

Jesus and Social Justice

April 2021

Social Justice

How would you define Social Justice?

Perspective

Left	Right
Compassion	Responsibility
Equality	Loyalty
Freedom	Consequence
Society	Individual

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We need both, applied in wise proportion

Context

- * A twig - Social Justice
- * Upon a branch - Justice
- * Upon a tree - Shalom
(Peace, Righteousness
Justice & Love)

Means and Ends

- * Keep Social Justice within context of Shalom (Peace, Righteousness, Justice and Love)
- * Do not destroy the End through the Means
- * Man does not live by bread alone

Justice matters

“Let justice roll on like a river”

Amos 5.24

“God’s preferential option for the poor”

Catholic Social Teaching

Demands for Social Justice are nothing new

Israel	An oppressive police state
Sadducees	Maintain the status quo
Pharisees	Morality and law
Zealots	Anger and conflict
Qumran	Withdraw into pietism

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Jesus was killed because his approach
looked foolish and offensive

Some Biblical themes

- * The Kingdom is internally chosen
- * The Kingdom cannot be built without God
- * The Kingdom needs patience and endurance

Some 'foolish and offensive' means

- * Prayer
- * Begin with me
- * Trust God
- * Reprocess anger into good works
- * Relationships before rights
- * Restoration not retribution
- * Hospitality and graciousness
- * Truth and love

Some 'foolish and offensive' means

- * Love your enemy
 - * The oppressor and the oppressed
 - * Harness power
 - * Transparency not condemnation
- * Honour and respect
- * Accountability and forgiveness
- * Prudent sacrifice
- * Patience

Most important: Where is our heart?

- * Love and Spirit – sustainable, individual change
- * Turn from negative to positive
- * Build togetherness not division
- * Lament – us, not them
- * Power of church in loving unity
- * Spiritual battle – not against people