



# Righting Wrongs

## *"I am a cheat"*

Those were the opening words of a recent statement from Lou Vincent. He went on, "I have abused my position as a professional sportsman on a number of occasions by choosing to accept money through fixing.

I have lived with this dark secret for many years, but just months ago I reached the point where I decided I had to come forward and tell the truth ...

Laying bare the things I have done wrong is the only way I can begin to put things right."

## *Paying the price*

And Vincent has had to pay the price of being banned for life from his profession as a cricketer. Tough, perhaps, but hopefully a dis-incentive to any others to follow in his footsteps! It is interesting to see the reactions to the various punishments meted out in recent weeks. Suarez banned for 4 months and (in terms

of his income) a fine of small change; Rolf Harris jailed for 6 years (in accordance with the penalties in force at the time of his offences). Some are outraged and say that these are not enough.

## *Unpaid damages*

But what about the wrongs which have gone completely unpunished? Neymar, a vertebra fractured by an opponent's knee, missed the semi-final of the world cup—and who knows how he might have influenced the final score!

And we can all think of wrongs which would be impossible to right. How can a drunk driver give back the child they kill?

## *Seeing justice done*

I think we have an in-built desire for justice—at least as long as we are on the right side of it. How many of us might admit we are glad we have 'got away' with a few 'little things' in our time?

Christians look forward to a time when all wrongs will be both judged and righted. But we can only look forward to it because the penalty

has been paid for all our wrongs—both large and small. We are far from perfect; rather we are people who need to admit every day, "I am a cheat—a sinner—who needs God to put everything right".



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