

## Scriptures and Justice

***The Scriptures display a strong concern for justice in the world. This list of justice-centred biblical passages may be useful when preparing prayer and liturgy, or as a basis for sessions with young people.***

### OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1.1-31 | God creates the world; humans are called to be stewards of the earth.

Exodus 3.1-20 | God is a liberator; Moses is sent to free the People of God from oppression.

Exodus 22.21-27 | Justice is required toward strangers, orphans, widows and neighbours.

Exodus 23.6-8 | Legal systems must be fair.

Leviticus 19.9-18 | Love your neighbour as yourself.

Leviticus 19.32-36 | Respect for foreigners and the elderly; be honest in business.

Leviticus 25.8-17 | God wants the jubilee year and economic restoration.

Leviticus 25.23-28 | The land is the Lord's; humans are guests.

Leviticus 25.35-38 | Give support to poor people.

Deuteronomy 15.1-15 | God gives laws on cancellation of debts and release of slaves; let there be no poor people among you.

Deuteronomy 24.17-22 | Have just relations with strangers, orphans and widows.

Deuteronomy 26.12-13 | Paying tithes shows concern for people who are poor.

Deuteronomy 30 | Choosing the Lord means choosing life.

Psalms 9.7-12, 18 | God is a just ruler.

Psalms 25.6-18 | God hears and protects just people.

Psalms 65.9-13 | God cares for creation.

Psalms 72 | God liberates oppressed people; in God's day, justice thrives.

Psalms 82 | God calls for fair judgement.

Psalms 103 | God works for justice for oppressed people.

Psalms 146.1-10 | God upholds oppressed people, bringing justice and liberty.

Proverbs 19.17 | Helping poor people is helping God.

Proverbs 21.13 | Do not ignore the cry of poor people.

Proverbs 31.8-9 | Speak out for those who have no voice.

Isaiah 11.1-9 | God's servant brings justice.

Isaiah 32.16-20 | The effect of justice will be peace.

Isaiah 42.1-7 | God calls us for the victory of justice.

Isaiah 58.1-12 | God desires conversion of heart, not vain worship.

Isaiah 61.1-3 | The Messiah's mission of justice is prophesied.

Jeremiah 7.1-11 | The Temple is not a place for doers of evil.

Jeremiah 22.13-17 | To know the Lord is to act justly.

Ezekiel 34 | Leaders and authorities have obligations.

Amos 5.10-15 | Do what is right; establish justice.

Amos 5.21-24 | Worship must express real conversion and renewal.

Amos 8.4-7 | Those who have power oppress the needy people.

Micah 4.1-4 | In God's reign of peace, swords shall be beaten into ploughshares.

Micah 6.8 | Act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly.

Zechariah 7.9-10 | Show one another kindness and mercy.

## NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 5.1-12 | Jesus preaches the Beatitudes.

Matthew 5.13-16 | You are the light of the world.

Matthew 5.38-48 | You must love your enemies.

Matthew 6.1-4 | Do not seek praise for your generosity.

Matthew 6.19-21 | Your real treasure is in your heart.

Matthew 6.24-34 | Seek first the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 11.2-6 | The Messiah is recognised by acts of justice.

Matthew 25.31-46 | What we do for our neighbours, we do for Christ.

Mark 9.35; 10.42-45 | To be first, become a servant for all.

Mark 10.17-31 | The rich young man cannot give up his wealth.

Mark 12.41-44 | The widow's offering is greater than that of the rich man.

Luke 1.46-55 | Mary praises God, who exalts the poor and lowers the rich.

Luke 3.10-18 | John the Baptist calls for sharing and honesty.

Luke 4.16-30 | Jesus announces his mission of liberation.

Luke 14.7-14 | Those who exalt themselves will be humbled.

Luke 15.1-7 | Jesus responds to those who are angry because he welcomes outcasts.

Luke 16.19-31 | Jesus tells the story of Lazarus and the rich man.

Luke 19.7-9 | Zacchaeus meets Jesus and is converted.

John 13.1-17 | Jesus washes the feet of the disciples.

Acts 2.43-47; 4.32-35 | The early Christian communities share everything; no one is in need.

Acts 6.1-6 | Deacons were appointed to serve.

Acts 10.34-35 | God shows no partiality.

Romans 12.3-21 | All are one in Christ; our behaviour should demonstrate this oneness.

Romans 14.17-19 | The kingdom of God consists of justice, peace and joy.

1 Corinthians 12.12-27 | In the Christian community, if one suffers, all suffer; if one benefits, all benefit.

1 Corinthians 13 | Love is the lifestyle of a Christian.

2 Corinthians 8.1-15 | Share with needy people; Christ became poor so we could be enriched.

2 Corinthians 9.1-15 | Give with gladness.

Galatians 3.28 | We are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 6.2 | Bear one another's burdens.

Galatians 6.9-10 | Never grow weary of doing good.

Philippians 2.1-11 | Be a servant, like Christ.

Colossians 3.9-17 | Clothe yourself in a new self, made in the image of God.

1 Timothy 6.17-19 | Rich people should not be proud.

Hebrews 13.1-3 | Welcome strangers and remember those who are in prison.

James 1.22-27 | Be doers of the word, not just hearers.

James 2.14-17 | Faith must be accompanied by action.

James 5.1-6 | Unjust riches cause misery.

1 Peter 4.7-11 | Let your gifts serve others.

1 John 4.7-21 | We cannot love God without loving our neighbour.

Revelation 21.1-6 | In the new heaven and the new earth, death no longer has dominion.

Taken from Living Justice and Peace: Catholic social teaching in practice, 2nd Edition by Kevin LaNave and Christine Schmertz Navarro (Saint Mary's Press, Winona: 2008), p.43-44