

# Proverbs 29:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: but the wicked regardeth not to know it.

## Analysis

**The righteous considereth the cause of the poor** (יָדַע צְדִיק דִּין יְלִים)—the verb yada (to know) implies more than intellectual awareness; it denotes intimate, experiential knowledge. The righteous person knows the legal case (din) of the impoverished (dalim, those brought low). This is covenant loyalty expressed through justice.

Meanwhile, **the wicked regardeth not to know it** (כִּשְׁע לֹא־יָבִין דַּעַת)—the wicked willfully refuses understanding. The Hebrew construction emphasizes active rejection of knowledge. This isn't ignorance but moral blindness. James 2:14-17 echoes this: faith without works toward the poor is dead. Jesus will judge nations by how they treated 'the least of these' (Matthew 25:31-46).

## Historical Context

Israel's Torah commanded special protection for the poor, widows, orphans, and foreigners (Exodus 22:21-27, Deuteronomy 15:7-11). Proverbs reinforced this covenant obligation as wisdom. The king was expected to be the defender of the defenseless, making concern for the poor a mark of righteous leadership.

## Related Passages

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## 1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

### Study Questions

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1. How actively do you 'consider the cause' of the marginalized—investigating their circumstances rather than making assumptions?
2. What systems or attitudes in your life reflect the wicked's refusal to 'know' the plight of the poor?
3. How does understanding justice as 'knowing' the situation of the vulnerable change your approach to charity and advocacy?

### Interlinear Text

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יִּיְיָ	צַדִּיקִי	יְיָ	לְפָנֵי	כִּי שֶׁ ע	לֹא	יִבְיִן
considereth	The righteous	the cause	of the poor	but the wicked	H3808	regardeth
H3045	H6662	H1779	H1800	H7563		H995
:יָעַתְּ						
not to know						
H1847						

### Additional Cross-References

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**Job 29:16** (Parallel theme): I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out.

**Psalms 41:1** (Parallel theme): Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

**Proverbs 21:13** (Parallel theme): Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

**Job 31:21** (Parallel theme): If I have lifted up my hand against the fatherless, when I saw my help in the gate:

**Job 31:13** (Parallel theme): If I did despise the cause of my manservant or of my maidservant, when they contended with me;

**Jeremiah 5:28** (Evil): They are waxen fat, they shine: yea, they overpass the deeds of the wicked: they judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge.

**Galatians 6:1** (Parallel theme): Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

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