

Christmas represents one of the most significant events in human history
—when God came into our world in the form of His Son, Jesus.

IMMANUEL

GOD WITH US

The Gospel of Matthew says that Jesus' birth "took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel' (which means, God with us)."¹ Jesus' conception was like no other before or after.



Nine months later, the unique person who was both God and man was born—Immanuel, "God with us."

Some of the manifestations of "God with us" were seen through Jesus' actions, such as:

► Compassion through healing those who were sick.⁶

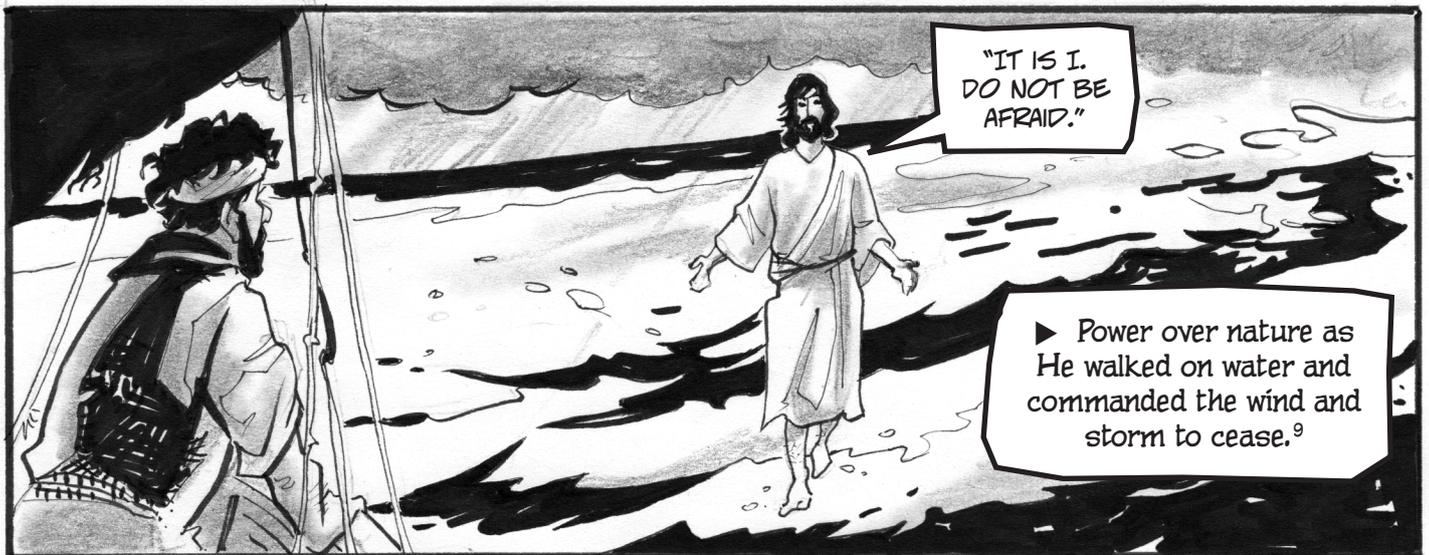


► Care and provision for the poor and hungry, manifested by feeding the crowds of 5,000⁷ and 4,000.⁸



"IT IS I. DO NOT BE AFRAID."

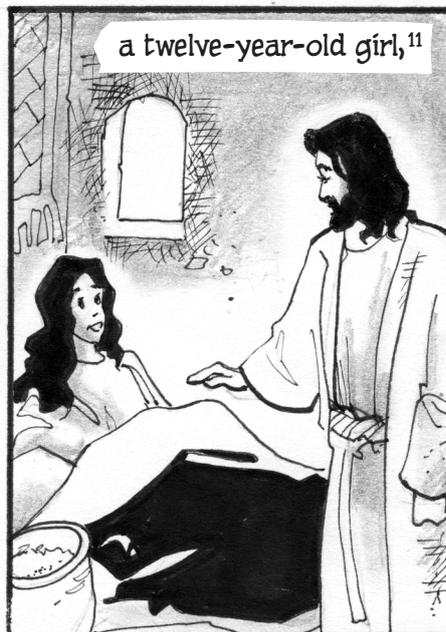
► Power over nature as He walked on water and commanded the wind and storm to cease.⁹



► Power over death—raising the only son of a widow,¹⁰



a twelve-year-old girl,¹¹



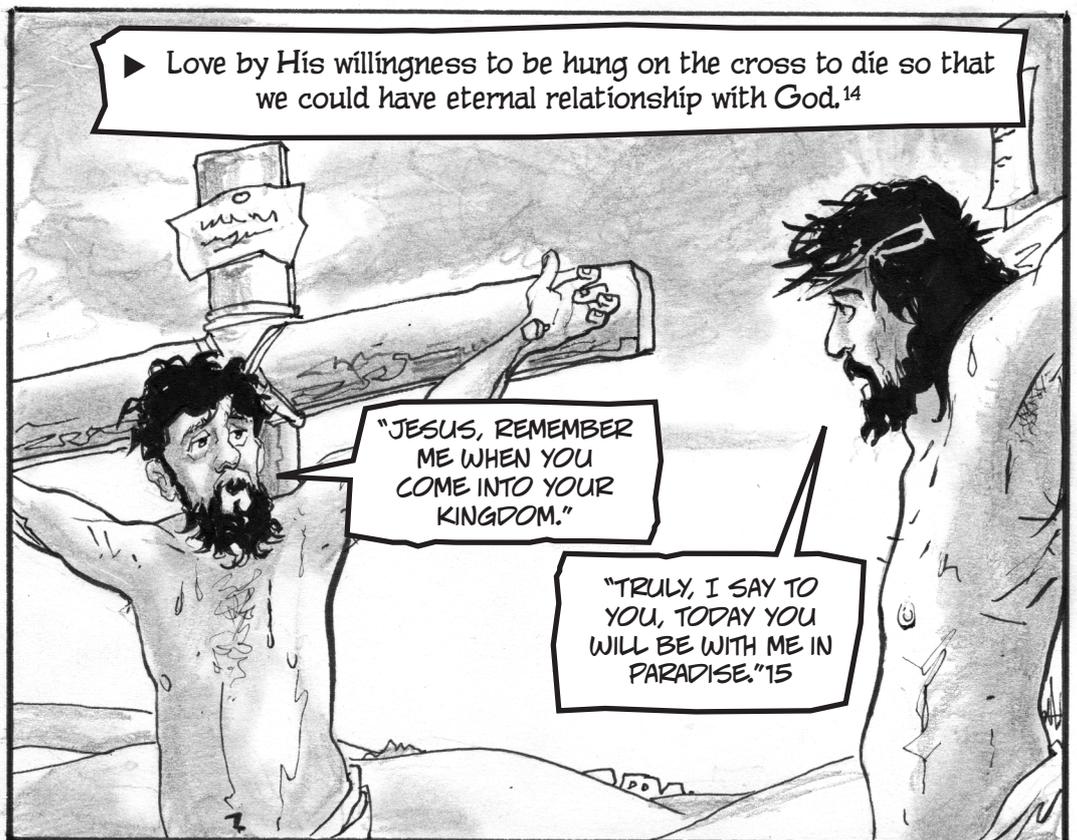
and His friend Lazarus from the dead.¹²





Mercy
by forgiving
sins.¹³

"YOUR
SINS ARE
FORGIVEN."



▶ Love by His willingness to be hung on the cross to die so that we could have eternal relationship with God.¹⁴

"JESUS, REMEMBER
ME WHEN YOU
COME INTO YOUR
KINGDOM."

"TRULY, I SAY TO
YOU, TODAY YOU
WILL BE WITH ME IN
PARADISE."¹⁵

At Christmas, and every other day of the year, all of us within whom the Spirit of God dwells are in a sense an extension of "God with us" in our community—

to our friends and neighbors,



KIND PEOPLE
WHO MOVED IN
NEXT DOOR.

AYE! AND THEIR
CHILDREN ARE
POLITE.



our coworkers,

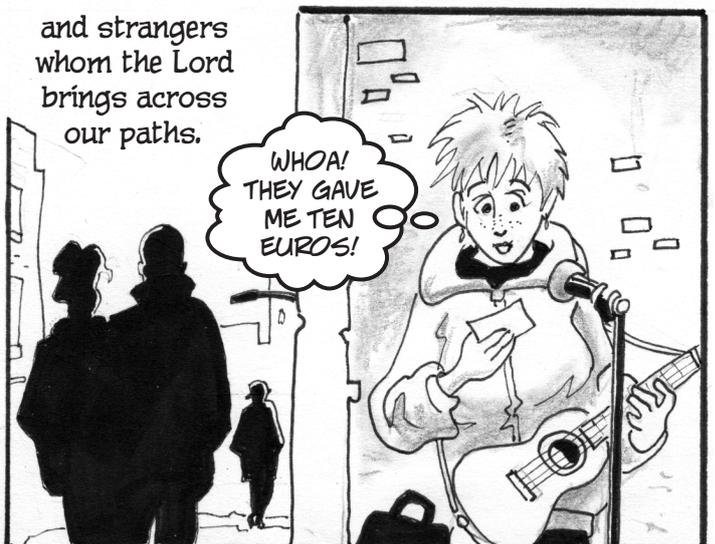
HEY, THEY JUST
INVITED US TO A
HUGE CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATION!

the people who serve us in shops
and restaurants,



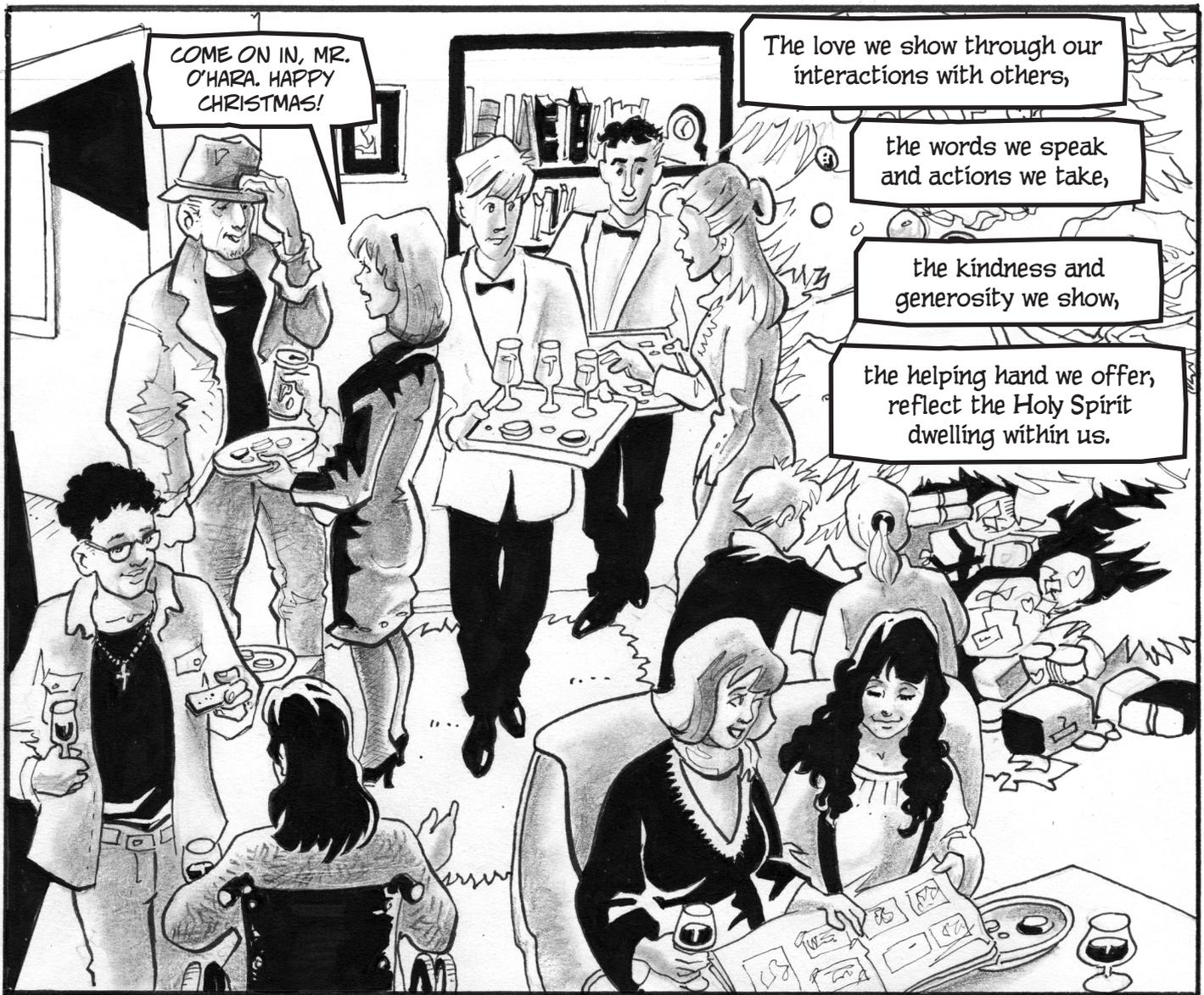
...AND THEY'RE ALWAYS SO
RESPECTFUL TO US.

and strangers
whom the Lord
brings across
our paths.



WHOA!
THEY GAVE
ME TEN
EUROS!

Others can sense something uncommon and special in us, and when we explain that God is with us and can be with them as well, we help to fulfill the ultimate reason of Christmas.



Christmas is the celebration of "God with us," the birth of His Son, who lived and died in order to make it possible for us to come into relationship with God and for the Spirit of God to dwell within us. What a joyful reason to celebrate!

Footnotes:

¹ Matthew 1:22–23. All scriptures are from the English Standard Version of the Bible.

² Luke 1:31–33

³ Luke 1:34

⁴ Luke 1:35

⁵ Luke 1:38

⁶ See Matthew 8:1–4, 14–15, 9:27–33, 12:22–23, 17:15–18, 20:30–34, 21:14; Mark 1:30–31, 7:32–37, 8:22–25, 9:25–27, 10:46–52; Luke 4:33–35, 8:27–35, 9:38–42, 14:1–4, 18:35–43; and John 4:46–53, 9:1–7.

⁷ See Matthew 14:14–21.

⁸ See Matthew 15:32–38.

⁹ See Matthew 14:22–33.

¹⁰ See Luke 7:11–16.

¹¹ See Mark 5:22–23, 35–43.

¹² See John 11:1–44.

¹³ See Matthew 9:2–8.

¹⁴ See Colossians 1:19–22, 2:13–14 and Ephesians 2:13–19.

¹⁵ Luke 23:43–44