

**PRAY**

Good God, you are able to do everything. You can make me useful. Transform me, so that I may be useful to others who learn from or work with me. Convert me if I am permanently interested only in money and career and always put my own needs first. Do not let me be involved in corruption and fraud in my work. Where I see injustice, give me boldness and make me courageous to take sides with the victims and raise my voice. Amen.

**CONTEMPLATE**

One person reads the Bible passage aloud.
Short silence.

Exchange: *What particularly appealed to you?*

**STUDY**

1. Read DOCAT text sentence-for-sentence. Then one person reads the text aloud in full.
2. Three minutes of silence.
3. Each person reads a word or phrase aloud (without comment) that he or she has noticed.
4. Explain briefly in the next round why you have chosen the sentence (e.g. memories, questions, etc.).

**DISCUSS**

Also discuss your own questions on this topic!

Treasure Book: *Take five minutes to write down what you don't want to forget.*

**CHALLENGE**

Our **CHALLENGES** are just suggestions you can make in addition to your study guide meetings. You can also replace them with stronger, more fitting, more original or better ones. Just let us know at feedback@youcat.org.

#DOCATChallenge: *Share your experience on Facebook or Instagram.*

**Is. 58:6-7**

This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; Setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; Sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own.

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How are economic activity and ethics interrelated?

The economy functions according to its own laws. One type of economy, the market economy, is increasingly accepted worldwide. It is just like in a real "marketplace": suppliers and consumers meet and negotiate freely with each other about prices, quantities, and the quality of the products. The market economy has proved to be very efficient, but it is ethically acceptable only if it is a social market economy accompanied by a constitutional State. Hence, first of all, there must be clear rules guaranteed by the government, and, secondly, provisions must be made also for those who cannot offer anything in that marketplace, for example, because they have no job or no money. Furthermore there are human experiences that cannot be dealt with justly by the logic of the marketplace: suffering, sickness, and disability, for example. The fact that the economy functions according to its own laws does not mean that the laws of the marketplace are not subject to God's laws and commandments. Ethics is an essential component of good economic activity. Unethical business is in the long run economically wrong, also. It is equally true that uneconomical business, for instance wasting resources, is unethical.

1. Why must we not leave the market to the free play of market forces? Why should the state sometimes intervene in economic processes?
2. What is the effect on the free market if it is limited by „constitutional“ and „social“ regulations?
3. Why is unethical behavior an economic error in the long run? Why is uneconomic behavior also unethical?
4. How are you a part of the economy? In what way is your life and your future dependent on a good and just economy?

Take a look at the economic section of a newspaper. Consider where the economic practices are in accordance with the social teaching and where they are breaking it. Discuss within your group!

Do you take on this challenge?

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