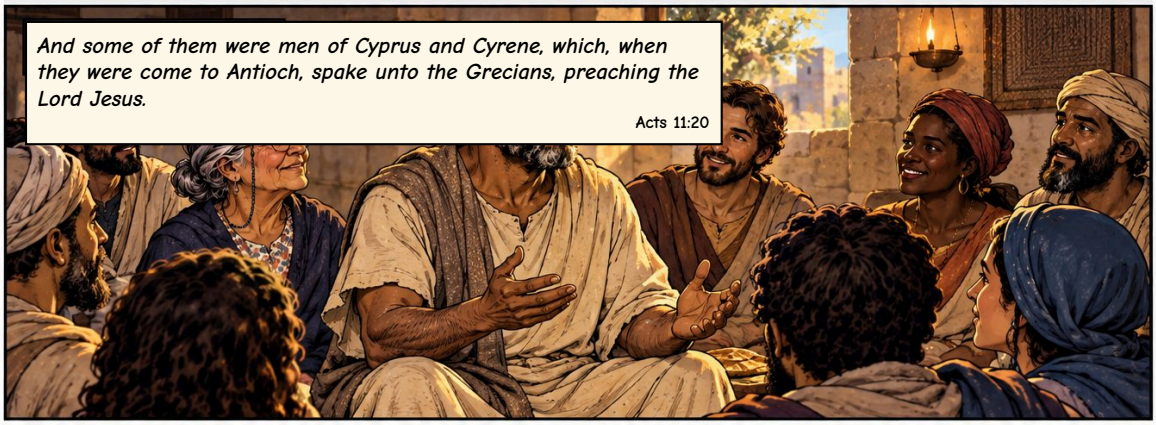

…on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus.
Luke 23:26
Why do you let them do this?
No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself.
John 10:18
On the night bus, Dele kept reading.


So Simon carried it for him.
For a little way. Yes.
Where is my Simon? Nobody helps me carry anything.
Thirty years ago, Ruth cleaned offices all night.
"A lady gave me one of these. I was mad at God too."
Then I learned something. Jesus carried more than a cross that day.


At the hill, the soldiers took the cross from Simon.
And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.
Luke 23:44
It is finished
John 19:30
He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.
Matthew 28:6
Boys! Come! I have to tell you about Jesus!


That night, Simon could not stop talking.
You carried his cross, Father? Really?
Why did he let them? Could he not stop them?
He could. But he did it for us. Then he rose again, my sons. I went to the tomb. It is empty.
And Simon's story did not end in that room.


Years went by. The good news traveled across the sea.


And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.
Acts 11:20


Men from Cyrene. The same town where Simon was born.


One walk behind Jesus. A whole family of believers.

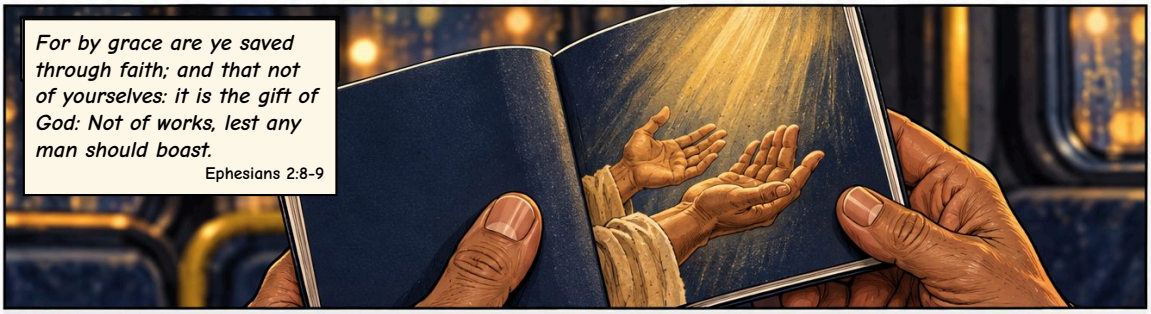

Ruth turned the page.
Simon carried the cross a little way. Jesus carried all of it. For you.
For me? You don't even know me.


But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8


He did that for me? Even when I didn't care about him?


Miss Ruth, if God is good, why is life so hard?
I don't know every answer, son. I only know he never left me.
Jesus said it plain. He did not promise an easy road.
In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
John 16:33
He did not say it would be easy. He said he would be with me.



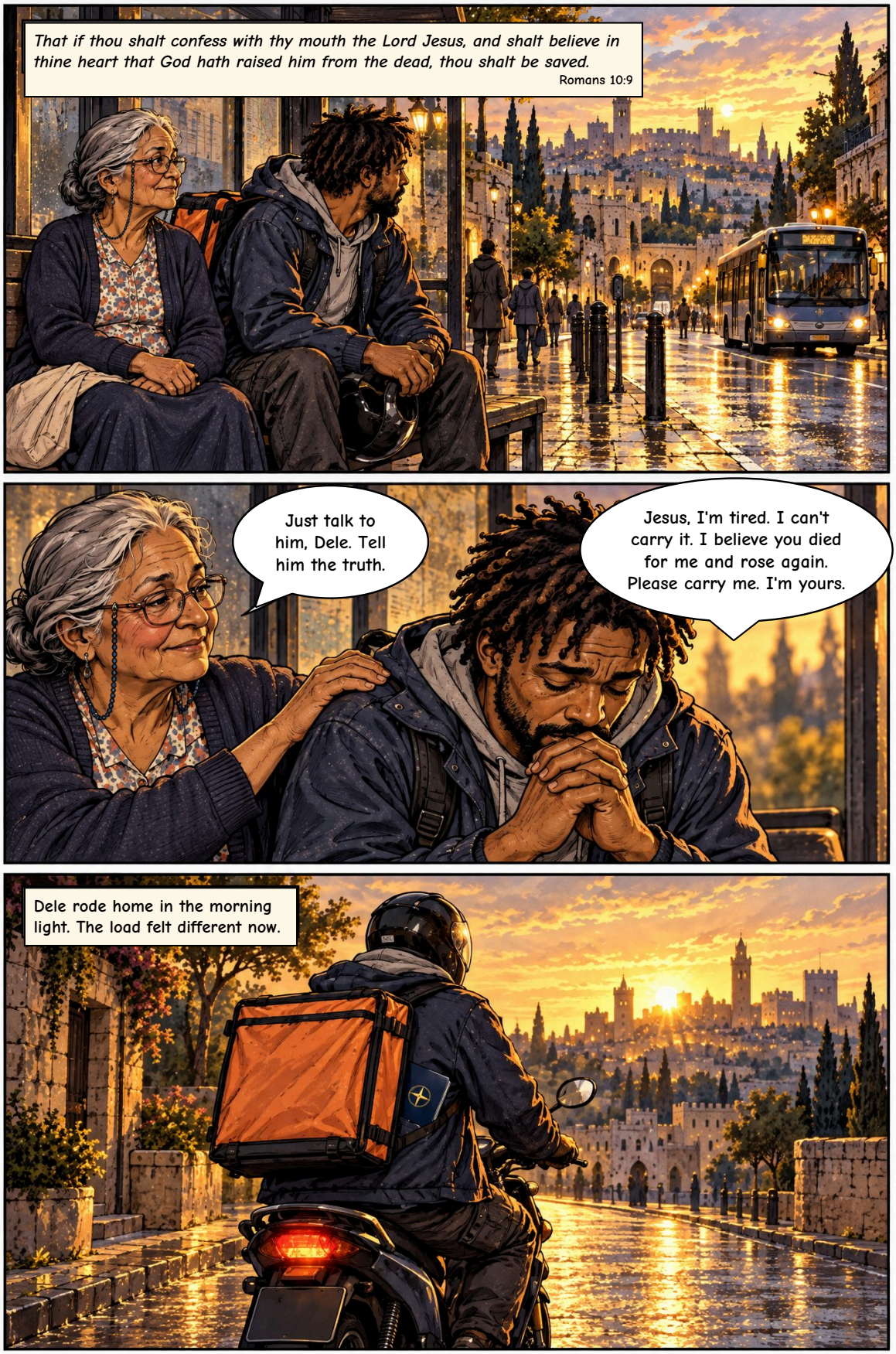


Years later, Paul wrote this to the church in Rome:

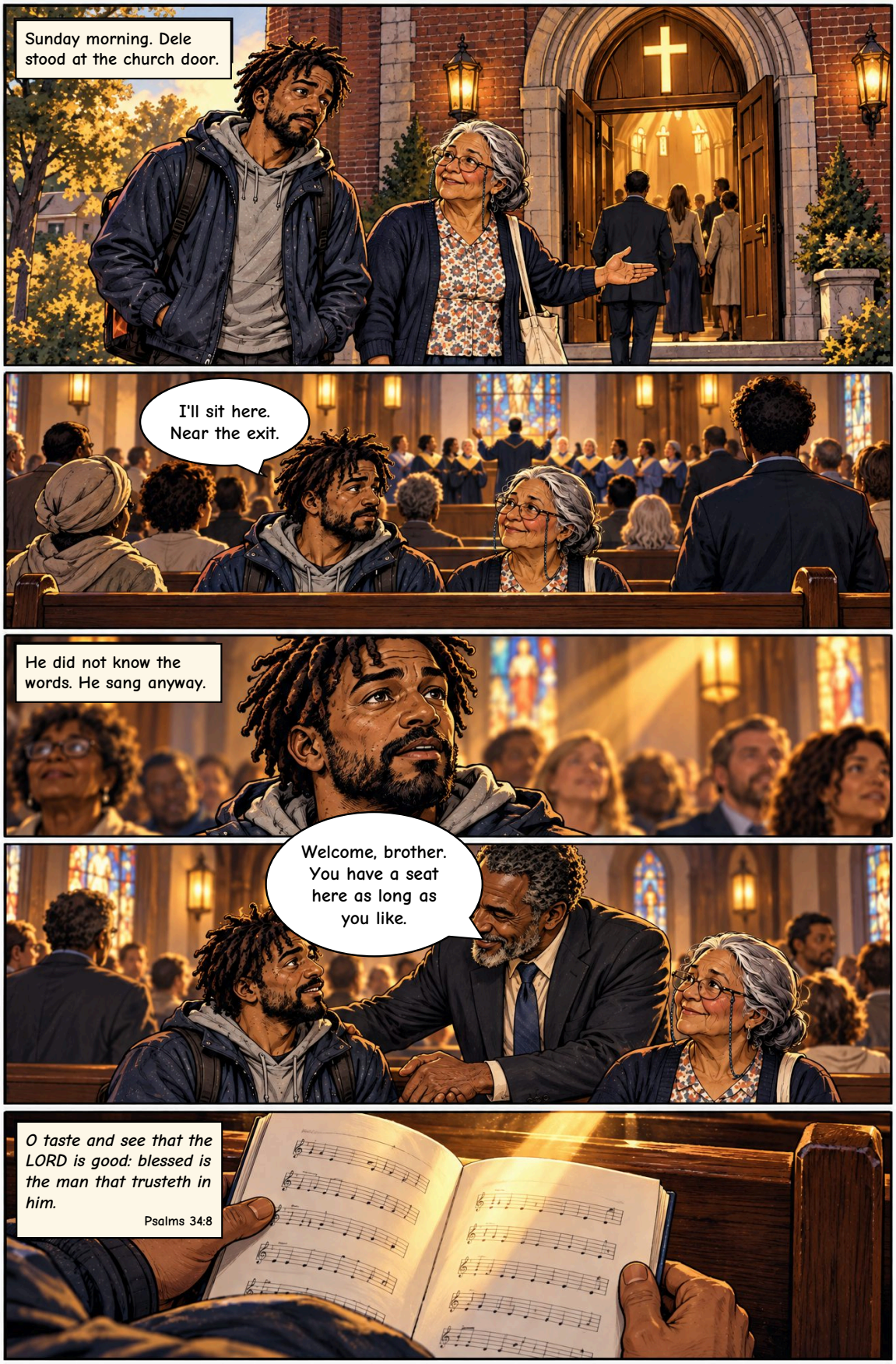
Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine. Romans 16:13






That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
Romans 10:9
Just talk to him, Dele. Tell him the truth.
Jesus, I'm tired. I can't carry it. I believe you died for me and rose again. Please carry me. I'm yours.
Dele rode home in the morning light. The load felt different now.


Friday came. The rent was still due.
I have most of it. I can have the rest in five days. I promise.
You have paid on time for two years. Five days. No more.
This is from my savings. And Miss Ruth's church has something for you.
I did not ask anyone. I thought I had to carry it alone.


Sunday morning. Dele stood at the church door.
I'll sit here. Near the exit.
He did not know the words. He sang anyway.
Welcome, brother. You have a seat here as long as you like.
O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.
Psalms 34:8


Mama? Is there still room at your table Sunday?
Always, my son! Always!
Mama, this is Miss Ruth. She sat with me in the rain.
Then you are family now!
Why didn't you tell me? We carry it together. That is what family does.
Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:2


Monday. Same stairs. Same rain.
Good evening, sir. Hot and fresh. God bless your night.
Uh… thanks. You, too.
No tip again. That is fine. I am not carrying this alone anymore.
The work was the same. The man carrying it was not.


Simon carried a cross a little way. Then the story kept walking.
Across Africa. Across Europe. Across the sea.
Hand to hand. Neighbor to neighbor.
Someone passed it to Ruth. Ruth passed it to Dele.
Who will you pass it to?


One week later.
Long night, brother?
Man, I don't have time for church stuff.
Ha. I said that too. Let me tell you about a man who was just passing by.
If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.
Matthew 16:24
The End

WANT TO TALK TO GOD?

You can pray a prayer like this one. The words don't have to be perfect. God looks at your heart.

> ***Dear God, I know I have done wrong things. I am sorry. I believe Jesus died on the cross for me and came back to life. Please forgive me. Please be my Lord and lead my life. Thank you for loving me. In Jesus' name, amen.***

WHAT'S NEXT?

1. Tell someone! Share what you prayed with a friend or family member.
2. Read the Bible. The book of John is a great place to start.
3. Talk to God every day. He loves to hear from you.
4. Find a church family near you.
5. Pass this book on to someone who needs it.

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Dele was tired, broke, and alone in the rain. Then a stranger on a bus bench told him about a farmer who carried a cross.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

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