

3rd Sunday of Advent; 12th December 2021.

# GOSPELECO

Ecosocial Catechesis from Sunday's Gospel



## CONTEXT

**What do you know about social justice?  
Do you know that there is environmental right?**

Today we cannot speak of social justice apart from ecological justice. Both are inseparable and are extensively dealt with in the encyclical *Laudato Si'* (LS), Pope Francis' social encyclical. This Sunday, the Gospel, in the voice of John, will challenge us about justice.

## GOSPEL

**Lk 3: 10-18**

And the people put questions to him, saying, what have we to do. And he made answer and said to them, He who has two coats, let him give to him who has not even one; and he who has food, let him do the same. Then tax collectors came to him for baptism and said to him, Master, what have we to do? And he said to them. Do not make an attempt to get more money than the right amount. And men of the army put questions to him, saying, and what have we to do? And he said to them, Do no violent acts to any man, and do not take anything without right, and let your payment be enough for you. And while the people were waiting, and all men were questioning in their hearts about John, if he was the Christ or not, John made answer, saying to them all, Truly, I give you baptism with water, but one is coming who is greater than I, whose shoes I am not good enough to undo: he will give you baptism with the Holy Spirit, and with fire: In whose hand is the instrument with which he will make clean his grain; he will put the good grain in his store, but the waste will be burned in the fire which will never be put out. And so comforting them with these and other words, he gave the good news to the people.

**"RESPECTING AND CARING FOR THE COMMON HOME IS A NEW WAY OF LOVING GOD"**



## REFLECTION

Last Sunday we meditated on who John the Baptist is and what his mission is. Today, as the continuation, the Gospel presents us with what his preaching consists of. He exhorts on social justice in response to what people ask him: To receive the Messiah in what way should they prepare. The desire of the people was very sincere and deep down. They sought to reorient their lives, waiting for the Messiah.

John's response manifests the direct consequences in the life of who meets God. The Baptist indicates three main areas to act where there is corruption. Ask for the right behavior in each one of them: The first refers to helping each other in a spirit of solidarity. This is what it means "whoever has two coats, give one to the one who does not have one." In the second he asks for honesty in relation to money and in the third he exhorts those in power not to abuse it. In this way they will be able to reach a more humane and harmonious society.

The principle "of the mighty", throughout history, "has led to immense inequalities, injustices and violence for the majority of humanity, because the resources become the first to arrive or the one with power: the winner carries everything" (LS 82). This anti-solidarity and unjust vision not only deteriorate human relationships but also the relationships with the entire Creation. Environmental degradation is also caused by greed, and abuse by those in power. Laudato Si' rightly states that "there are not two separate crises, one social and the other environmental, but rather a complex social and environmental crisis" (LS 139). In the same style as Juan Bautista, LS exhorts us to have an ecological conversion ...

## COMMITMENT

Advent raises these questions: **What should I do? ...**

- Today, what should I do about social and environmental justice?
- What specific actions do I want to take?

## PRAYER

God Father, Creator of the World and all that it holds,  
help us to love the Creation,  
as our neighbor ...  
Come soon, Jesus! Come Savior!