



# BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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**A**l Capone. Just the mention of his name reminds us of crime, gangsters, and a city in terror. While many remember Capone as the brutal mob boss in Chicago, not many know that he was once viewed as a respected citizen.

In 1930, students at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism were asked to name "the outstanding personages of the world." Al Capone made the list, along with George Bernard Shaw, Mahatma Gandhi, and Albert Einstein.

At the height of his fame, Capone was often saluted by fans when he attended sports events at Northwestern. But it wasn't long before his secret life of crime caught up with him.

Capone's 1931 visit to a Northwestern football game was not as pleasant as his previous visits. He was booed out of the stands and left the stadium in humiliation. Later that year, Al Capone was convicted of income tax evasion. His life went from bad to worse after that. He was sent to Alcatraz (also known as "The Rock"), a maximum-security prison on an island near the coast of San Francisco.

When Al Capone was finally released from the Rock eight years later, he suffered from the advanced stages of syphilis. He spent the rest of his years living alone until he died in 1947.

Many movies have been made about "Scarface," as Capone was sometimes called, but his life was not as glamorous as you might think. Some thought he got away with murder. The reality is, Al Capone reaped the consequences of his sins. Justice was eventually served.

Al Capone's life reminds me of Joseph's brothers. They thought they had gotten away with taking his coat of many colors. They thought they could get away with dipping the coat in blood and lying to their father about what had happened. They thought they could get away with selling Joseph into slavery. They

thought . . . but God knew the truth.

For 13 years, life went on for the 11 brothers. During this time, God used unique circumstances to humble them, convict them of their sin, develop their character, and ultimately restore their relationship with Joseph. They still carried the guilt from their actions. They still dealt with shame and regret. These were the natural consequences of their sin.

Unlike Al Capone, Joseph's brothers had a brother who readily forgave their offenses. Joseph did this because God had taught him some valuable lessons on his journey. First, he learned to trust in God's plan for the future. Next, he learned not to look to his circumstances for proof of God's hand at work. Instead, he learned to trust in God's process of preparing him for the future. Joseph also learned to trust in God's presence when He seemed to be absent. Finally, he learned God's promise and plan can be trusted in the midst of hardship.

God uses imperfect situations in the lives of imperfect people to fulfill His plan for those on both sides of the injustice. He can do this because He is just Himself. Because Joseph could see God at work in his life through his painful circumstances, he was able to look beyond his brothers' sins to God's ultimate purpose. Joseph's response resulted in a blessing for his brothers. God turned the situation around for the entire family's benefit!

When we lay aside our desire to get even and put it in God's hands, God will create an outcome which exceeds our expectations and brings Him the greatest glory. Often during the process, there is a period of time when we find ourselves waiting on God. But no matter how long it takes, just like in the experience of Joseph, there is a blessing for those who wait. May we never forget He can be trusted to take the hardships in our life and use them to fulfill His plan!

- Dr. L.W. Edwards



# WAITING ON GOD... FOR JUSTICE

Sometimes life just isn't fair. I've had many reminders of this fact, but one recent experience further reinforced the thought in my mind. It was a Thursday morning, and I was on my way to work. After patiently waiting at a stop light, the light changed from red to green. The semi in the left turning lane across the intersection from me barely cleared the intersection as the light switched hues. I started to accelerate through the intersection, along with the car beside me. In a split second, another vehicle ran the red light and darted through the intersection — directly in front of us. It was almost a split second too late. I thank God for a set of working brakes, because without them I might not have made it to work that day.

My experience must have triggered the neural pathways of every other crazy driver in my state, because I later witnessed similar scenarios play out twice more that day. In each situation, the reckless driver sped off to terrorize other cars on the roadways, with nary a police officer in sight. I'm almost 100% certain if I had been the driver commandeering the daredevil vehicles, I wouldn't have made such a clean getaway. Doesn't seem fair, does it?

While the highway hijinks affected me personally, I know I'm not the only one who has experienced unfairness in life. You can probably think of similar scenarios which didn't play out in your favor on the road, your workplace, in your family, or your relationships. Injustice is a sad-but-common reality in our broken world. Consider these examples:

It isn't fair that a baby who isn't old enough to speak in her own defense should be killed in the womb simply because her mother didn't want to keep her. Yet abortion is a reality in most states in the US (in 8 of them, [up to the moment of birth](#)).

It's not fair for a Christian florist to be [sued by her state](#) for refusing to use her creative artistic talent to create a floral arrangement celebrating a gay wedding.

It isn't fair for social media giants to [censor conservative voices](#) on their platforms simply because the conservatives hold an opposing view on certain issues.

It is not fair for an armed militant Muslim in a Nigerian village to get away with [destroying everything](#) — homes and churches alike — belonging to the village's Christian residents. Muslim mosques were untouched during the militant's rampage.

When we experience injustice, it leaves us with a nagging, innate desire to see things made right: The bad guy gets caught. The neighborhood kid confesses to breaking the window. The older sibling admits to hit-

ting the younger one — and the younger sibling owns up to provoking the older. The good guy gets the girl. The bully returns the stolen lunch money. The hardest worker gets the promotion. The aggressor is put in his place. The speeder and red-light-runner is pulled over by the cops. Good triumphs over evil.

I hate to burst your bubble, but this perfect-world dream only happens in the movies. In Revelation 6:10, the souls of slain believers in Heaven cried out to God, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"

The answer the believers were given was to rest and wait a little longer (Revelation 6:11). Wait for what? In the context, the verses refer to the forthcoming outpouring of God's wrath on sin and evil. The point is, God is aware of our suffering and pain. He hears our cries and sees our tears. He knows the depths of our sorrow. But He is not a careless . . . >>> [Full Article](#)



Contact Dr. Edwards if you would like to have him as your special guest.

PO Box 3862, Barrington, IL 60011

847-909-8543/[biblewayministries@sbcglobal.net](mailto:biblewayministries@sbcglobal.net)

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