

DA53. Rescuing Our Neighbor.

We are to rescue our neighbor when rescue is needed.

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

Key New Testament Scriptures

Luke 10:30-37

Taking up the question, Yeshua said: "A man was going down from Yerushalayim to Yericho when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him naked and beat him up, then went off, leaving him half dead. By coincidence, a cohen was going down on that road; but when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levi who reached the place and saw him also passed by on the other side. But a man from Shomron who was traveling came upon him; and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. So he went up to him, put oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them. Then he set him on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day, he took out two days' wages, gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Look after him; and if you spend more than this, I'll pay you back when I return.' Of these three, which one seems to you to have become the 'neighbor' of the man who fell among robbers?" He answered, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Yeshua said to him, "You go and do as he did."

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Luke 19:10

Acts 7:22-25, 33-34

1 John 3:16-18

Related New Testament Mitzvot

DA05 Serving One Another

DA07 Sensitive to Each Other's Needs

DA24 Loving Our Brother and Neighbor

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Deuteronomy 25:11-12

If men are fighting with each other, and the wife of one comes up to help her husband get away from the man attacking him by grabbing the attacker's private parts with her hand, you are to cut off her hand; show no pity.

Psalms 82:4

Rescue the destitute and needy; deliver them from the power of the wicked!

Proverbs 24:11-12

Yes, rescue those being dragged off to death- won't you save those about to be killed? If you say, "We knew nothing about it," won't he who weighs hearts discern it? Yes, he who guards you will know it and repay each one as his deeds deserve.

Jeremiah 22:3

This is what ADONAI says: "Do what is right and just; rescue the wronged from their oppressors; do nothing wrong or violent to the stranger, orphan or widow; don't shed innocent blood in this place.

Comment

From Volumes 1 and 2:

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" is the well-known "golden rule," but it does not appear in the Bible in that form. What is in the Bible is Mark 12:30-31, which states:

".. and you are to love ADONAI your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your understanding and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You are to love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other mitzvah greater than these."

Applying that principle, Scripture teaches that we have a duty to help others, even to try to save the life of a person who is attacked. What is unclear is whether the duty applies even if it puts the protector in danger and, because Scripture is silent on the matter, I will not speculate.

The parable of the "good Samaritan" is the classic Scripture that lauds assisting a person who has been attacked, but it is noteworthy that at no time was the "good Samaritan" in danger since he gave his help after the attack on the injured man had occurred. Nevertheless, he helped the stranger in need by spending his own time and money.

Interestingly, some U.S. States have adopted what they call the "Good Samaritan Law" which does not require that a bystander help a person who is in distress, but states that if he does and causes injury in the process, he cannot be sued for his attempt.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

N03 Helping Our Neighbor Who is in Need

N09 Helping a Person Who Needs Rescue

N14 Serving Our Neighbor

N18 Being Compassionate & Merciful Toward Our Neighbor