

Got Wisdom?... Week 5 – Justice & Injustice

Courageous Movie Scene: Gun Range Gospel... https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_ympKXmC6c

Authority

- God created authority. **He hates** when those in authority abuse their power.
- Those who are in authority have a great opportunity to do good.

Proverbs 16:10-15 NIV

- ¹⁰ The lips of a king speak as an oracle, and his mouth does not betray justice.
- ¹¹ Honest scales and balances belong to the LORD; all the weights in the bag are of his making.
- ¹² Kings detest wrongdoing, for a throne is established through righteousness.
- ¹³ Kings take pleasure in honest lips; they value the one who speaks what is right.
- ¹⁴ A king's wrath is a messenger of death, but the wise will appease it.
- ¹⁵ When a king's face brightens, it means life; his favor is like a rain cloud in spring.

Proverbs 28:12, 15-16, 28 NIV

- ¹² When the righteous triumph, there is great elation; but when the wicked rise to power, people go into hiding.
- ¹⁵ Like a roaring lion or a charging bear is a wicked ruler over a helpless people.
- ¹⁶ A tyrannical ruler practices extortion, but one who hates ill-gotten gain will enjoy a long reign.
- ²⁸ When the wicked rise to power, people go into hiding; but when the wicked perish, the righteous thrive.

Proverbs 29:2, 4, 14, 16 NIV

- ² **When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice;** when the wicked rule, the people groan.
- ⁴ By justice a king gives a country stability, but those who are greedy for^[a] bribes tear it down.
- ¹⁴ **If a king judges the poor with fairness, his throne will be established forever.**
- ¹⁶ When the wicked thrive, so does sin, but the righteous **will see their downfall.**

Justice

- Societies fall apart when wickedness reigns and crime goes unpunished.
- Does God care about what happens in our court system? – Yes!
- Does He care about disputes amongst neighbours? – Yes!

Proverbs 17:15, 23 NIV

- ¹⁵ Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent— **the LORD detests them both.**
- ²³ The wicked accept bribes in secret to pervert the course of justice.

Proverbs 18:5, 17 NIV

- ⁵ It is not good to be partial to the wicked and so deprive the innocent of justice.
- ¹⁷ In a lawsuit the first to speak seems right, until someone comes forward and cross-examines.

Proverbs 19:5, 9, 28 NIV

⁵ A false witness **will not go** unpunished, and whoever pours out lies will not go free.

⁹ A false witness **will not go** unpunished, and whoever pours out lies will perish.

²⁸ A corrupt witness mocks at justice, and the mouth of the wicked gulps down evil.

Proverbs 21:15, 28 NIV

¹⁵ **When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.**

²⁸ A false witness will perish, but a careful listener will testify successfully.

Proverbs 22:8 NIV

⁸ Whoever sows injustice reaps calamity, and the rod they wield in fury will be broken.

Proverbs 23:10-11 NIV

¹⁰ Do not move an ancient boundary stone or encroach on the fields of the fatherless,

¹¹ **for their Defender is strong; he will take up their case against you.**

Proverbs 24:23-26 NIV

²³ These also are sayings of the wise: To show partiality in judging is not good: ²⁴ Whoever says to the guilty, "You are innocent," will be cursed by peoples and denounced by nations. ²⁵ But it will go well with those who convict the guilty, and rich blessing will come on them. ²⁶ An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips.

Proverbs 25:8-10 NIV

What you have seen with your eyes do not bring^[a] hastily to court, for what will you do in the end if your neighbor puts you to shame? ⁹ If you take your neighbor to court, do not betray another's confidence, ¹⁰ or the one who hears it may shame you and the charge against you will stand.

Proverbs 29:7 NIV

⁷ **The righteous care about justice for the poor,** but the wicked have no such concern.

- **Forgiveness** – God offers forgiveness to anyone who reaches out to Him through Jesus Christ. When God forgives you, you need to accept His forgiveness and stop beating yourself up for what you did in the past.
- **Restoration** – God will begin a process of inner healing in your life. Seek to do whatever you can to **restore the damage** that you have caused others by the wrongs that you have done to them.
- **Refocusing** – Take this new found freedom in Christ and become a blessing to others. Share with others the message of love and repentance in the Gospel of Jesus Christ... Help others in need... Look for ways to be a blessing to your family, friends, church and community... Make a constant purpose to live in the newness of freedom by seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.