

# Proverbs 17:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also to punish the just is not good, nor to strike princes for equity.

## Analysis

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Also to punish the just is not good, nor to strike princes for equity. Punishing the righteous (tsaddiq, צַדִּיק) is wrong—lo-tov (לֹא-טוֹב, not good). Striking (hakkot, הַכּוֹת, to strike, smite, beat) nobles (nedivim, נְדִיבִים, princes, nobles, generous ones) for (al, עַל, on account of, because of) yosher (יֹשֶׁר, uprightness, equity) is equally wrong. This proverb condemns perverting justice by punishing good people. Whether targeting the righteous generally or nobles specifically for doing right, both are condemned. God judges such injustice severely. Christ endured ultimate injustice—punished though perfectly righteous (1 Peter 2:22-23).

## Historical Context

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Throughout history, righteous people faced unjust punishment. Prophets were imprisoned or killed for truth-telling (Jeremiah 20:1-2, 37:15, Matthew 23:29-31). John the Baptist was beheaded for confronting Herod (Matthew 14:3-12). Jesus was crucified though Pilate found no fault (Luke 23:13-15). Early Christians faced persecution for righteousness (Acts 4:1-3, 5:17-18). This proverb condemns such injustice, promising divine vindication for the unjustly punished.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. Have you ever punished or criticized someone for doing what is right?
2. How should Christians respond when punished unjustly for righteousness (1 Peter 2:19-23, 4:12-16)?
3. In what ways does Christ's unjust punishment secure our justification and empower patient endurance of persecution?

## Interlinear Text

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גַּם	עַנּוּ אֶשׁ	לְצַדִּיק יִקֵּן	לֹא	טוֹב	לְהִכּוֹת	נְדִיבֵי יָם	עַל
H1571	<b>Also to punish</b>	<b>the just</b>	H3808	<b>is not good</b>	<b>nor to strike</b>	<b>princes</b>	H5921
	H6064	H6662		H2896	H5221	H5081	

יְשׁוּרָה:  
**for equity**  
H3476

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 17:15** (Righteousness): He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.

**Proverbs 18:5** (Righteousness): It is not good to accept the person of the wicked, to overthrow the righteous in judgment.