

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Genesis 23: 1, 2 *“Do not spread false reports. Do not help the wicked man by being a malicious witness. Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd, and do not show favouritism to a poor man in his lawsuit.”*

Deuteronomy 16: 19 *“Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.”*

Support the underdog. Give to the poor. All we like sheep. These phrases are commonly heard today but Exodus 23:1 to 3 seems in part to be contradictory.

God had given Moses an extensive list of dos and do nots to convey to his people how God wanted them to uphold justice. When truth and justice are perverted by the rich we are indignant. We feel we should support the underdogs but often we side weakly with the sentiments of the crowd. To put another way we participate and pass on gossip without challenging its accuracy or fairness.

God tells us through Moses that we should not show partiality for rich or poor only *“follow justice and justice alone.”* Deuteronomy 16: 20(part).