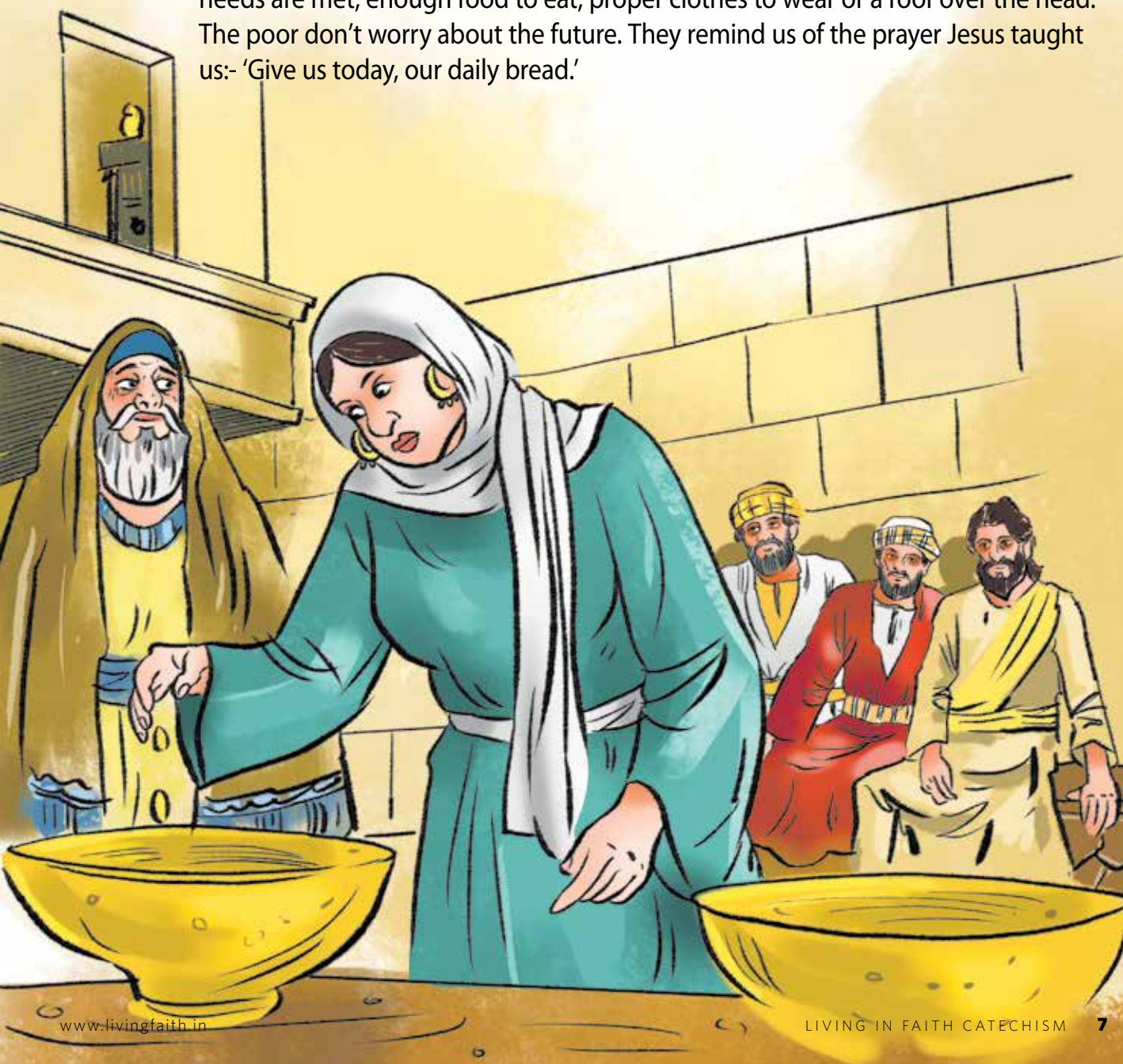




Happy are the Poor

There are too many people in the world living in extreme poverty. In India, we see them sleeping on the pavements, begging by wayside and living in slums. Why does Jesus say the poor are happy or blessed?

The United Nations describes the poor as those people who are denied choices and opportunities to participate effectively in society. It means not having a job to earn one's living or to feed and clothe one's family, little or no access to clean water or sanitation, a school or hospital. That is why the poor are happy when their daily needs are met; enough food to eat, proper clothes to wear or a roof over the head. The poor don't worry about the future. They remind us of the prayer Jesus taught us: 'Give us today, our daily bread.'

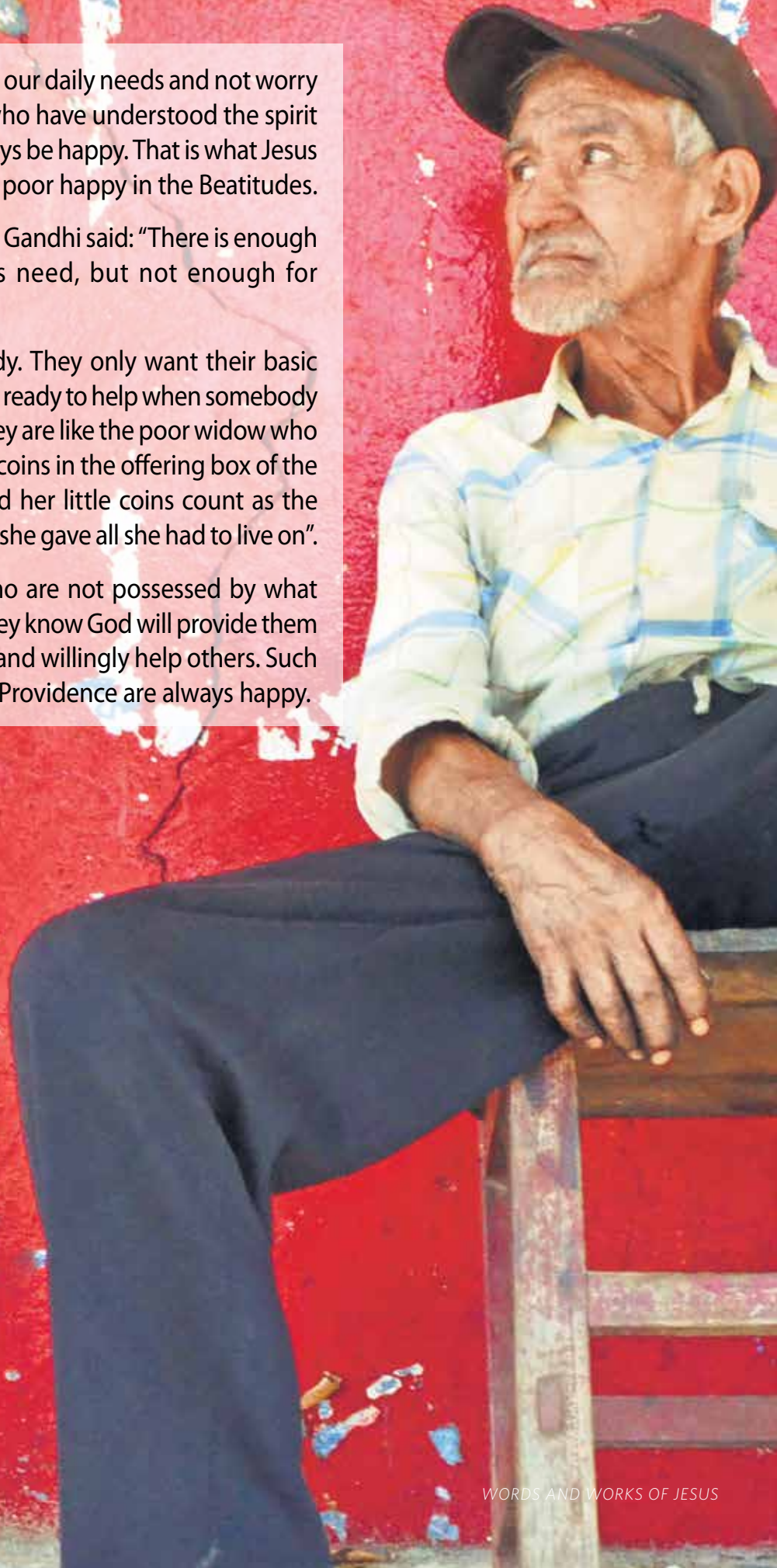


Jesus wants us to seek only our daily needs and not worry about tomorrow. People who have understood the spirit of the 'daily bread' will always be happy. That is what Jesus meant when He called the poor happy in the Beatitudes.

Remember what Mahatma Gandhi said: "There is enough on Earth for everybody's need, but not enough for everybody's greed."

Poor people are not greedy. They only want their basic needs to be fulfilled and are ready to help when somebody else is hungry or thirsty. They are like the poor widow who dropped two little copper coins in the offering box of the Jerusalem temple. Why did her little coins count as the biggest offering? Because "she gave all she had to live on".

Jesus says only people who are not possessed by what they have can be happy. They know God will provide them when they need anything and willingly help others. Such people who trust in God's Providence are always happy.





Word of God

Mark 12:41-44

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."



Book: *Blessed Are the Poor*, by Rhonda Calhoun, is a gripping collection of real-life stories on Rhonda and her husband's on-going ministry to the poor and homeless of Kansas City. Each chapter is a portrait of a man, woman, or child who lives in drastic poverty and whose lives have impacted the author in dramatic ways. The book not only paints a picture of what it is like to live in poverty, sickness, and hopelessness, but it also articulates the many miraculous ways God meets the needs of His children.

Reading

Mon _____ Tue _____ Wed _____ Thu _____

Fri _____ Sat _____ Sun _____ **Total** _____

Pages Minutes



Find out from your parents about Catholic Saints who sold their whole wealth and distributed the money among the poor. Read about St. Martin of Tours.

Bible@Home - Matthew 5: 3

MY TASK THIS WEEK

To Watch

To Read

To Do