

DAY 4

Hebrews 13:1-5

Matthew 6:25-34



Shopping in Bali

Starting Point

God's goodness has provided ample food and fresh water to sustain life for all and yet many people lack these necessities. Human greed frequently leads to corruption, injustice, poverty and hunger. Jesus teaches us not to be concerned about accumulating more material things than we need. We should, rather, be concerned with proclaiming the Kingdom of equity and announcing God's reign of justice. Christians are called to live lives which enable the waters of justice to flow.

Reflection

I scrape together
the crumbs of my excess,
perhaps enough to feed
the sparrows?

I soak up
the spilling over of my cup,
perhaps enough to drown
my sorrows?

I ask myself,
when is enough
ever going to be enough?

You ask me
if I can spare any change
and I worry
that I do not have enough
enough good reason
enough good will
enough compassion
enough empathy
enough humanity
enough energy
enough desire
enough courage
to make the change that is
sorely needed.

Be content with what you have (Hebrews 13:5)

Prayer

God of the seasons,
whether in bountiful harvest,
or when there is no yield for what
we have sown;
let us be content,
that your grace is sufficient.
Help us to have the generosity
of spirit,
to share what we have
with those who have not.
May we all be blessed
with love, grace, compassion
and mercy,
as we seek to walk humbly
and do justly,
for your name's sake. Amen.



Shacks in Bogotá

Questions

- Share a story of a time when you did not have enough – how did you feel?
- What do you find the most difficult thing to share?
- What do you find the most difficult thing to receive?

Go and Do (see www.ctbi.org.uk/goanddo)

Pay attention to the advertising messages you receive, on buses, billboards, TV, newspapers, online. Reflect on the messages that we are absorbing everyday about what we supposedly need.

Reflect on your identity as a consumer and consider the steps we can take as individuals and as a community of churches to live simply so others can simply live?

Plan a Lent journey between the churches in your area that involves a fast from buying and how we might count and share our blessings instead. Visit Go and do to find out more.