

Look up!
See the
branches
of the trees



Look down!
See the
ground
beneath your
feet
Stir the dust
with your toes
a little.



Look up! Can you see anything living in the trees? A Rowdy Cocky A Blazing Rosella A Busy Magpie A Laughing Kookaburra



Look down!
Can you see
anything on the
ground?
A creeping beetle
An Ant
A buzzing fly



Look up!
Look down!
Look all around!
This is
God's world.
It all belongs to
God.



But in this town, in every town, The army marches up and down The road. Many feet stirring up the dust And swords stirring up fear.



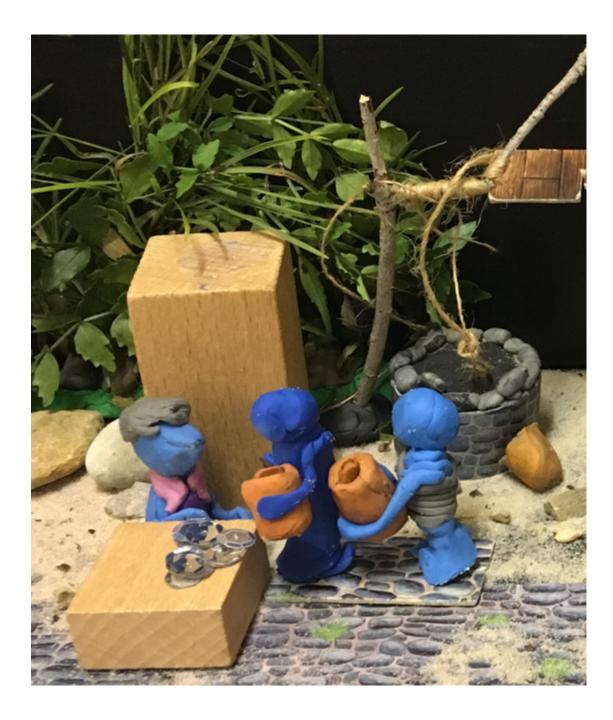
The crowd along the road is quiet as koalas And still as a goanna.

And the commander says
"This town belongs to the great emperor

to the great emperor
This whole land belongs
to the great emperor
And you must pay taxes
to the great emperor."



Look around – all of you."
The Commander points down at a little guy in the crowd.



"This little guy, Zakxaioscool name, by the way he's going to take up the taxes from you all. And hand it up to us



"And we'll take it up to the great emperor. He can take up a bit extra for himself If he likes. We don't care."



And the army marched on down the road to the next town.



This little guy Zakxaios cool name -Now thinks he's the big guy in town. He takes up the taxes for the **Great Emperor** and a bit extra for himself.



Look down the road!
Jesus is coming.
The crowd along the road is rowdy as cockys
And they buzz like flies.



Look up over the heads of crowd Look! Look! it's Jesus. A little guy can't see. It's the little guy Zakxaios-Cool name, Thinks he's a big guy. But the little guy can't see past the crowd.



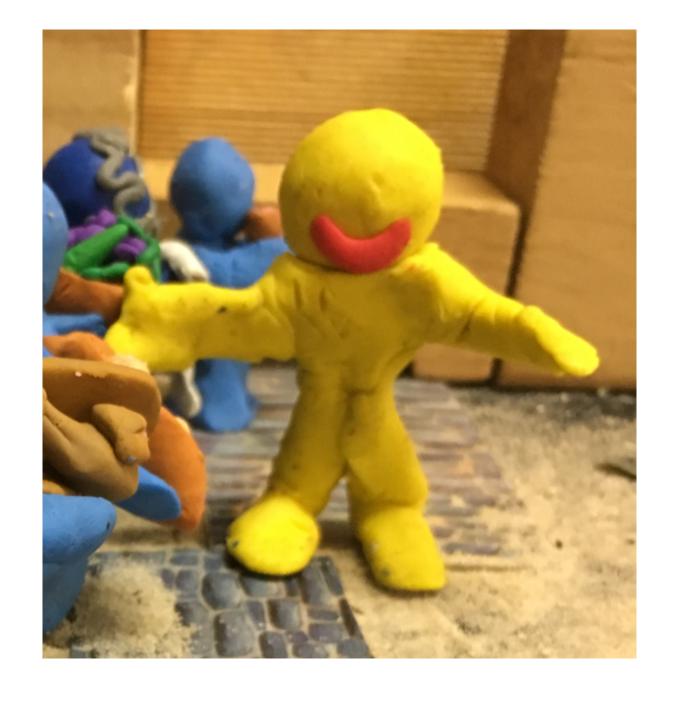
Look over there A large
gnarly knotted
tree
with long low
branches
that little legs
can climb.



Look at this
little guy run,
down the road
and up the tree
He catches
his breath
He thinks
no one was looking



The crowd along the road is rowdy as a flock of cockys. And they buzz like flies. Everyone is trying to get a look at Jesus as he walks along the road, his feet stirring up the dust and his stories stirring up hearts.

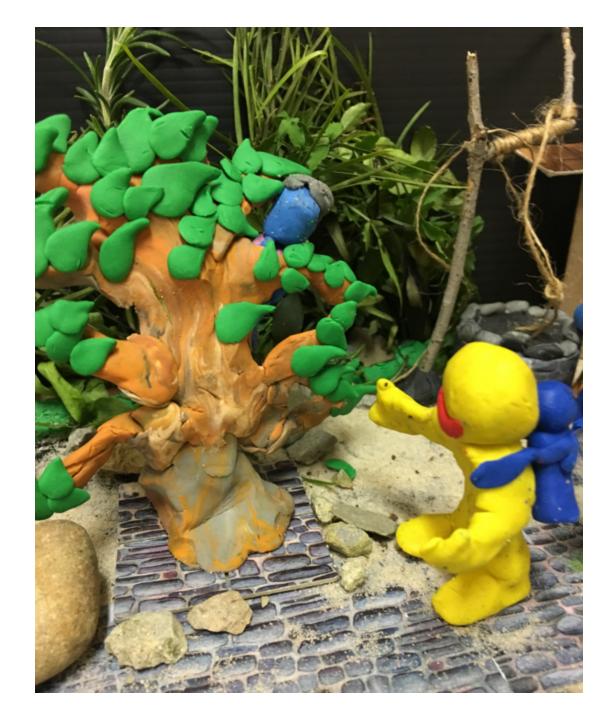


Where is he from? From out in the bush? Is he from God? How could we tell? Looks pretty ordinary to me... But the things he says! He tells ripper stories About the ways of God. Love and Justice.

Mercy and Hope.



Some people have been looking At the way Jesus lives And cares And helps And heals And puts things right And stands up to bullies And listens to children "Jesus is the best person" They say. "The very best." Look closely and see for yourself...



Jesus stops
He's under
a tree.
He's under
that tree.
The Little guy
is up in the tree
Up in that tree.



Jesus Looks up.
The Little guy
looks down.



The crowd beneath him ripples and rumbles. And cockys squawk and the flies buzz As everyone looks from Jesus to the little guy and back to Jesus. Look up. Look down. Look up. Look down. Look all around. This is God's world.



Jesus calls hello 'Hey Zakxaios Looking good up there!" A buzz goes through the crowd. Jesus has picked the worst person The very worst person. **Everyone looks** upset.



Everyone knows Zakxaios only looks after himself. He's cocky. Stuck up. And he's always buzzing around like an annoying fly. Taking down our tax money. And piling up the cash for himself. He's the worst person. The very worst person.



And Jesus – who some say is the best person – Calls again. "Zakxaios! Look! Come down! Listen up! I've got an idea I'd like to share with you." Says Jesus. "And it starts with us sharing some dinner. At your place."



Zakxaios starts climbing down. The crowd look around at each other in shock. What's up? How could Jesus the very best person pick the very worst person? This is turning our heads upside down.



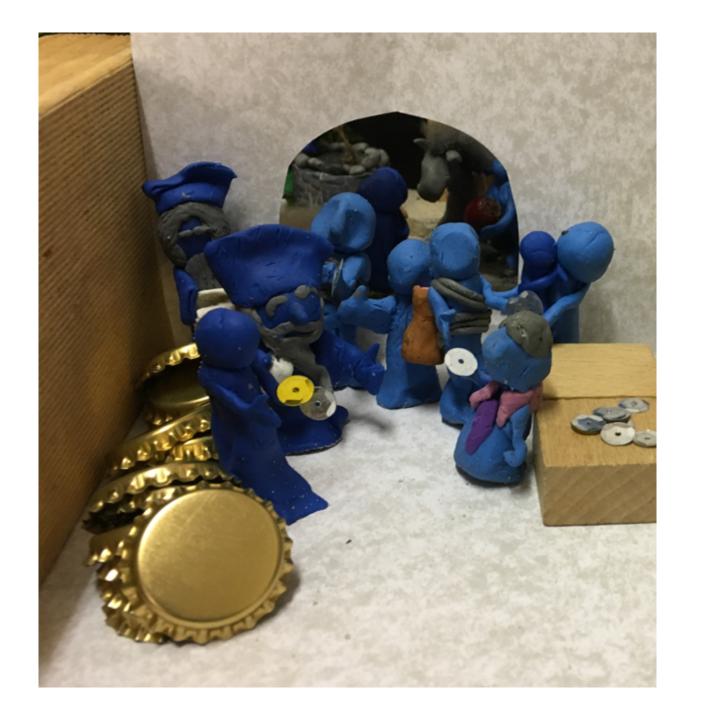
Jesus and Zakxaios sit down to share dinner together. At the end Zakxaios stands up And says:

"Jesus,
I've been listening
to your ideas of
the ways of God.
Love and Justice.
Mercy and Hope."



"I've got an idea
I'd like to share
with you.
And it starts
with me sharing.
I'll give up
half my money
to the poor."

(The crowd buzzed. Almost everyone in this town was poor)



"And look around: if I've cheated anyone —"

(The crowd laughed like kookaburras)

"And you all know I have, I'll pay it back - times four. And from now on I'll take up God's good ways."



The Crowd say "This is the best!" Jesus says "This is the best! This is God's world. Emperors rise up and are brought down. Look closely and see for yourself. But God's ways are for always: Love and Justice Mercy and Hope And they are here in this very house today."