

EA2. Not Giving *Tzedakah*¹ to Draw Attention to Ourselves & Impress Others.

We are not to give tzedakah to draw attention to ourselves and impress others.

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

Key New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 6:1-4

Be careful not to parade your acts of tzedakah in front of people in order to be seen by them! If you do, you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So, when you do tzedakah, don't announce it with trumpets to win people's praise, like the hypocrites in the synagogues and on the streets. Yes! I tell you, they have their reward already! But you, when you do tzedakah, don't even let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Then your tzedakah will be in secret; and your Father, who sees what you do in secret, will reward you.

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 23:5

Mark 12:38-40

Luke 20:45-47

Related New Testament Mitzvot

EA01 Not Boasting or Thinking of Ourselves as Great or Unduly Important

EA05 Not Thinking of Ourselves as Better Than Others

EA06 Being Humble and Not Arrogant or Proud

EA08 Not Seeking Human Praise

(See also: "BB. Charity, Provision, & Generosity")

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

None

Comment

Matthew 6:1-4 is clear that we are not to parade our giving of *tzedakah* before others. But does Matthew 5:16 teach the opposite by saying:

"In the same way, let your light shine before people, so that they may see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven."

¹ Charitable giving as a moral obligation.

No, they are not opposite and, in fact, are consistent because they both eschew acting ostentatiously even while performing good works. Both exhort us that, in whatever we do, we are to glorify God and not draw attention to or glorify ourselves. When Yeshua said what he said about *tzedakah*, it was because he was noticing prideful Pharisees making a show of their giving. Had he seen them dropping their coins into a *tzedakah* box in the casual way that others were doing, he probably wouldn't have said anything about it.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

A15 Doing Religious Things in Order to Be Seen

A17 Being Humble & Not Prideful

B04 Giving Financial Help to Persons in Need

B05 Setting Aside Part of Our Increase for the Poor

N03 Helping Our Neighbor Who is in Need