



JESUS AND JUSTICE

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Being Human =

God has given us life and the freedom to make choices. Jesus reminds us that we are called to make choices that show that we love one another. Because we have the freedom to make choices and because we are human, sometimes we make choices that bring people down rather than build them up.

To give is to grow

When we make choices that come from care for each other and our world, we are giving our very best; we are helping the people and the planet we are part of to grow with us. When we make choices that allow things to grow, we are continuing God's work of love for all life.



Choice



Ripples

Just like a rock thrown into water will make lots of ripples, the choices you make will 'ripple' out too!



I wonder why God gave us the freedom to make choices.

I wonder why we find it hard to make choices that suit other people more than ourselves.

I wonder what stops us from making choices that build people up.

I wonder how our choices can 'ripple' out to others.

A New Way of Seeing

Jesus was an amazing teacher. To pass on wisdom, he liked to tell stories that included things that people of his time were familiar with. That is why he told stories about sheep, mustard trees, vineyards and shepherds.

Jesus also liked to give people a chance to think about the stories he was telling them. So instead of telling people exactly what he was trying to teach them, he would tell a parable.

A parable is a story that makes the listener think and question what they have always known.



9 Things

Parables

The parables Jesus told gave people a new way of seeing things. The parables instruct and challenge us to build God's Kingdom.

Parable	Wisdom
The Parable of The Lost Sheep	God loves everybody and seeks out the lost
The Parable of the Mustard Seed	The kingdom of God is always growing and is open to all
The Parable of the Good Samaritan	You need to love all people, especially your enemy
The Parable of the Sower	Seeds will only grow well in good soil



I wonder what wisdom is.

I wonder why Jesus is wise.

I wonder why Jesus used a mustard seed to tell a story about the kingdom of God.

Glossary

'The Budding fig tree' parable: a story Jesus tells to teach us about being ready for him (Matthew 24:32–35, Mark 13:28–31 and Luke 21:29–33).

Charitable: to be generous and kind, particularly with people who are in need.

Compassion: to understand and feel sorrow for other people when things go wrong for them.

Criticise: to find things that are wrong.

Disciples: the twelve men who were Jesus' closest friends and followers.

Golden rule: Jesus' rule that you should treat other people in the same way you'd like to be treated (Matthew 7:12, Luke 6:31).

Gospel: a story of Jesus' life and teachings.

Hospitality: being kind and caring to other people, particularly when they are guests or new to you.

Humility: to not put yourself first, or to not consider your own achievements the most important ones.

Hummingbird: a small, nectar-feeding bird, with a slender bill and narrow wings.

Injustice: being unfair and not looking after others and the world around you.

Justice: dealing well and fairly with others and the world around you.

Kenya: a republic in east Africa. Its capital is Nairobi.

'The Lost Sheep' parable: a story Jesus tells to teach us about the importance of caring for each other (Luke 15:4–7 and Matthew 18:10–14).

Oil lamp: a flat terracotta bowl-style lamp with a spout and wick, usually run on olive oil.

Parable: a short story designed to illustrate a particular truth or lesson.

The Parable of the sower: a story Jesus tells about a man sowing seeds to teach us about how important it is to be ready to listen to his lessons (Mark 4:3–9).

Samaritans: a separate religious group to the Jews of Jesus's time, with similar beliefs, but widely disliked and considered to be social outcasts.

Soul: the spiritual part of a human being, as opposed to the body part.

Tax collector: people who collected taxes for the Romans, who were not liked and treated as outcasts.

To Kill a Mockingbird: a famous book by Harper Lee (1926) about a lawyer fighting for justice and putting others ahead of himself.

The Washing of the feet: Jesus washes the feet of his disciples to teach us about looking after others (John 13:1–17).

Wilde, Oscar (1854–1900): a famous Irish writer who was best known for his plays and witty sayings.

Wisdom: knowing what is true and right and being able to tell what to do about it.

Zulu: a people of the coastal areas of south-eastern Africa.



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