



COLUMBAN MISSION INSTITUTE



Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice

No 1, February 2013: "Social Justice is basic to the Gospel"

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Growing a Culture of Peace Monthly Bulletin

#1 Social Justice is basic to the Gospel

Feb 3rd, 4th Sunday Ordinary Time

Luke 4: 21-30

Reflection: "No prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town."

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus became an outsider in his own home town. Those familiar with his family, instead of being able to share in the reflected glory of Jesus' fame around Galilee, were challenged by words from him they didn't want to hear. In the Old Testament, the prophets pointed to the consequences of what would happen to people if they didn't repent from their selfish ways. Jesus proclaimed in his own synagogue that in God's world no one is to be excluded from belonging. This so upset his home towners' entrenched views they quickly turned into a lynch mob. The Gospel is about social justice for all people and for the natural world. There are people of all ages who are committed to working for social justice in many different areas of need. They are often rejected in their local situation because they may point to the consequences if we don't listen and change our ways.

Fact File:

Charity is about meeting immediate needs eg natural disasters. Social Justice is about changing the root causes of unjust situations eg unjust economic structures. There are social justice groups in schools, parishes, religious congregations, dioceses and the wider community. The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (ACSJC) is the national Catholic agency. World Social Justice Day is Feb 20th. Social Justice Sunday is Sept 29th.

Learn More:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/socialjusticeday/>; <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/index.shtml>;

Take Action: Do something about social justice for Lent. Contact your local social justice group or find out about the connection between chocolate, slavery and debt at <http://www.columban.org.au/our-works/peace-ecology-justice/campaigns/Chocolate-Slavery-and-Debt/>



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