

Charity

Ref: Sefer Zeraim, Hilchot Matanot Aniim, Chapters 7 and 10



To give *tzedakah* (charity) according to one's ability¹², Not to harden one's heart to the poor¹³

The best way to do this *mitzvah* is to give $\frac{1}{5}$ of resources. One should not give less than $\frac{1}{10}$. One has to fill the lack of the poor person.

There is also a duty on the *gabai tzedakah* not to demand from those who give, more than they should, out of embarrassment.

A poor relative should get priority over people of one's city.

People of one's city get priority over those of another city.

Giving *tzedakah* is the identifying mark of a righteous person. Of all the positive *mitzvot*, this is the one we need to be most careful with.

Mashiach (Redemption) will come only through *tzedakah*.

Also a person will never become impoverished from giving *tzedakah*.

When a person shows mercy, *Hashem* will show mercy upon him. When a person does not show mercy, his lineage from *Avraham* is suspect.

If a poor person asks for a donation and one has nothing to give, one should at least placate the poor man with kind words.

On the other hand, a poor person should try and bear hardship and do labour, before turning to beg. However, if he is severely afflicted, he should not be proud and refuse charity, because this is similar to murder.

When charity is given, it should be with a pleasant face. If given with a reluctance, the merit may be lost.

There are **8** levels of charity:

- Providing work for someone, or a loan, to earn his own money.
- Giving without knowing to whom one gave and poor person does not know who gave.
- Giver knows who he is giving, but poor person does not.
- Poor person knows who gave, but giver does not know.
- Giving in hand of poor, before he asks.
- Giving in his hand after he asks.
- Giving less than appropriate with a pleasant countenance.
- Giving with sadness.

Other meritorious acts of giving:

- Supporting ones children who are past age of majority (because really parents are no longer obligated to support them).
- Feeding father and mother from his own funds.
- Giving food and drink to the poor by inviting them into one's home. Whoever does this, when he calls out to G-d, G-d will answer him.

 **Reminder:**
Pack on Misbehaviour

