**Class # 30 – The Case of Rayshard Brooks: Lawful but Awful?**

Senior Fellowship Leadership Program

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12 Steps to Redemption

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJG5BJgjmdY>

Rayshard Brooks' Final Moments Analyzed

1. What happened to Rayshard Brooks step by step?
2. What is the debate of the legality of the shooting of Rayshard Brooks? [Justified and Proper, Lawful but awful and illegal].
3. Why are these cases so difficult to deal with in real time?
4. Is it fair to have a police officer having to make such challenging decisions at the most intense life-threatening moments?

Judges and Justice

16:18 Appoint yourselves judges and police for your tribes in all your settlements that God your Lord is giving you, and make sure that they administer honest judgment for the people.

16:19 Do not bend justice and do not give special consideration [to anyone]. Do not take bribes, since bribery makes the wise blind and perverts the words of the righteous.

16:20 Pursue perfect honesty, so that you will live and occupy the land that God your Lord is giving you.

**The laws of the Sanhedrin, Ch 1.1**

It is a positive Scriptural commandment to appoint judges and enforcement officers in every city and in every region, as [Deuteronomy 16:18](http://www.chabad.org/9980#v18) states: "Appoint judges and enforcement officers in all your gates."

"Judges"[Shoftim] refers to established magistrates whose attendance is fixed in court, before whom the litigants appear. "Enforcement officers"/police [shotrim] refers to those equipped with a club and a lash who stand before the judges and **together** patrol the market places and the streets to inspect the stores and to regulate the prices and the measures [of the scales]. They inflict corporal punishment on all offenders. Their deeds are controlled entirely by the judges.

Whenever a person is seen misbehaving, is brought to the court to be judged according to his wickedness.

**א**  מִצְוַת עֲשֵׂה שֶׁלַּתּוֹרָה לְמַנּוֹת שׁוֹפְטִים וְשׁוֹטְרִים בְּכָל מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה וּבְכָל פֶּלֶךְ וּפֶלֶךְ, שֶׁנֶּאֱמָר "שֹׁפְטִים וְשֹׁטְרִים, תִּתֶּן-לְךָ בְּכָל-שְׁעָרֶיךָ" ([דברים טז,יח](http://mechon-mamre.org/i/t/a0516.htm#18)).  שׁוֹפְטִים--אֵלּוּ הַדַּיָּנִים הַקְּבוּעִין בְּבֵית דִּין, וּבַעֲלֵי דִּינִין בָּאִים לִפְנֵיהֶם.

**ב**  הַשּׁוֹטְרִים--אֵלּוּ בַּעֲלֵי מַקֵּל וּרְצוּעָה, וְהֶם הָעוֹמְדִים לִפְנֵי הַדַּיָּנִין הַמְּסַבְּבִין בַּשְּׁוָקִים וְעַל הַחֲנִיּוֹת לְתַקַּן הַשְּׁעָרִים וְהַמִּדּוֹת, וּלְהַכּוֹת כָּל מְעַוֵּת; וְכָל מַעֲשֵׂיהֶם עַל פִּי הַדַּיָּנִים.  וְכָל שֶׁיִּרְאוּ בּוֹ עֶרְוַת דָּבָר--מְבִיאִין אוֹתוֹ לְבֵית דִּין, וְדָנִין אוֹתוֹ כְּפִי רִשְׁעוֹ.

**Establishing a Judicial System**

The 176th *mitzvah* is that we are commanded to appoint judges[1](javascript:doFootnote('1a961553');) to implement the Torah's commands; to force those who have turned away from the path of truth to return to it; to command the performance of good and the avoidance of bad; and to carry out the punishment of transgressors, so that the positive commandments of the Torah and their prohibitions should not be dependent on the desire of every individual.

1. What does the Jewish patrol car look like?
2. What problem is that solving?
3. What reforms could be made to improve the police violence issues?