

PROVERBS

Lesson 5 – Wisdom Exalts Justice

1. Proverbs recognizes that there are gross inequities in this world and always will be. One of the main things Proverbs concerns itself with is the plight of the poor. Lest anyone think that it is no big deal to be poor, Proverbs realistically describes what the poor face. Read the following verses and describe how Proverbs pictures the poor and the oppressed: 10:15-16; 11:4; 13:23; 14:20; 18:7; 15:15; 18:23; 22:7
2. Read 15:25; 22:22-23; and 23:10-11. Who is the ultimate defender of the poor and disadvantaged? What should that mean for how we treat them? Why? Can you think of answers to the last two questions that go beyond what these passages say?
3. The Lord is not only concerned about justice for the poor but about justice for all people. About what areas of societal life is He concerned according to these verses: 11:1; 17:15? How does the Lord feel about injustice done in these verses?
4. The Lord has set up governments to administer justice, but because of evil, they are not totally reliable. Who ultimately is the source of justice (29:26)?
5. As one would expect, those who are interested in doing evil care nothing for justice. According to these verses, what relationship does seeking the Lord and being righteous have with justice: 28:5; 29:7?

6. One of the main functions of government is the administration of justice. Proverbs 31:1-9 contains instructions given to King Lemuel by his mother. What did she have to say about justice? Why do you think she was so concerned about the people she mentioned?

7. Whether or not we and those with whom we live receive justice in this life depends partly on the quality of the society in which we live. What contributes to the stability and survival of a society according to 11:11 and 14:34? According to 24:23-25 and 29:4?

8. The survival of a society is also dependent on the decisions of its leaders. What assists leader in making wise decisions (11:14)?

9. Who is the ultimate source of a society's security and survival (21:31)?

10. In addition to discussing justice on a societal level, Proverbs also speaks to how individuals should deal justly with others. Some of that instruction is in the form of things not to do. What things are we warned against in these passages and why: 1:10-19; 3:27-32?

11. Proverbs also instructs us in what we should do to act justly. Read 24:10-12. What action is promoted here? Why will it do no good to plead ignorance of the situation after the fact?

12. What do these verses call on us to and not do and why: 14:21. 31; 17:5; 19:17; 21:13; 28:27?