

- COP29 service, 17th November 2024.
- Archbishop Julio Murray of Panama, leader of the Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America
- Martha Jarvis, Anglican Communion Permanent Representative to the United Nations
- Scripture: Matthew 7:7-14

Summary of video interview:

At COP29, the major focus of the talks is on **finance**. Countries agreed to give money to help with adaptation, and yet they have not kept their commitments.

The **money exists, but there is no will** to give.

The Anglican Communion, Christians from around the world, and other NGOs are seeking to encourage governments to live up to their commitments, and to bring the voices of ordinary people, affected by climate change, to the negotiations.

Grants of money are needed, **not loans that simply increase debt**. Grants are needed to help countries adapt and bring about change to increase resilience to climate change or adapt away from fossil fuels.

What can we in Geneva do?

We can **promote the reality of climate change**. Our brothers and sisters around the world are experiencing a changing climate. We need to help make this reality known in the world.

We can also **look at how we live**: the importance of consuming what we need, not what we want. Of taking a sabbath day rest – and giving the planet a rest too. Of choosing to buy locally, use public transport, fly less and recycle more. Indigenous Christians around the world can show us how to live at one with nature, instead of against nature.

Our actions affect others, so we can love our neighbours by changing how we live.

What would Jesus be doing at COP?

1. Jesus would be **interested** in the negotiations and the negotiators (people who care a lot about the climate crisis). He would be **encouraging those participating to be bold**.
2. Jesus would **bring fun and life to the negotiations**. He would walk into the dry and sterile environment and bring life and humanness to proceedings.
3. Jesus would be **asking big questions of those with power**. He sees our priorities, and he can see where they are out of line.

It's like the story of the rich young ruler in Matthew 19. "I have done everything" he said. "I obey all the commandments of God". Jesus said "Go, **sell all you have, and give it to the poor, and come, follow me.**" The rich man went away sad, for he had many possessions.

We see this at COP – **underlying resistance to change is greed**. One group having more than the others. Yet there is enough for everyone on God's good earth to live and enjoy life!

The parable of the widow and the judge is also important (Luke 18:1-8): she was **persistent** and she got results. She was **persistent** in **faith**, **persistent** in **hope**, and **insistent** too!

We trust in Jesus – so **trust 100%** of your life to him, **including your consumption!** And be **insistent** and **persistent**: speak out and bring about change for those sisters and brothers of our around the world who are experiencing and suffering the consequences of pollution and a changing climate.