

# Oceans of Justice

by Rev Dan Balsdon | January 2021 | read online at [www.revdanbalsdon.com](http://www.revdanbalsdon.com)

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If you're reading this blog post, you're privileged. You've got an internet connection.

If you've food in a fridge, freezer or kitchen cupboard for the next few days, that's privilege.

If you've got money in the bank, a pension or stable income, that's privilege.

If you're white, heterosexual or from an ethnic majority, you've got privilege.

This week we've been reminded yet again of injustice in our society, driven by inequality and division. Digital poverty is having a massive impact on schooling and the learning of young people at home.

Community larders and Foodbanks continue to see increasing demand. Some supermarkets have been reporting shortages of some food due to bulk buying , leaving others without.

In America we saw what's been described by many media outlets as an attempted coup by white extremists. Many have rightly pointed out that only months ago black protestors in America were met with extreme force on their demonstrations - yet these extremists easily overcame the small group of officers on duty to maintain order.

All these, and many other injustices are present in our communities and societies and all too easily can be ignored or taken for granted. The pandemic has, helpfully, made these injustices and positions of privilege more obvious - if we're willing to notice them.

But do we notice? Do we even recognise our privilege? And more importantly, do we step out of our glass houses to stand with and alongside those without that privilege?

The prophet Amos was probably a farm hand, sent by God to call for social justice, and condemns those whose power and privilege comes at the cost of others. The call is to step out of the glass house, and work for justice.

“I can't stand your religious meetings.

I'm fed up with your conferences and conventions.

I want nothing to do with your religion projects,  
your pretentious slogans and goals.

I'm sick of your fund-raising schemes,  
your public relations and image making.

I've had all I can take of your noisy ego-music.

When was the last time you sang to *me*?

Do you know what I want?

I want justice—oceans of it.

I want fairness—rivers of it.

That's what I want. That's *all* I want.

*Amos 5:21-24, The Message*

Oceans of Justice. that's what I want.

Where there is water, life can be sustained.

Where there are oceans of justice, life is sustained.

Togetherness, community, equity and love grow and flourish.

### **Reflect**

Are you privileged?

Are you suffering injustice?

How can you work for justice?

### **Act**

To find out more about injustice and privilege, and ways you can play your part in bringing about oceans of justice visit the JPIT Website.

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/>

The Joint Public Issues Team is a multi-denominational team who offer excellent analysis of current social issues and ways we can act at local, national and international level to use our privilege to stand for justice.