

A Study About Elders

(Part 21)

I. Introduction:

A. The first person in the Scriptures you read about being identified as a “just” person was Noah (**Genesis 6:9**).

1. When he was warned of God, he took action (**Hebrews 11:7**).
2. He was spared from the first destruction of the earth (**II Peter 2:5**).
3. As a just man, he saved his family (**Genesis 7:1**).

B. A just person is one that walks in the Lord’s statutes, keeps His judgments, and deals truly (**Ezekiel 18:9**).

1. We see this in Christ (**John 5:30**).
2. The just are those who live by faith (**Romans 1:17** and **Hebrews 10:38**).

II. Body: Just (**Titus 1:8**).

A. The word translated “just” in this verse is defined as: “equitable (in character or act); by implication, innocent, holy (absolutely or relatively): — just, meet, right(-eous)” (Strong’s # 1342). The Greek word appears 81 times and is translated - “righteous” (41x’s), “just” (33x’s), “right” (5x’s), and “meet” (2x’s).

1. This term is used to show being just is an action (**Romans 2:13**).
2. This term is translated “righteous” to describe obedient people (**Luke 1:5-6**).
3. This term is translated as “righteous” in a context that reveals such a person is scarcely saved (**I Peter 4:17-19**).
4. In another context wherein this term is translated “righteousness”, we see a just person being a doer of God’s will (**I John 3:7-10**).
5. When the term is translated “right” (**Matthew 20:1-16 [vs. 4; 7]**, **Luke 12:57**, **Acts 4:19**, and **Ephesians 6:1**).
6. The term is translated “meet” (**Philippians 1:7** and **II Peter 1:13**).
7. We will discuss holy in our next lesson (**Titus 1:8**).

B. Not someone who is a self-justifier (**Proverbs 18:17**).

1. We see this in a “certain lawyer” (**Luke 10:25-37**).
2. We see this in Aaron and Saul too (**Exodus 32:1-25** and **I Samuel 15:1-23**).
3. To avoid being a self-justifier one must be reminded of how it is even possible for us to be just (**Romans 3:24-26**, **I Corinthians 6:9-11**, and **Titus 3:7**).

C. Being just will give an elder a certain perspective about the unjust (**Proverbs 29:27**).

1. A just man will be vexed by the conduct of the wicked (**II Peter 2:7-8**).
2. The Lord’s perspective on the unjust is clear (**II Peter 2:9**).

3. Think about various statements just people have made throughout the Scriptures so that we understand some balance (**Psalms 119:53, Psalms 119:115, Psalms 119:136, Psalms 119:139, Luke 19:41-44, and Romans 9:1-3**).
4. At the same time, his perspective will not be such that he elevates himself above the unjust in some self-righteous manner (**Luke 18:9-14**).
5. This perspective will assure that he will work hard to prevent the local body from being corrupted by unjust members (**I Corinthians 5:1-8; cf. Ephesians 5:25-27**).

III. Conclusion: When looking for rulers of men, the Lord wants just rulers (**II Samuel 23:1-3**).