

**On Justice and the Poor**  
**Proverbs 31:1-9, 14:20-24**

*Prov 31* The sayings of King Lemuel—an inspired utterance his mother taught him.

2 Listen, my son! Listen, son of my womb!

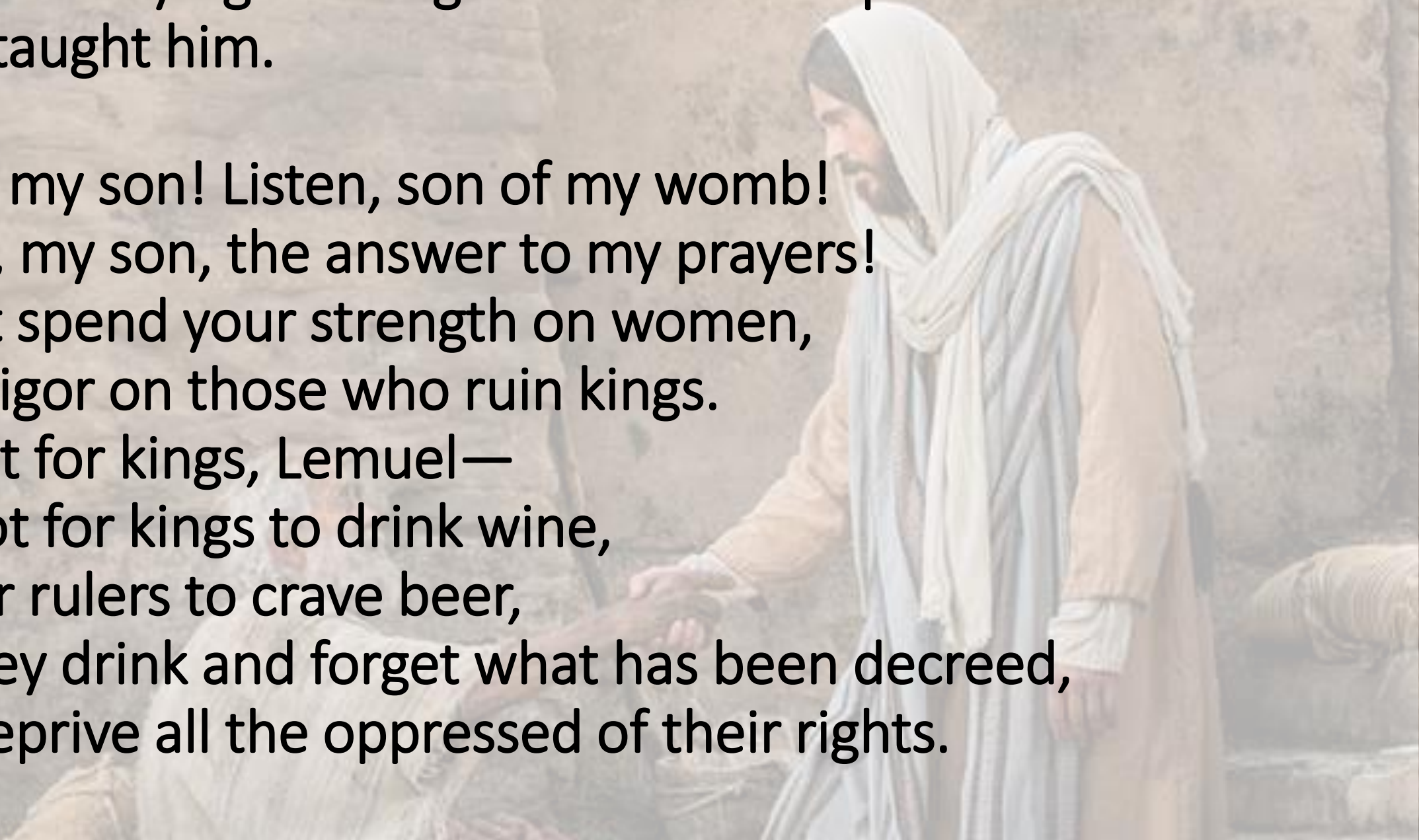
Listen, my son, the answer to my prayers!

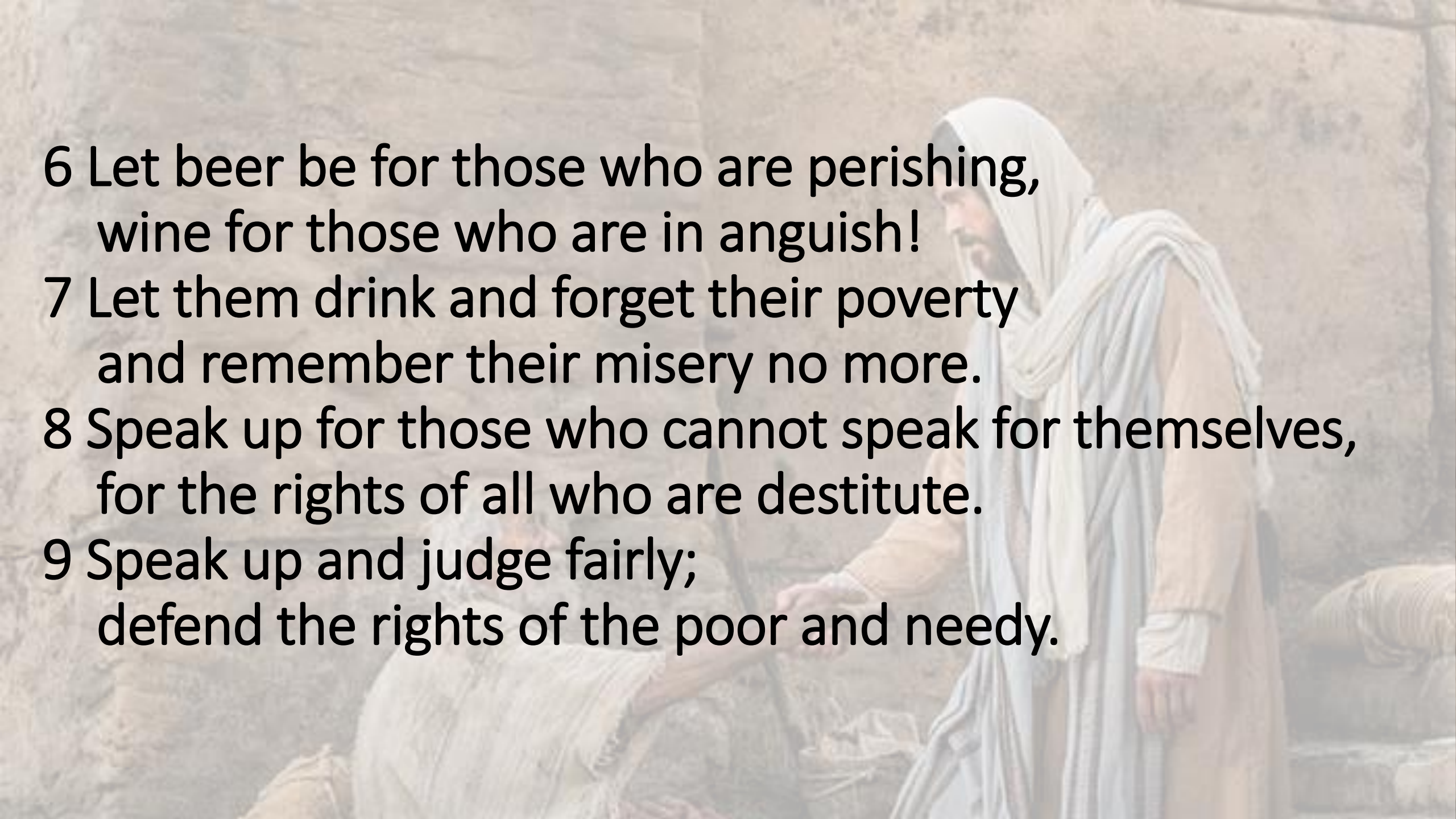
3 Do not spend your strength on women,  
your vigor on those who ruin kings.

4 It is not for kings, Lemuel—

it is not for kings to drink wine,  
not for rulers to crave beer,

5 lest they drink and forget what has been decreed,  
and deprive all the oppressed of their rights.





6 Let beer be for those who are perishing,  
wine for those who are in anguish!

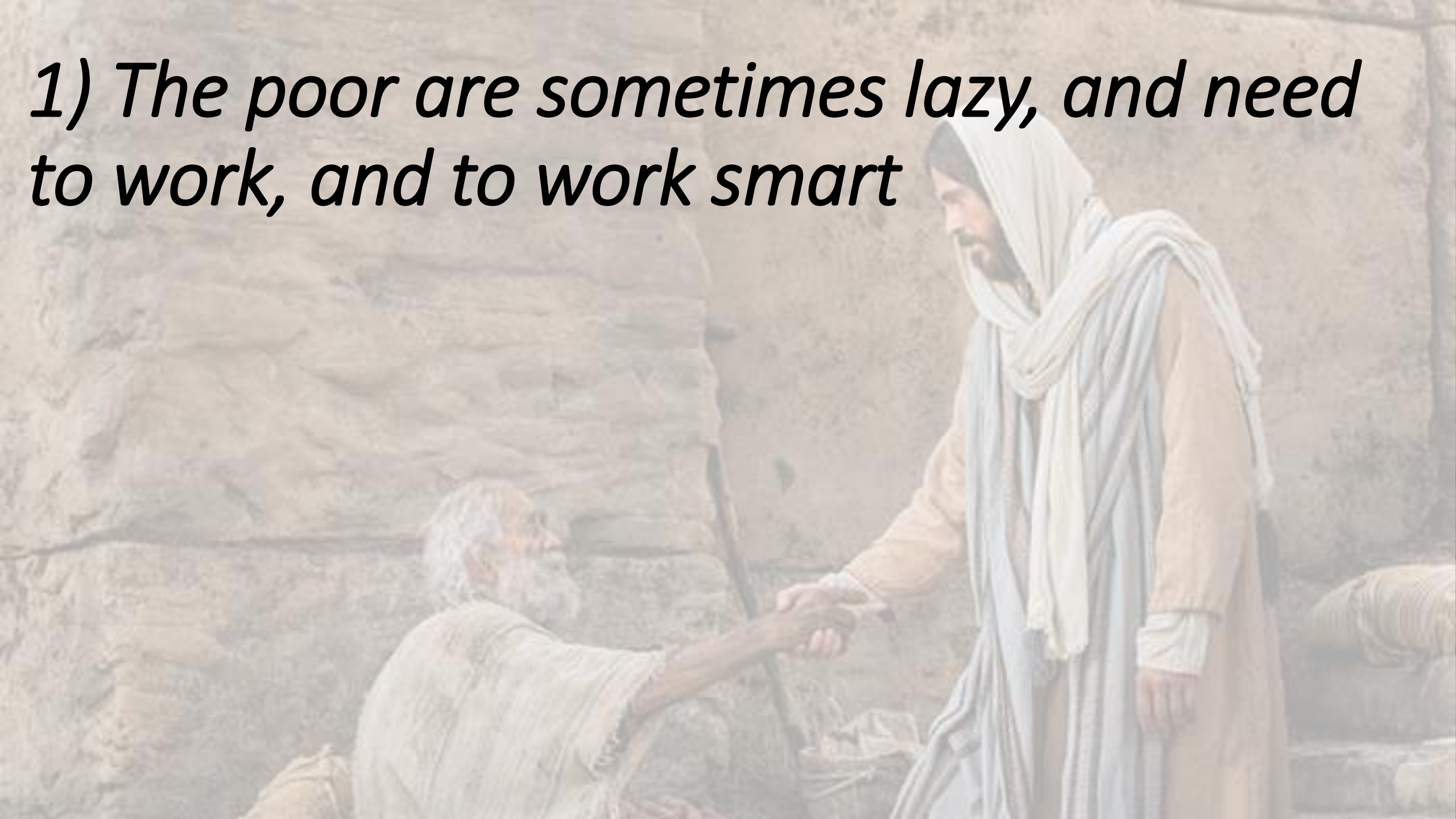
7 Let them drink and forget their poverty  
and remember their misery no more.

8 Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,  
for the rights of all who are destitute.

9 Speak up and judge fairly;  
defend the rights of the poor and needy.



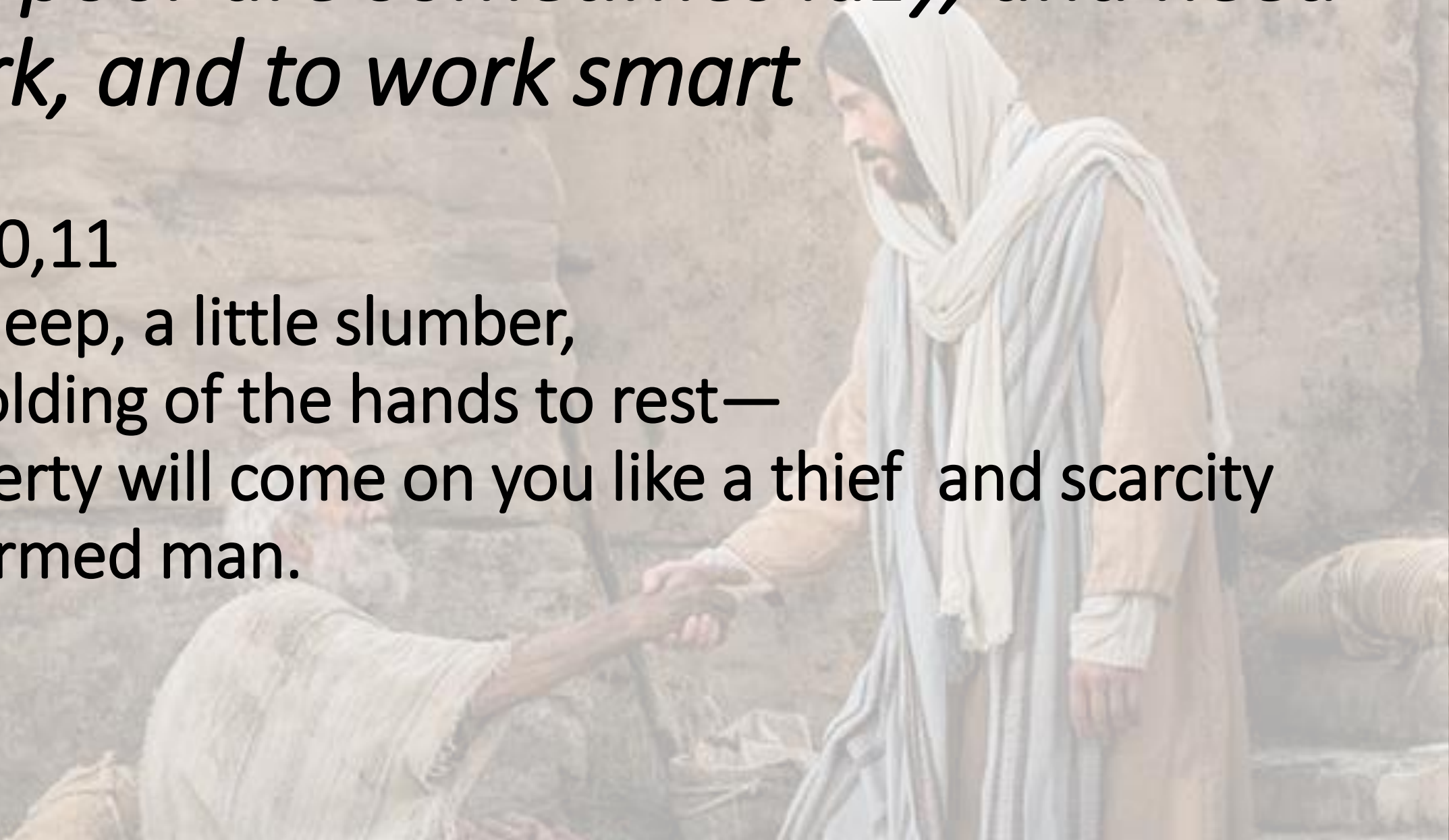
*1) The poor are sometimes lazy, and need to work, and to work smart*



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Prov 6:10,11

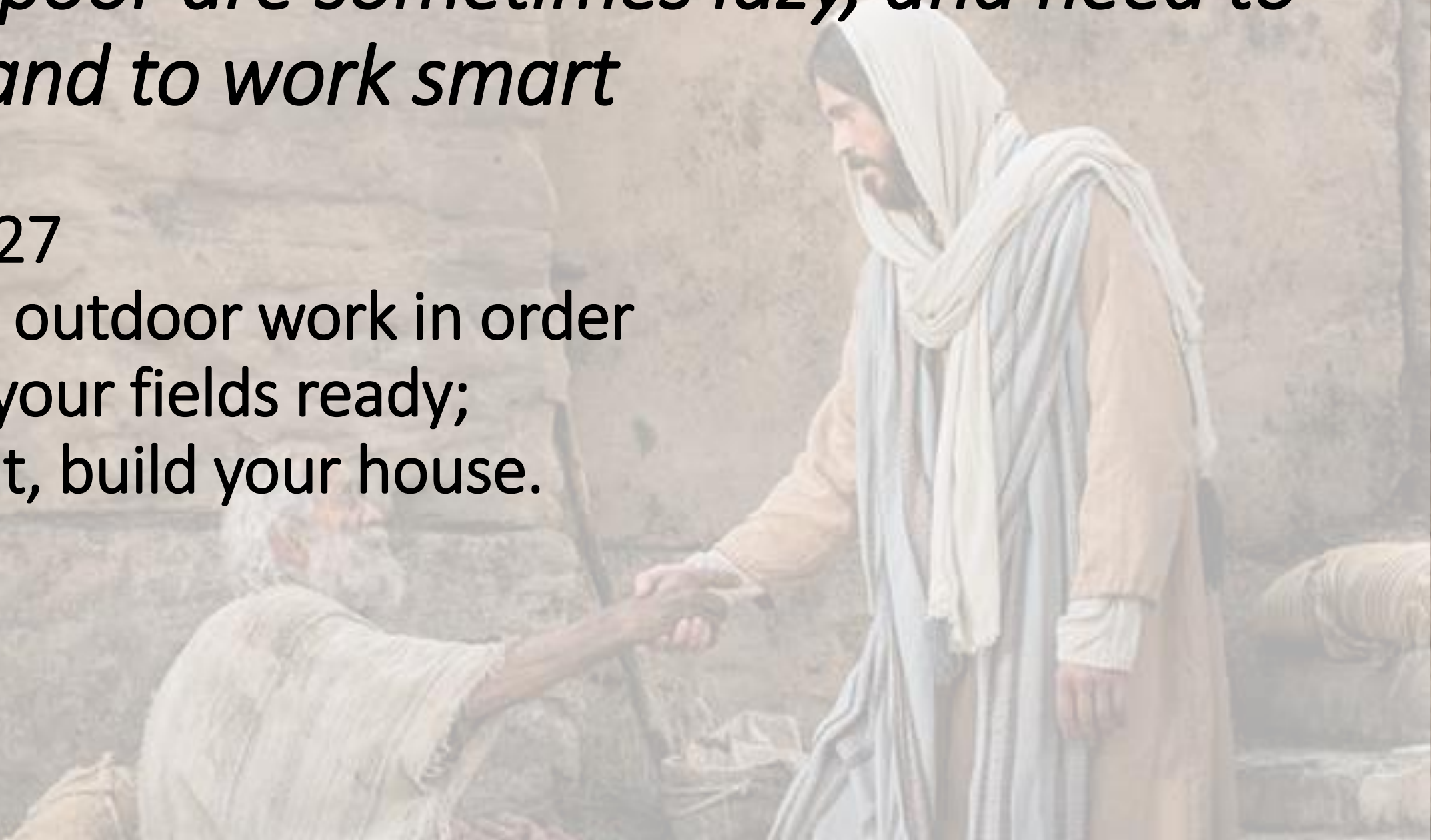
A little sleep, a little slumber,  
a little folding of the hands to rest—  
and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity  
like an armed man.



*1) The poor are sometimes lazy, and need to work, and to work smart*

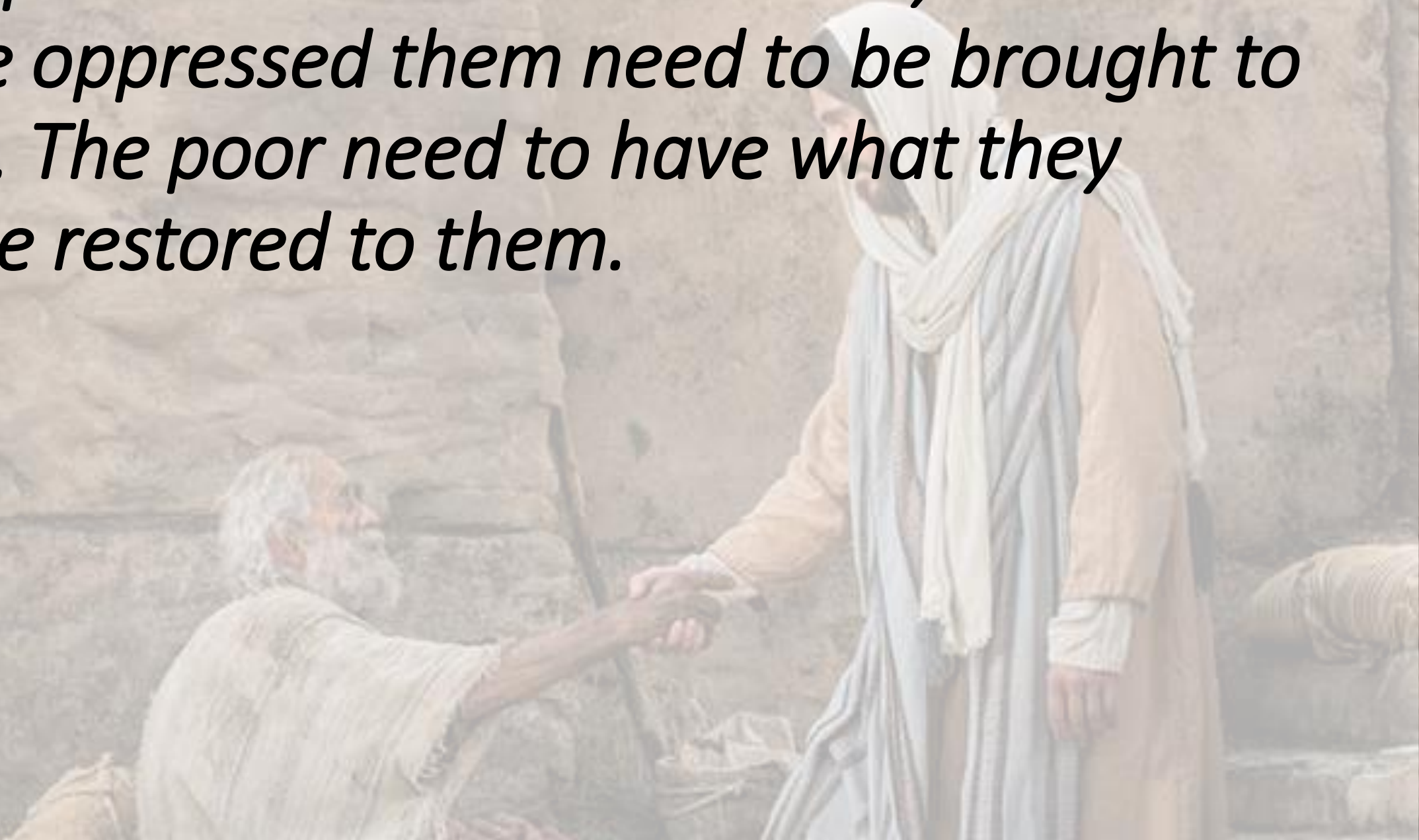
Prov 24:27

Put your outdoor work in order  
and get your fields ready;  
after that, build your house.





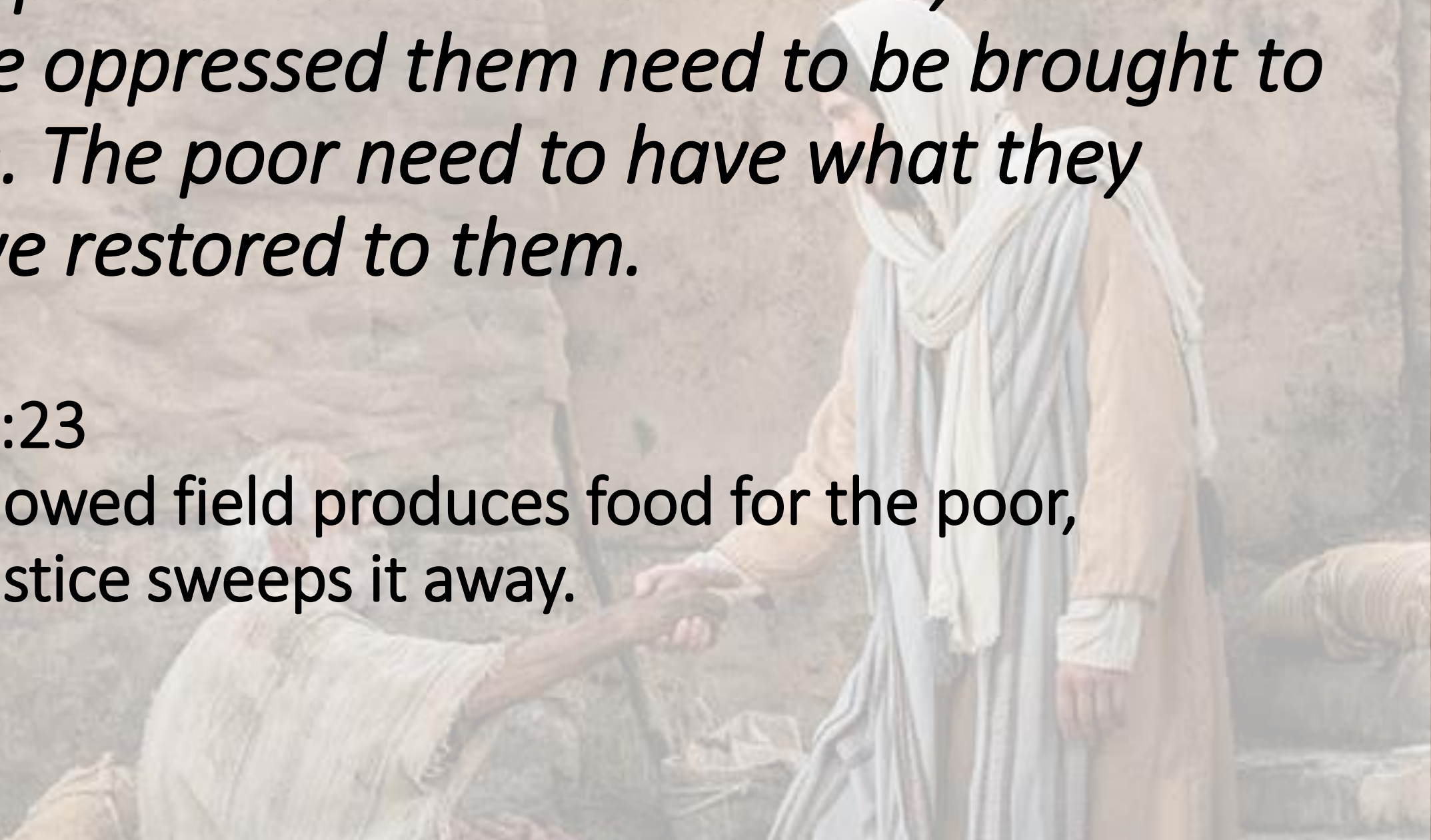
*2) The poor are sometimes victims, so those who've oppressed them need to be brought to justice. The poor need to have what they deserve restored to them.*



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Prov 13:23

An unplowed field produces food for the poor,  
but injustice sweeps it away.





*2) The poor are sometimes victims, so those who've oppressed them need to be brought to justice. The poor need to have what they deserve restored to them.*

Prov 3:27,38

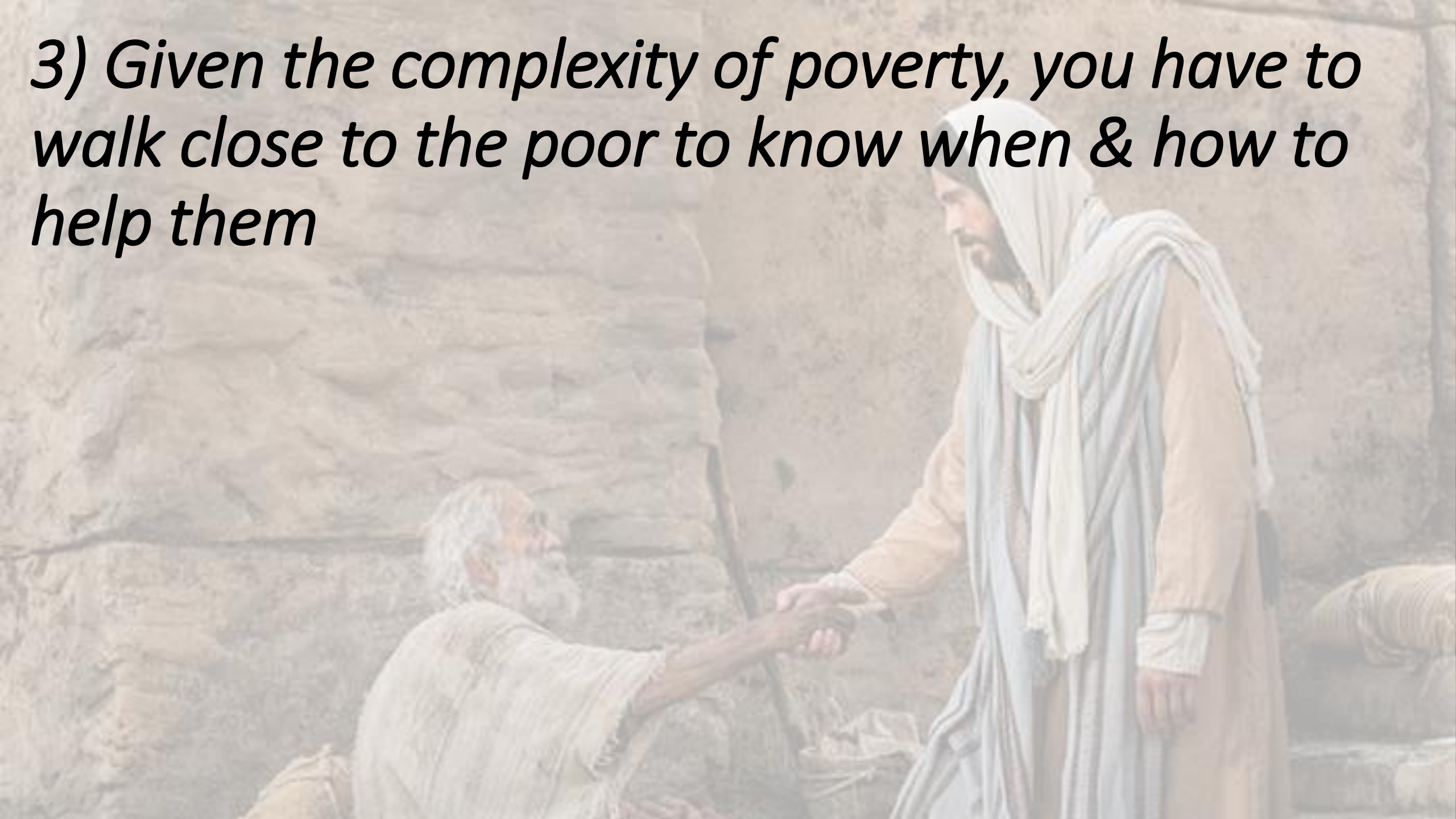
Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.

Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you"—when you already have it with you.

***POVERTY IS COMPLICATED!***



*3) Given the complexity of poverty, you have to walk close to the poor to know when & how to help them*



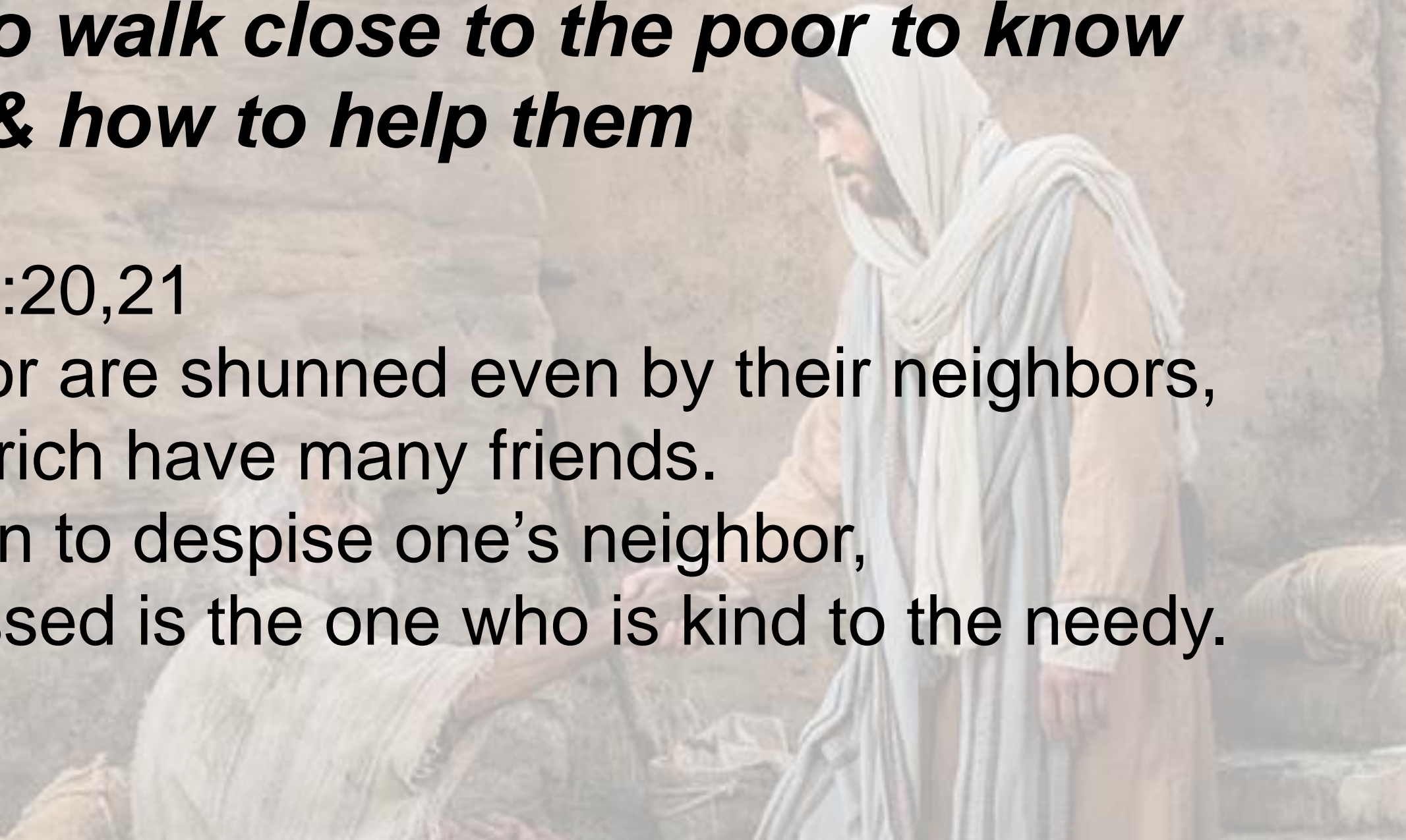


***3) Given the complexity of poverty, you have to walk close to the poor to know when & how to help them***

Prov 14:20,21

The poor are shunned even by their neighbors, but the rich have many friends.

It is a sin to despise one's neighbor, but blessed is the one who is kind to the needy.



***3) Given the complexity of poverty, you have to walk close to the poor to know when & how to help them***

John 1:14

The Word was made flesh, and made his dwelling among us.

Psalms 41:1

Blessed is he who has regard for the weak. The LORD delivers him in time of trouble.

