

The Lord Will Avenge
Proverbs 22:22, 23
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Proverbs 22, verses 22 and 23 have for us:

Do not rob the poor because he is poor,
Or crush the afflicted at the gate;
For the Lord will plead their case,
And take the life of those who rob them.

The word for "poor" used here means "feeble" or "powerless." Because a man is weak is not valid reason to take advantage of him.

Neither should those who are afflicted be oppressed at the gate. Here "the gate" stands for the place of judgment, a place where those afflicted can come for justice. This warning given by Solomon is particularly appropriate for those who have within their power to dispense justice, whether in the courts of the land or in ordinary walks of life. Justice ought not to be withheld. That would further crush those who are already afflicted by lack of justice.

The consequence of such action is clearly stated. The Lord Himself will come to the aid of those who are powerless to help themselves. He will be their Advocate and their Protector. And, He will be the Judge in such cases for He will avenge, and the price He exacts will render valueless whatever gain the robber hoped to enjoy. He will take the *life* of those who rob and oppress the poor.

Robbery and oppression are a breach of the great law which should be written in the hearts of all, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Above all, such action shows contempt for God. Compared to His great power, we all stand as poor and weak and helpless, yet He has loved us and blessed us and helped us in our weakness. Who among us can say that God has taken advantage of him? How can we possibly afford to take advantage of those who are poorer or weaker than we? God forbid!