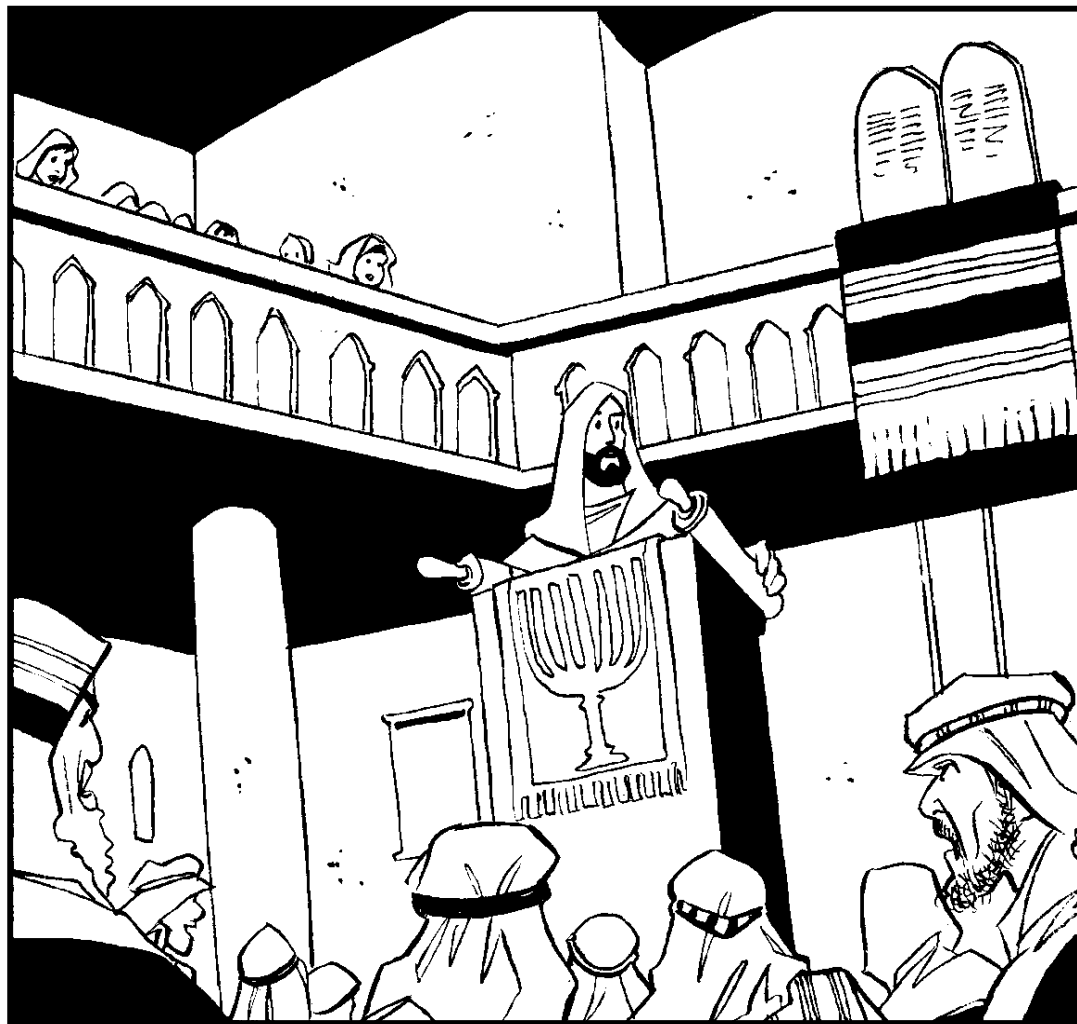


# Great Expectations

## 莫大的期望

The Bible tells of a time Jesus went back to His hometown. I think it's one of the saddest stories in the Bible, pretty much summed up in the final verse of the chapter: "He did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief."<sup>1</sup>

圣经讲述耶稣探访家乡的经历。我认为这是圣经中最悲伤的记载之一，该章最后一句经文算是为这事做了一个总结，“因为他们的不信，耶稣未能在那里多行异能伟事。”<sup>1</sup>



These people knew Jesus. They had watched Him grow up, and I guess they didn't expect much from Him. So when He came around after He'd been doing miracles, they just couldn't believe it. "Isn't this the carpenter's son?"<sup>2</sup> they asked. It seems to me they were saying, "We know this guy. He's just a carpenter—it's not possible that He could be doing something great. It's not like He's the son of God or anything."

那些人认识耶稣。他们看着他长大，而我猜想他们对他没有多大的期望。因此，在他行了许多奇蹟之后回到家乡时，他们就是无法相信他能这样做。“这不是木匠的儿子吗？”<sup>2</sup> 他们问。在我看来，他们似乎在说，“我们认识这个家伙，他只是个木匠，他不可能做出一些伟大的事情。他可不是上帝的儿子或诸如此类的人物。”



Just as these people didn't believe in Jesus and His power, we can also lack belief in ourselves and in how Jesus can work through us. We hold ourselves back through negative self-talk. Because we don't believe we're capable of doing certain things, we often don't even try.

How about you? Are you possibly hindering Jesus' ability to do something special—or even something you wish to do but aren't sure you can—in your life because of your unbelief in His power to work through you? Have you told yourself “I can't” so many times that you've stopped believing that maybe you can?

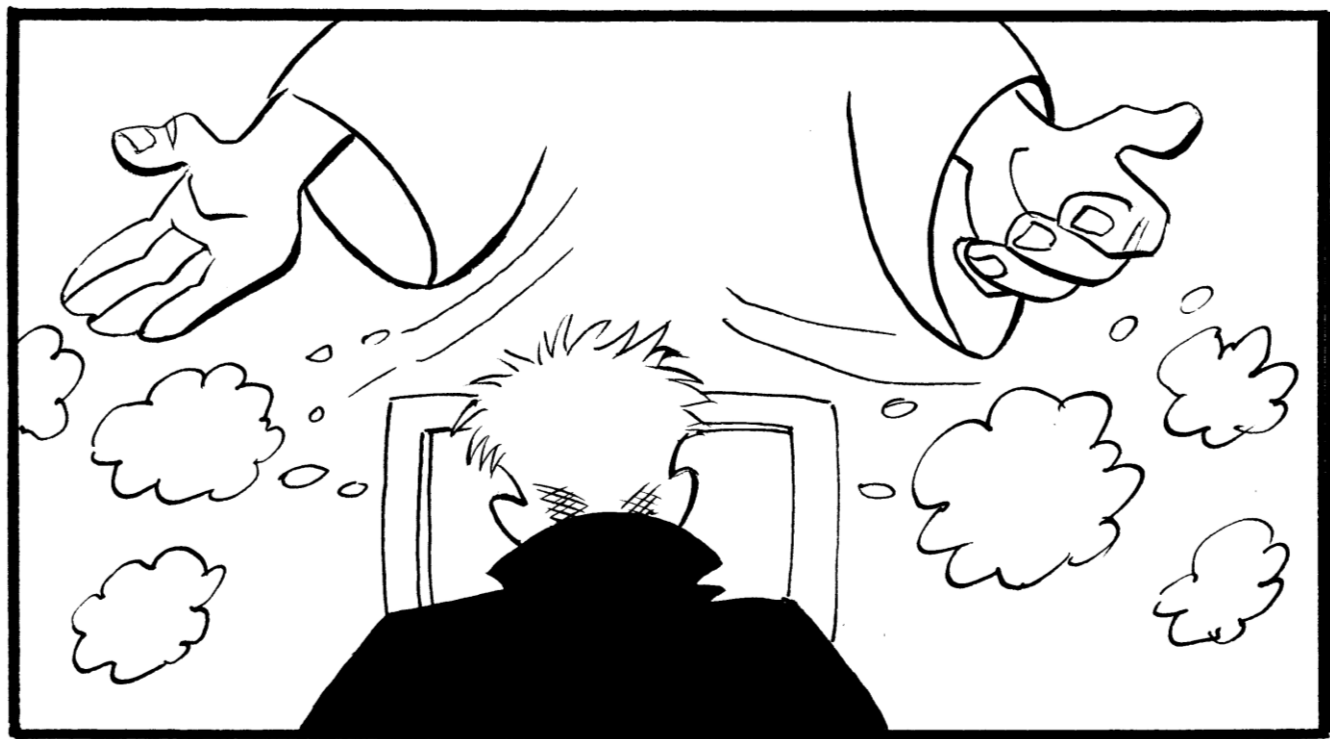
这些人不相信耶稣和他的大能，同样地，我们也可能缺乏自信，难以相信耶稣如何能通过我们来做事。我们通过消极的自我对话，使自身却步不前。因为我们不相信自身有能力做某些事情，所以我们经常甚至连尝试都不尝试。

你又怎么样呢？你是否因为不相信他能以他的能力通过你来做事，而在阻碍耶稣在你生命中做的一些特别的事，甚至是你想做、却不确定是否能做到的事？你是否告诉自身“我做不到”这么多次，以致你已經不再相信自身或许能做得到？



God has plans for each one of us. That's not something in question. Maybe the things He has planned for you are different than what you'd expect; but if you let Him, He'll use you.

上帝为我们每个人安排了一个计划，这是毫无疑问的。也许他为你计划的事情和你所期望的不同；可如果你让他在你生命中动工的话，他是会使用你的。

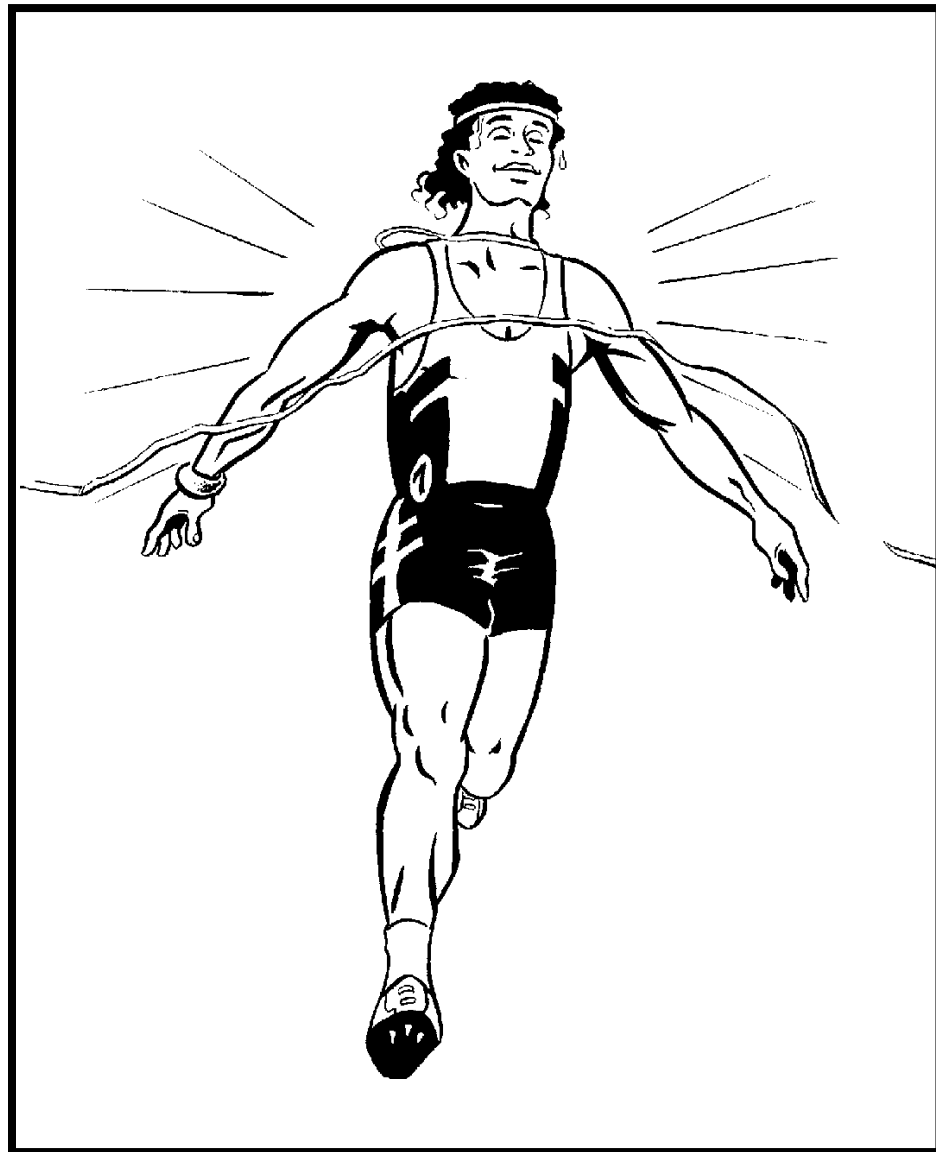


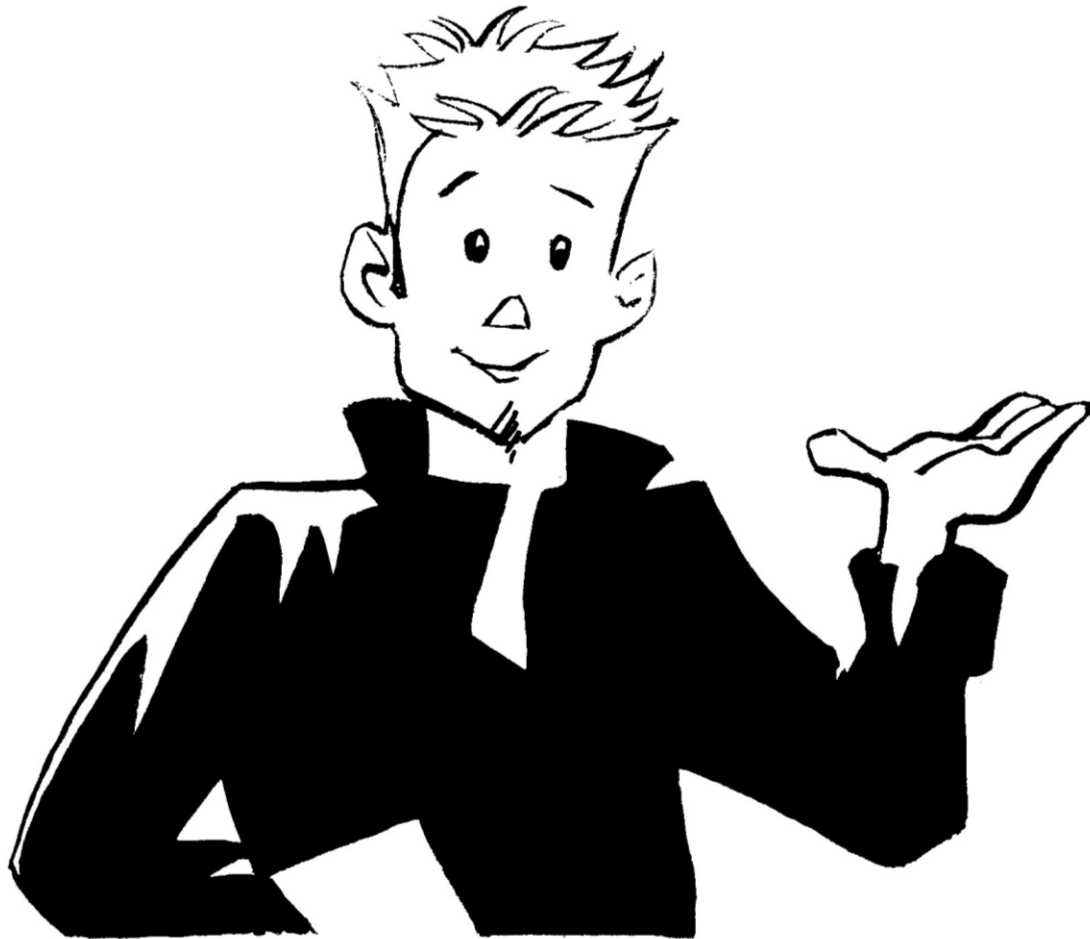
An Olympic runner doesn't go into a race thinking that maybe he can win. He certainly doesn't go into it thinking that he can't win. He sets his mind to win, and runs as if the medal is already his. "Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win!"<sup>3</sup>

If you know that God has great expectations for you, you can start expecting more of yourself. Take that first scary step, and then keep on running.

一位参加奥林匹克比赛的跑者参加一场比赛时，不会仅认为自身可能会赢。他肯定不会认为他赢不了。他下定决心要赢，跑起来就好像奖牌已经是他的了。“你们一定知道，在运动场上赛跑的人很多，可是得奖的只有一个。所以，你们要抱以夺标的心来跑。”<sup>3</sup>

如果你知道上帝对你的期望很大，你就能开始对自身有更多的期待。踏出令你害怕的第一步，然后就继续跑下去吧。





1. Matthew 13:58
2. Matthew 13:55 NIV
3. 1 Corinthians 9:24 NLT

<sup>1</sup> 马太福音13: 58

<sup>2</sup> 马太福音13: 55

<sup>3</sup> 哥林多前书9: 24 (现代中文译本圣经)