

Revision Guide:

What is important in the fight for Justice?

Key Words

Prejudice – Thinking that certain people/cultures are better than others. It means to **Pre-judge** another person.

Discrimination – Acting on a prejudice. Taking a belief like sexism or racism and putting into action. E.g. not giving someone a job that they deserve.

Equality - The idea that not everyone is treated equally or given **equal rights** in society.

Sexism - Prejudice or discrimination against people **based on their gender**. E.g. not allowing women to vote.

Racism - Prejudice or discrimination against people **based on their race**. E.g. separating schools based on race.

Poverty - The name we give to people living in poor conditions with little or **no access to basic needs** such as water, food and shelter.

Religious Teachings about Justice

Christian Teachings:

God created humans in his own image

*(Genesis 1;27)...*that men and women are equal because God made both.

This is my commandment: that you love one another as I have loved you

(John 15:12)

Muslim Teachings:

All people are created by Allah. All are equal (though not the same). All important in own right.

Muhammad treated others with respect and dignity – we must follow example.

People who have fought for Justice

Gandhi:

Gandhi was a Hindu born in India. He trained to be a lawyer in London and travelled to South Africa as a young man. While in South Africa he experienced racism and apartheid (a separation of people based on race). Gandhi worked to bring about equality by peacefully protesting. Gandhi believed in Ahimsa (non-violence). He later went to India to do the same and protested against British rule; the most famous of these protests being the salt march. Gandhi was shot and killed by a Hindu in India after getting the British to leave India for good.

Martin Luther King:

Martin Luther King was an American Baptist minister who lived in the south of America. Growing up he experienced racism and segregation (black and white people being treated very differently)

and he followed Gandhi's example of peaceful protest. He organised the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the March on Washington. His most famous speech was his "I have a dream" speech which helped to pass the civil rights act. Like Gandhi, MLK was shot and killed and later had a day named after him which became an American holiday.

Malcolm X:

Malcolm X was around, in America, at the same time as Martin Luther King and experienced the same kind of racism that MLK experienced. Malcolm X converted to Islam as a young man and approached the problem of racism in a different way to Gandhi and MLK. He did not follow Gandhi's example and instead stated that it was ok to be violent if violent protest was necessary. Later in his life Malcolm X decided that the true meaning of Islam was peace but was assassinated not long after this.

Poverty and Charities

Human needs:

- Water
- Food
- Shelter
- Education
- Employment
- Health

Man-made suffering/evil – Evil or suffering caused by people.

Natural suffering/evil – Evil or suffering not caused by people.



Tearfund is a **Christian Charity**. They take the teaching of "love thy neighbour" and use it to help people who live in poverty. Tearfund do this by working with governments to create new policies, working with all churches and communities and responding quickly to disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis.

Islam relief are a Muslim charity. They do not just help other Muslims though. They help any people that are in need! They use their beliefs and teachings to: Support people who have suffered in disasters, working with communities to give them access to water and food and also working to provide education and healthcare around the world.

Radical Jesus Revision guide.

Radical Definition: SUPPORTING CHANGE (usually used when describing a political or social change)

Revolutionary Definition: Involved in or causing dramatic change.

Hypocrisy: Essentially hypocrisy means that we say one thing but do another.

Tradition: is how something has always been done.

Agape love is self-giving love and it is the kind of love Jesus was talking about. It gives without expecting anything in return. It puts the other person first.

Secular: not connected with religious or spiritual matters

Humanism: set of beliefs that value human life and the individual. It rejects religion and argues you don't need God to be valuable or a good person.

Justice: Fairness or giving people respect

<u>Image of Jesus</u>	<u>What it tells us</u>	<u>When it might be used</u>
The Good Shepherd	Jesus guides people in their lives, that he is a good example to follow and that he looks after his followers.	When talking about Jesus' message and using Jesus' life to guide people. The shepherd guides his sheep and protects and nurtures them.
The Historical Jesus	Jesus was a middle eastern man and so would have dark skin and olive coloured skin.	Used when discussing the historical, political Jesus that exists in historical evidence. A non-Christian may prefer this image.
The Black Jesus	Tells us that it does not matter what Jesus looked like, Jesus' words and deeds are what is important and were for every-one of every race.	This may be used by non-white Christians in order to connect with Jesus or may be used as a statement about equality i.e. Jesus' message was for everyone.
The Crucified Jesus	Jesus was crucified (killed) for his beliefs and for wanting to see change in the world.	Used by Christians to show that Jesus sacrificed his life for them so that they could have eternal life with God. Shows that revolutionaries are prepared to die for their beliefs.

What sort of Radical do Christians believe Jesus was: loving, merciful, caring, non-violent, fair, self-sacrificing and just

He helped people who were normally ignored this was radical: **"He ate with tax collectors and sinners saying "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."** Mark 2: 15-17



His radical teachings include:

Matthew 5:44 **"⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you,"** This was radical because normally you would get revenge.

Matthew 5:9: **"⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God"**. This was radical because Jesus was telling his followers not to fight back.

Luke 4:18-19 **"¹⁸....."Because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the broken-hearted,"** This was radical because he was saying the poor are important and need looking after.

Jesus hated hypocrisy. He taught that if you say you love God then your actions should reflect your beliefs. This means that ... if Jesus says help the poor, you give money or time to the poor. ... if Jesus says 'love your neighbour' you love every last one!

Jesus taught not to judge others and to have a look at yourself before criticising others. The story of the women caught in adultery shows this teaching.

Luke 6: 42 "How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite,"

Agape love is self-giving love and it is the kind of love Jesus was talking about. It gives without expecting anything in return. It puts the other person first.

Matthew 25:31-46 The Sheep and the Goats *35 for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 37..... 'truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'* **Jesus taught that if a person really was his follower then they would help others in need, when they do then it is like they are doing it for God.** It teaches different ways to help others in need e.g. give food, drink, look after strangers, make sure someone has the clothes they need, to visit and look after the sick and to visit those in prison. **Jesus also used this story to teach that they will go to heaven if they do this (sheep to heaven – goats (people who ignored others in need – went to hell)).**

Historical Jesus: He was born sometime just before 4BCE. Grew up in Nazareth in Galilee and was trained by his father to be a Carpenter. He was Jewish. He was baptised by John and then started his public preaching with a radical message. He was a healer, teacher and Prophet. He performed many miracles. He was killed on the cross by the Romans who were occupying the 'Holy Land'. Jews at the time of Jesus were living in the 'holy land'; modern day Israel/ Palestine. Jews believed this land was given by God – that is was special and sacred. Many Jews did not like the idea that they were ruled by 'ungodly' people who used the sacred land for making money.

Why would a secular person value Jesus: A secular person and humanist may value Jesus' teachings. They think that he explains some great advice on how to live but he is not God and they do not agree with religion.

A secular person could learn from Jesus' teachings:

1. To spend time with 'different' people as we can learn a lot from people who are different to us.
2. Violence isn't the answer – it doesn't always work and often just brings more violence.
3. Do all you can but then stop worrying as you can't change anything by doing so.
4. Don't be self-centred – live a life for others too.
5. Everyone is valuable and important – help others in need.

Why might a humanist follow Jesus' teachings: Many humanist accept that SOME of the teachings of Jesus can help us – they ignore the religious teachings'. Jesus' teachings can **give advice and guidance on how to live and behave well.** Humanists would say that any teachings or stories that **can inspire people to live better lives and improve the world are a good thing** – but that there is NO GOD so you cannot rely on a God to help us, we have to help ourselves. Values that they can learn: E.g. **courage, fairness, justice, tolerance and concern for others.** Although Humanist do not actively follow Jesus' teachings, His teachings which are not about God or the after-life work well within the humanist moral framework.

What do Christians believe about Jesus that non-religious people do not? Christians believe that Jesus was **actually God in human form**; that he came to Earth and lived amongst us. This is important for Christians as it makes Jesus' message even more important. They don't just follow Jesus' teachings because he was a nice person; they believe that whatever Jesus said is actually the word of God; God is directly telling us how we should behave. They believe that Jesus could **perform miracles**. A miracle is something that happens that goes against the laws of nature. Only God has the power to change nature and so Jesus must be God in human form. They also believe that Jesus **died on the cross to help us come closer to God**. Human's sin (do bad things) and we move further and further away from God. God wants us close and so he died and in his death took all our sins with him.

Why can't religions change the world as quickly as they want to?

Key Words:

Prejudice – judging someone before you know them. A negative belief or idea towards others.

Discrimination – treating someone differently because of who they are – often due to prejudice.

Racism – Prejudice or discrimination based on a person's skin colour or ethnicity

Religious Prejudice – Prejudice or discrimination based on a person's faith, beliefs or religion.

Islamophobia – Prejudice or discrimination, hatred or dislike towards Islam or Muslims.

Anti-Semitism – Prejudice or Discrimination, hatred or dislike towards Judaism or Jews.

Islamophobia is the dislike of, hatred of or prejudice against Islam or Muslims.

- Sadly it has been increasing due to the way Islam is being portrayed in the media because of extremist violent people who call themselves Muslims.

Where does Islamophobia come from? This is a new word for something that has been happening for centuries. Islamophobia is the hatred of Islam and Muslims. The Qur'an which Muslims believe was given to the prophet Muhammad by Allah (God) in 610 says '**And they ill-treated them (believers) for no other reason except that they believed in Allah**' The Qur'an Surah 85-8

Islamophobia existed even when there were no Muslims living in Europe.

- Negative views against Islam can be traced back particularly to the Middle Ages and the way Muslims were portrayed so that people would go and fight to gain back Jerusalem and the Holy land because the Pope wanted them to.
- Since the **Crusades** Islam and Muslims have been portrayed (shown to be) as violent, barbaric and completely alien to the Christian west. This is how Islamophobia which we can see today started. The way Muslims and Islam was shown to be during the Crusades and even before this is at the root of Islamophobia.
- Although Christians learnt a lot from the Muslims they met; a better counting system, the works of Greek philosophers which had been lost, technology, inventions and scientific discoveries as well as ideas about how to wage war, the negative ideas that were circulated before and during the crusades have never really disappeared.

The actions of terrorists who claim to be performing a Jihad and claim that they are Muslims has not helped the ways Muslims are portrayed in the media. Acts of terrorism do not fit with the Muslim concept of Jihad. The lesser Jihad has to be fought according to strict rules.

Muslims believe in an idea called Jihad. This means to 'strive or struggle' in the name of Allah. There are two types of Jihad:

- The Greater Jihad – this is the struggle to be a good Muslim. To follow the 5 pillars of Islam, to pray 5 times a day, to be generous and kind to others, to be nice to your parents etc.
- The **Lesser Jihad** is a **military struggle** – it has very strict rules about how the war can be fought. It is like a Just War.

For a war to be a Jihad it:

- **must keep the suffering of innocent civilians to a minimum (women and children should not be targeted)**

- **prisoners of war should not be killed and must be released at the end of the fighting,**
- **must be authorised by an accepted religious leader,**
- **cannot be to spread the faith** as the Prophet Muhammad made it clear that religion cannot be forced on someone.
- **must keep destruction of crops and plants to a minimum.**
- **places of worship must also not be targeted.**
- **must be a last resort.** Everything else should have been tried first
- must also have a **just cause** and **not be an act of aggression** –e.g. it could be for self defence.

After looking at the rules of Jihad it is clear that terrorism goes against the rules for war in Islam. Although terrorists claim that they are performing Jihad they are NOT.

'NOT in MY NAME' This was a campaign set up 2 years ago to make it clear that Muslims do not agree with Isis and acts of terrorism.

Anti-Semitism has existed for centuries. It has resulted in the unfair treatment, hatred and killing of Jewish people in Britain and across Europe.

- **The root of Anti-Semitism is 'deicide', the idea that Jewish people were responsible for the killing of God in the crucifixion of Jesus.** This is despite the fact that all the individual Jewish priests who had encouraged Jesus' arrest by Roman soldiers were long dead and that the Crucifixion was actually a ROMAN punishment carried out by Roman executioners. The entire Jewish people were to now bear the blame. Anti-Semitism exploded when Emperor Constantine became a Christian and is still happening today.
- Persecution of Jewish people has continued over the centuries including mass killings in Russia at the beginning of the 20th century (Pogroms). The combination of Anti-Semitism and beliefs and ideas about racial purity led to the killing of the Jews known as the Holocaust under Hitler – when 6 million Jews were killed. Anti-Semitism exists today, even in Britain and has been increasing over the past few years.

Christian Teachings: The following teachings make it clear that there should be no prejudice towards others even religious prejudice. Christians are taught that **all life is sacred** and that all are made in the **'image'** of God (Genesis 1:27) Therefore they should not be prejudice. Jesus taught to love other faiths in the **'Story of the Good Samaritan'** even those who were the enemy.

- John 13: 34 'A new command I give you. **Love one another.** As I have loved you, so you must love one another.'
- Matthew 22:39 'And the second is like it: **'Love your neighbour as yourself'**
- Act 10: 34-35 'Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realize how true it is that **God does not show favouritism** but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.'

Teachings from the Old Testament:

- 'And **you are to love those who are foreigners**, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt (Deuteronomy)
- **'Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner** for you were foreigners in Egypt' (Exodus 22:21)

Key Questions to think through

Do you think religion has been a cause of religious prejudice? Why?

Can religion help stop religious prejudice? Why do you think this?

Why hasn't religion changed the world in the way it wants to?