

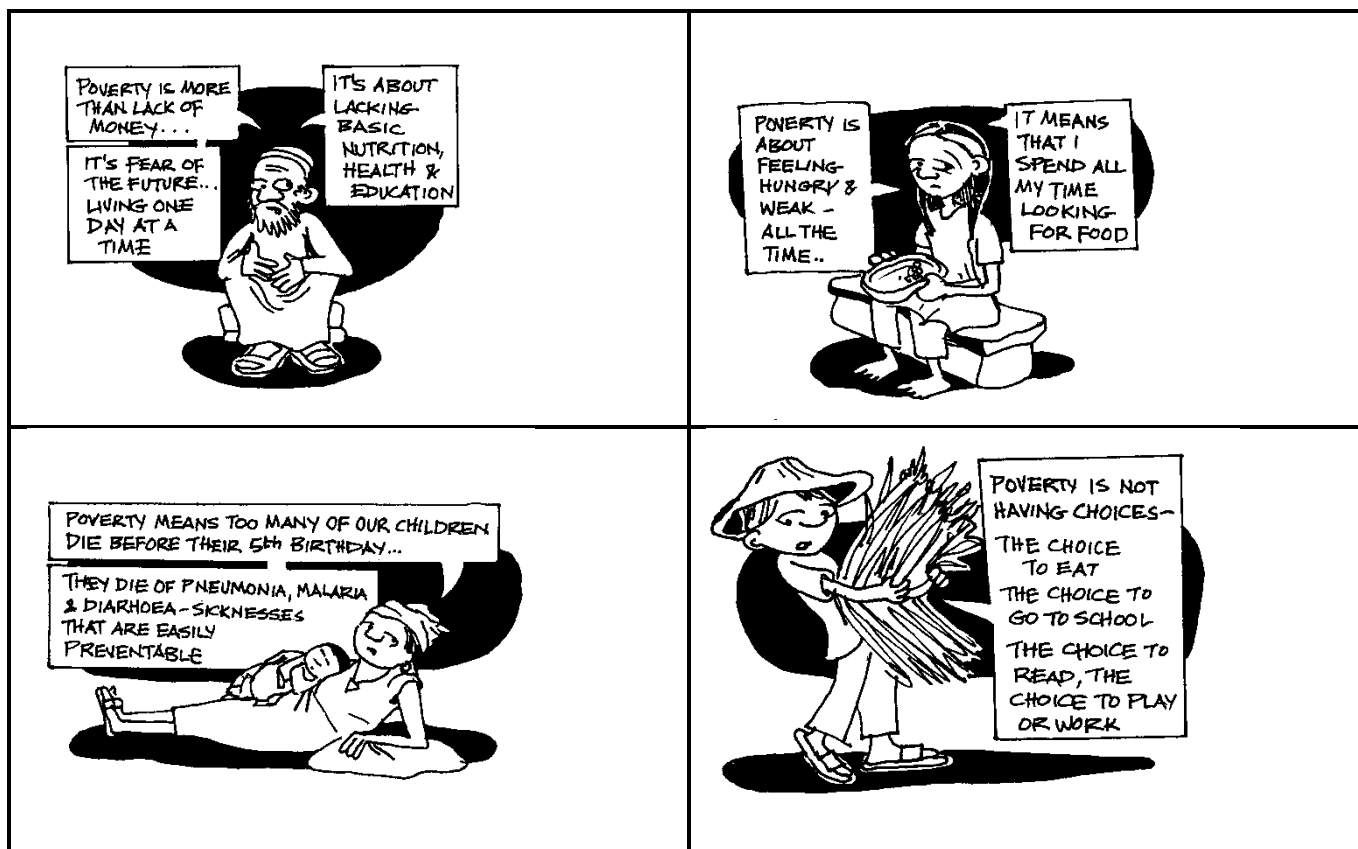
On earth as in heaven?

Q1. In the DVD, Tim Costello spoke of the Lord's Prayer: "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. This is earth in its poverty and its pain. If God hasn't given up on this place, then as a Christian, I can't give up."

Read [Matthew 6:9-14](#) and discuss the questions that follow.

"Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you;"

- When we pray for God's kingdom to come "on earth, as it is in heaven", what are some of the things that we are asking for or anticipating?
- Look at the cartoons below. What might this prayer mean for people around the world who suffer poverty, injustice, and violence?
- In what ways are we, in following Jesus, meant to be part of the answer to that prayer?



Q2. In the DVD, Kuki Rokhum referred to the story of Zacchaeus: *“The first act that he did after meeting Jesus, was justice. That’s what he did after being transformed. It was not just about praising God and singing ‘Hallelulah!’ I’m sure he did that, but it was also about righting the wrongs that he had done. I think that’s what Jesus came to do, to bring complete transformation in us – transformation of our lives ... of bringing back justice into this world.”*

Read [Luke 19:1-9](#) and discuss the questions that follow.

1 “He entered Jericho and was passing through it. 2 A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. 3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. 5 When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today’. 6 So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. 7 All who saw it began to grumble and said, ‘He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner’. 8 Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, ‘Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much’. 9 Then Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham’.”

- In what ways are Jesus’ and Zacchaeus’ actions extraordinary and transforming?
- What encouragement or challenges does this story provide?

Q3. In the DVD, Tom Wright encourages us to look forward to God’s ultimate purpose in bringing heaven and earth together: *“The sense of what it means to be a Christian from the very beginning was that you were part of a project. It was not just a static thing, it’s part of something that is going somewhere. God is on the move, doing stuff, transforming the world, healing the world and we get to be part of it. And you get that right from the very beginning, from the resurrection narratives, which aren’t about, ‘Jesus has gone to heaven, so we’ll be going to heaven too’. God’s new creation has begun and we get to be part of that too, and we’re going to need the spirit to help us do that.”*

Read [Revelation 21:1-4](#) and discuss the questions that follow.

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away’.”

- What are some of the attractive features of this “new heaven and earth”?
- How could this vision of the future, begun with the resurrection of Jesus, impact on our living in the world today?