

Jewish Teaching On Almsgiving

“The world stands on three things: on the Torah, and on the Service, and on the doing of kindnesses.” - Jewish High Priest Simon the Just (200 BC)

“Acts of kindness and charity weigh more than all the commandments. Charity can be given to the living only, acts of kindness can be done to both the living and the dead; charity can be given only to the poor, acts of kindness to the rich and the poor. Charity can be done only with one’s money, but acts of kindness can be done with one’s person and with one’s money.” - Rabbinic statement

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First Apology of St. Justin the Martyr

And those who are well to do, and willing, give what each thinks fit, and what is collected is deposited with the president (bishop), who succours the orphans and widows, and those who through sickness or any other cause are in want, and those who are in bonds, and the strangers among us, and in a word takes care of all who are in need. (67.6)

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St. Maximus the Confessor First Century on Love

23. He who loves God will certainly love his neighbor as well. Such a person cannot hoard money, but distributes it in a way befitting God, being generous to everyone in need.

24. He who gives alms in imitation of God does not discriminate between the wicked and the virtuous, the just and the unjust, when providing for men’s bodily needs. He gives equally to all according to their need, even though he prefers the virtuous man to the bad man because of the probity of his intention.

26. The state of love may be recognized in the giving of money, and still more in the giving of spiritual counsel and in looking after people in their physical needs.

79. Almsgiving heals the soul's incensive power; fasting withers sensual desire; prayer purifies the intellect and prepares it for the contemplation of created things. For the Lord has given us commandments which correspond to the powers of the soul.