

# DAY 5

**Amos 8:4-8**

**Luke 4:16-21**



## Starting Point

The prophet Amos criticized traders who practiced deceit and exploited the poor. God, who sides with the victims of injustice, will not forget such wrongdoing. In a globalised world, such marginalization, exploitation and injustice is rampant. The gap between rich and poor is becoming wider. Economic demands become the deciding factor in our relationships and the demands of justice are more and more pushed to the side-lines. Christians are called to challenge the prevailing attitudes and to work for justice.

## Reflection

I'll believe it when I see it!  
I've heard it all before!  
'Things can only get better'  
'Audacity of hope'  
Promises of something new!  
Good news?  
They are just bus-slogans when the  
poor remain poor,  
the vulnerable abused and no-one  
speaks out!  
Do you think I can jump up  
and dance  
when my hands and feet are made  
heavy with the anger from  
broken promises?  
And so I stare at you,  
because to stare is all I can do.

But  
if 'good news' means  
rising up against power,  
overturning the tables down the  
road in the big city,  
walking, talking and eating with  
people like us,  
going the whole way with us,  
not departing when things get  
too tough,  
even when the suffering becomes  
too great to endure,  
this would truly be something new.  
It would be good news fulfilled.  
Then I could be tempted to trust  
one more time.

## To bring good news to the poor (Luke 4:18)



## Prayer

God, the bringer of good news,  
forgive our lust for power  
and free us from the temptation to  
oppress others.  
Instil in us the determination  
to see your good news made real in  
us and those around us,  
as we share in the mission of your  
Son Jesus  
to fulfil your promise of freedom  
from poverty and oppression.  
We pray in his name. Amen.

## Questions

- Where do you see deceit and false promises?
- Who are the poor and the powerful in your community?
- What can we do to bring the good news of the gospel to both the powerful and the poor?

## Go and Do (see [www.ctbl.org.uk/goanddo](http://www.ctbl.org.uk/goanddo))

The World Economic Forum meets from 22nd – 25th January 2019 in Davos, coinciding with when many churches mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It is a moment that highlights the extreme disunity and inequality across the world. 42 people own the same wealth as the poorest 50 percent (Oxfam 2018).

Take time this week to work together for a world where there is unity not just between Christians but where we as human beings can flourish together. Renew your commitment to trade that is fair and ethical and to continue to campaign for taxes to be paid. Visit Go and Do for more information.