

DA9. Giving to Our Neighbor That Which Is Owed Him.

We are to give to our neighbor that which is owed him.

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

Key New Testament Scriptures

Romans 1:14-15

I owe a debt to both civilized Greeks and uncivilized people, to both the educated and the ignorant; therefore I am eager to proclaim the Good News also to you who live in Rome.

Romans 13:7

Pay everyone what he is owed: if you owe the tax-collector, pay your taxes; if you owe the revenue-collector, pay revenue; if you owe someone respect, pay him respect; if you owe someone honor, pay him honor.

Romans 15:26-27

For Macedonia and Achaia thought it would be good to make some contribution to the poor among God's people in Yerushalayim. They were pleased to do it, but the fact is that they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared with the Jews in spiritual matters, then the Gentiles clearly have a duty to help the Jews in material matters.

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 18:28-34

Luke 6:34

Romans 4:4

1 Timothy 5:4

Philemon 1:18-19

Related New Testament Mitzvot

DA16 Encouraging and Supporting One Another

BB01 Being Charitable and Generous in Our Giving to Persons in Need

BB03 Providing and Caring for Orphans and Widows

BB04 Financially Supporting Our Spiritual Leaders, and Those Who Teach and Minister

BB05 Requiring Children to Support Their Widowed Mothers

BB06 Requiring Grandchildren to Support Their Widowed Grandmothers

BB07 Supporting Our Family Financially

BB08 Women Supporting Their Widowed Relatives

BB09 Congregations Supporting Widows Who Are in Need

BB11 Giving to Our Brother Who is in Need

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Exodus 22:25(26-26(27)

If you take your neighbor's coat as collateral, you are to restore it to him by sundown, because it is his only garment- he needs it to wrap his body; what else does he have in which to sleep? Moreover, if he cries out to me, I will listen; because I am compassionate.

Leviticus 25:35-37

If a member of your people has become poor, so that he can't support himself among you, you are to assist him as you would a foreigner or a temporary resident, so that he can continue living with you. Do not charge him interest or otherwise profit from him, but fear your God, so that your brother can continue living with you. Do not take interest when you loan him money or take a profit when you sell him food.

Deuteronomy 15:2

Here is how the sh'mittah is to be done: every creditor is to give up what he has loaned to his fellow member of the community- he is not to force his neighbor or relative to repay it, because ADONAI's time of remission has been proclaimed.

Deuteronomy 15:9-10

Guard yourself against allowing your heart to entertain the mean-spirited thought that because the seventh year, the year of sh'mittah is at hand, you would be stingy toward your needy brother and not give him anything; for then he may cry out to ADONAI against you, and it will be your sin. Rather, you must give to him; and you are not to be grudging when you give to him. If you do this, ADONAI your God will bless you in all your work, in everything you undertake-

Deuteronomy 15:12

If your kinsman, a Hebrew man or woman, is sold to you, he is to serve you for six years; but in the seventh year, you are to set him free.

Deuteronomy 24:12-13

If he is poor, you are not to go to bed with what he gave as collateral in your possession; rather, you must restore the pledged item at sunset; then he will go to sleep wearing his garment and bless you. This will be an upright deed of yours before ADONAI your God.

Deuteronomy 24:14-15

You are not to exploit a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether one of your brothers or a foreigner living in your land in your town. You are to pay him his wages the day he earns them, before sunset; for he is poor and looks forward to being paid. Otherwise he will cry out against you to ADONAI, and it will be your sin.

Deuteronomy 24:17

You are not to deprive the foreigner or the orphan of the justice which is his due, and you are not to take a widow's clothing as collateral for a loan.

1 Samuel 12:3

So here I am; now is the time to witness against me before ADONAI and before his anointed king. Does any of you think I have taken your ox or donkey, defrauded or oppressed you, or accepted a bribe to deprive you of justice? Tell me, and I will restore it to you.

Psalms 37:21

The wicked borrows and doesn't repay, but the righteous is generous and gives.

Proverbs 3:27-28

Don't withhold good from someone entitled to it when you have in hand the power to do it. Don't tell your neighbor, "Go away! Come another time; I'll give it to you tomorrow," when you have it now.

Comment

If one were to merely read the statement of this *Mitzvah* #DA9, one might conclude that its reference to giving our neighbor what is owed is only to money. That is not the case, however, for the three supporting Scriptures indicate that a debt can also be of ministry, of honor, and of material things that may include money, but may also include such things as clothing and shelter. This diversity is made especially clear in Scriptures of the *Tanakh* that also speak of owing the return land in the *sh'mitah*, the paying of wages, the release of a debtor from servitude, and the application of justice.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

- B01 Lending Money without Interest to Our Poor Brother
- B02 Returning a Needed Pledged Item
- B03 Eating and Otherwise Partaking of the Produce of Our Work
- B04 Giving Financial Help to Persons in Need
- B05 Setting Aside Part of Our Increase for the Poor
- B01 Gleanings and Part of Life-Sustaining Commodities Left for the
Poor & Disadvantaged
- C01 Being Fair & Honest in Business
- C02 Paying an Employee His Wages on the Day He Labors or When Due
- C03 Cancelling Loans & Not Refusing to Make Loans In
& Near the Sabbatical Year
- C04 Dealing Harshly When Lending Money or Collecting Debts
- J02 God's Law of Justice
- M02 Keeping Our Promises
- M03 Telling the Truth
- M04 Returning Lost Items to Their Owners
- N01 Loving Our Neighbor, the Stranger, and Even Our Enemy
- N02 Wronging One Another through Our Speech
- N03 Helping Our Neighbor Who is in Need
- N04 Forgiving Our Neighbor
- N08 Giving Respect & Honor to Persons of Advanced Age

N09 Helping a Person Who Needs Rescue

N14 Serving Our Neighbor

N15 Pursuing Peace with Our Neighbor

N18 Being Compassionate & Merciful Toward Our Neighbor