

BRAVE LIKE A GURKHA

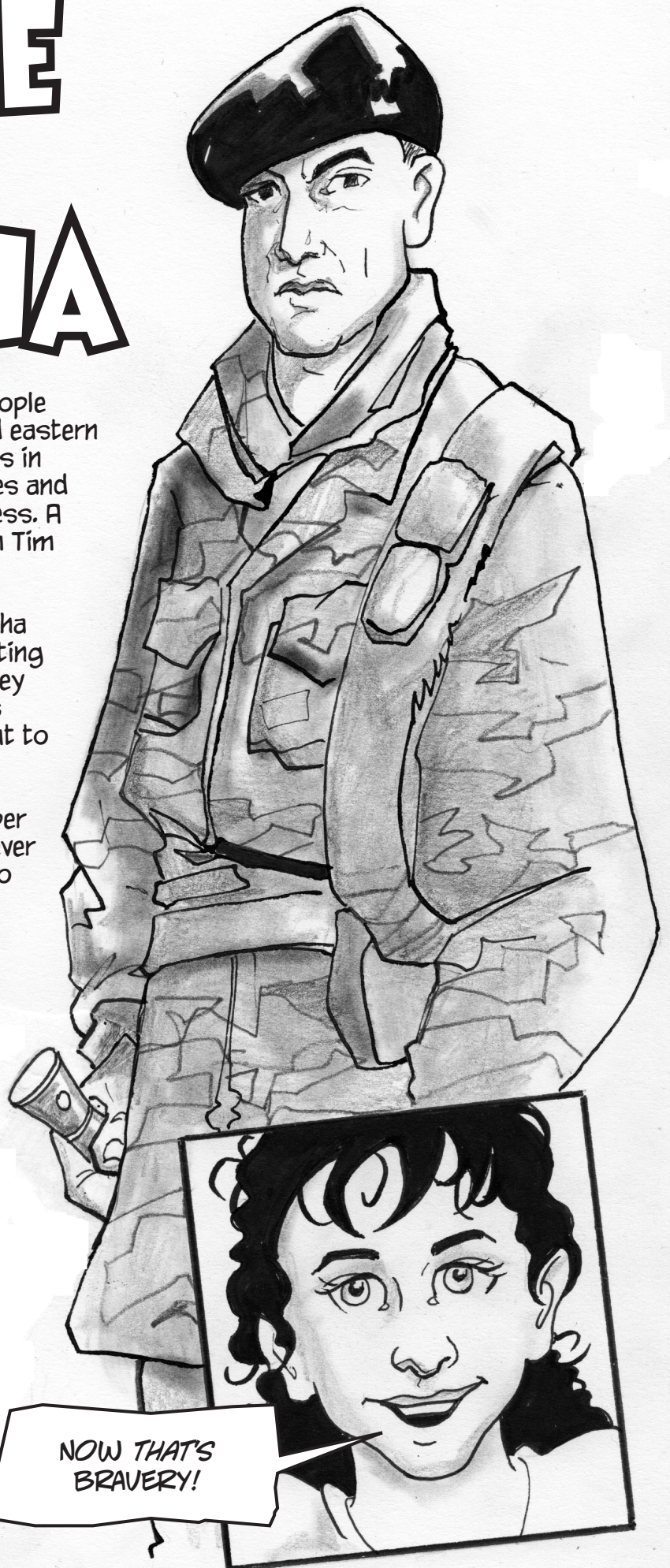
The Gurkhas are an indigenous people largely located in midwestern and eastern Nepal. They made up military units in the Nepalese, Indian, and British armies and were known for being absolutely fearless. A great example of their bravery is from Tim Bowden's book, *One Crowded Hour*.¹

During the 1964 Malaysian and Indonesian conflict in Borneo, a Gurkha regiment in the British Army was fighting the Indonesians. They were asked if they would jump from the transport planes above the battlefield, if that turned out to be the best course of action.

They could refuse, since none of them had gone through any paratrooper training, but generally the Gurkhas never said *no* to anything they were asked to do. However, this time they said that they would need to talk it over.

The next day they went back to the British officers and said that after discussing it, they had agreed they could do it under specific conditions. The Gurkhas first requested that they be dropped over marshy or relatively soft ground, as they weren't experienced at falling. Next, "if possible," the Gurkhas continued, "we'd like the plane to fly as slowly as possible and no more than 100 feet from the ground when we jump." The British officer said they always fly slowly when dropping troops, but that 100 feet was much too close to the ground—the parachutes wouldn't have time to open.

"In that case, you can drop us anywhere!" the Gurkhas said. "You hadn't mentioned the parachutes."

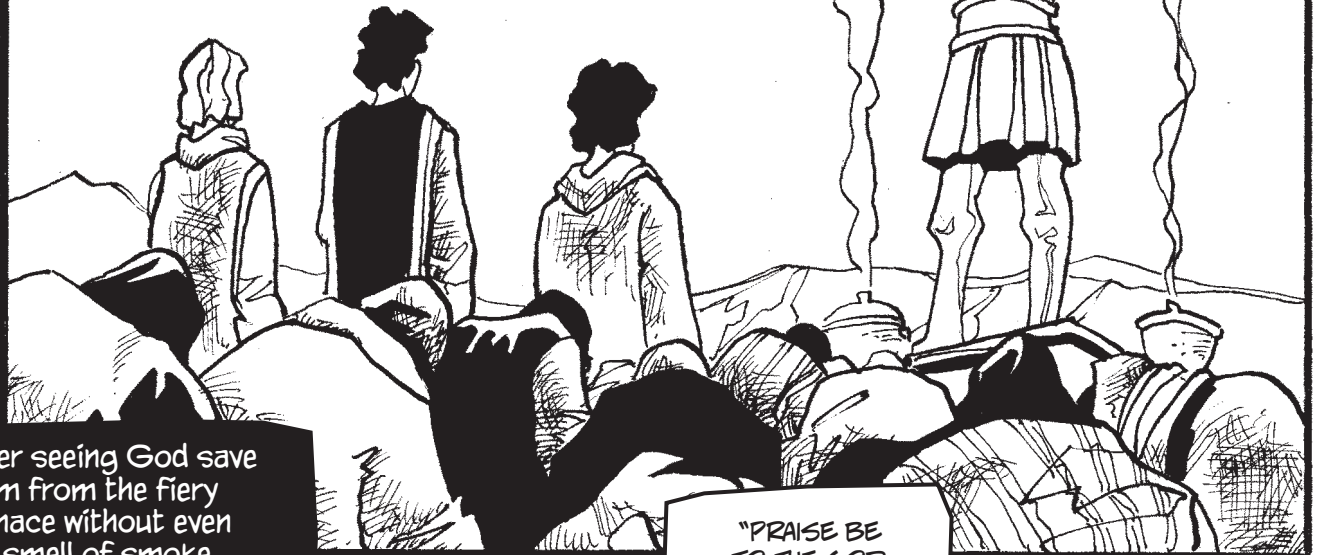


NOW THAT'S
BRAVERY!

THE FIRST BIBLE STORY THAT COMES TO MIND WHEN THINKING OF BRAVERY AND COURAGE IS DANIEL'S THREE BEST BUDDIES.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego didn't know that God was going to bail them out when they refused to bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's idol.

They boldly said that even if God didn't rescue them, they still wouldn't bow down.



After seeing God save them from the fiery furnace without even the smell of smoke, Nebuchadnezzar said,

"PRAISE BE TO THE GOD OF SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO, WHO HAS SENT HIS ANGEL AND RESCUED HIS SERVANTS!"



After that, the king declared it illegal to say anything against their God,

THEY TRUSTED IN HIM AND DEFIED THE KING'S COMMAND AND WERE WILLING TO GIVE UP THEIR LIVES RATHER THAN SERVE OR WORSHIP ANY GOD EXCEPT THEIR OWN GOD."²



...and to sweeten the deal, he gave them all a promotion.

Can you imagine if they had decided that it would have been smarter to just bow down this *one* time? They would have missed out being a testimony of their faith to the whole kingdom, not to mention missing out on going down as examples of bravery and faith to all of us who read the Bible today.



You might not feel like the bravest soul, and it can actually be very hard to speak up when you need to, but with the Lord behind you, you can be courageous.

YOU SHOULDN'T SPEAK TO HER IN THAT WAY!



This is something King David knew well when he said,

"THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY SALVATION; WHOM SHALL I FEAR?"

THE LORD IS THE STRENGTH OF MY LIFE; OF WHOM SHALL I BE AFRAID?"¹³

Following in Jesus' footsteps includes being tolerant and understanding, turning the other cheek, and forgiving those that hurt us. All of that is important and a big part of what it means to be a Christian.

JESUS ALSO KNEW WHEN HE HAD TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST WRONGDOING.

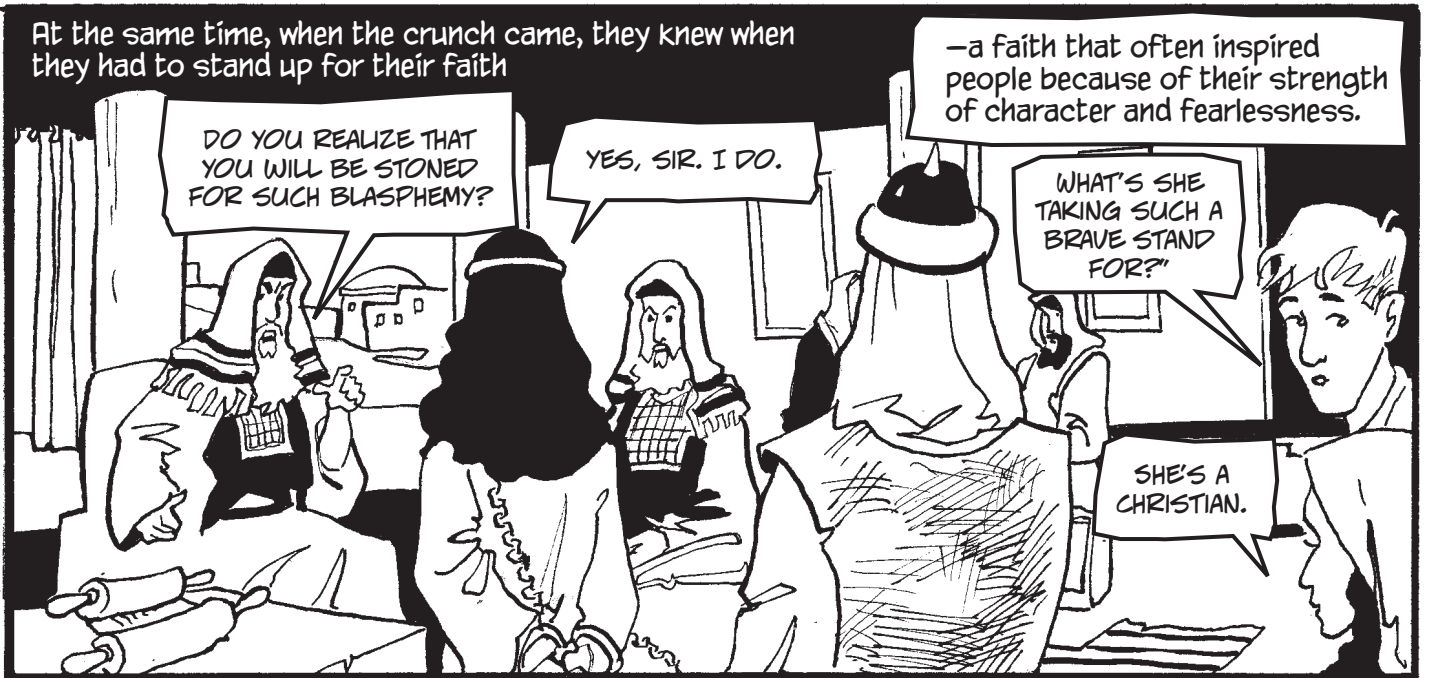
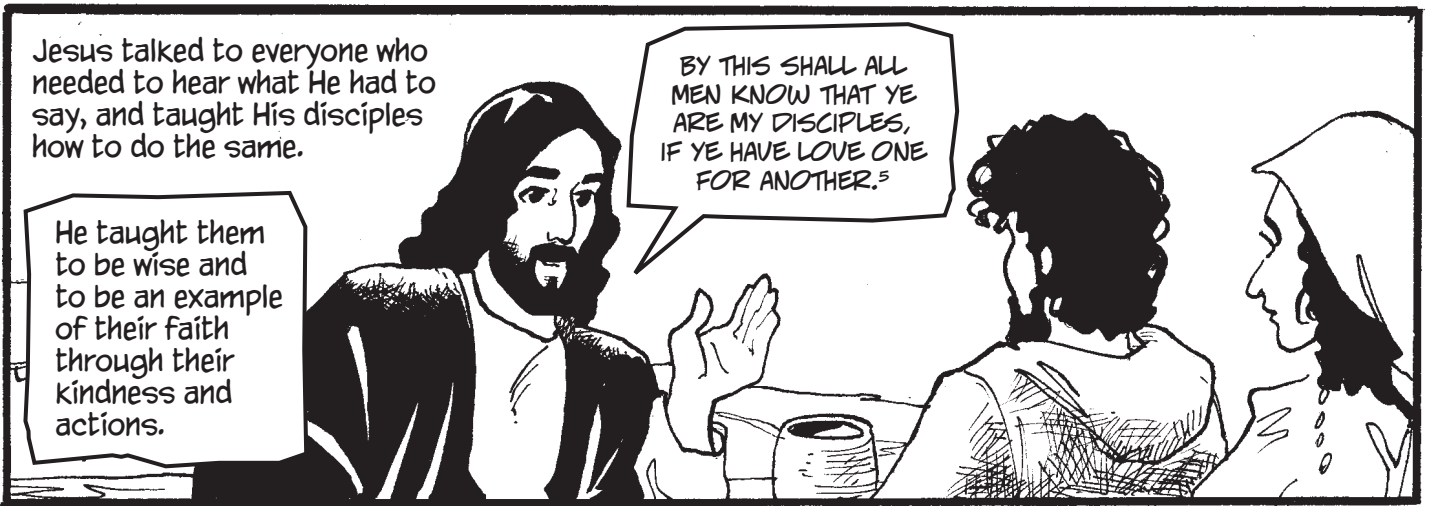


He said a lot of things, even when He knew some people wouldn't like it, simply because it was the truth.

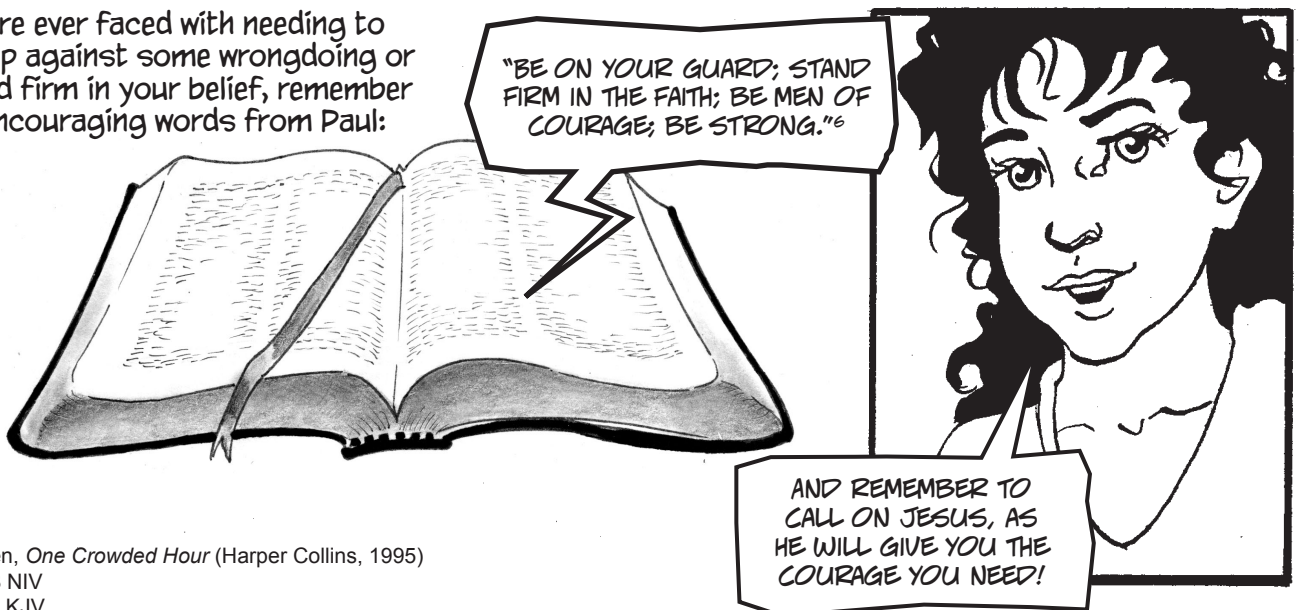
YOU ARE THE CHILDREN OF YOUR FATHER THE DEVIL, AND YOU LOVE TO DO THE EVIL THINGS HE DOES."¹⁴

He didn't say things just to be popular or go along with whatever was the trend of the time.

He stuck to what He knew to be right.



If you are ever faced with needing to speak up against some wrongdoing or to stand firm in your belief, remember these encouraging words from Paul:



Footnotes

- ¹ Tim Bowden, *One Crowded Hour* (Harper Collins, 1995)
- ² Daniel 3:28 NIV
- ³ Psalm 27:1 KJV
- ⁴ John 8:44 NLT
- ⁵ John 13:36 KJV
- ⁶ 1 Corinthians 16:13 NIV