



Purim Project

Two of the traditional *mitzvot* (religious requirements) of Purim are giving food or financial gifts to the poor and giving food gifts to friends. Most JFS Purim baskets being made today are given to JFS clients who are in financial need. Some of the smaller baskets are for clients who are not in financial need but are a way of saying that we care about them.

According to Maimonides (12th century), Purim is considered different than all other days regarding giving to the poor.

We are required to provide for the poor on Purim day. The minimum is to provide for two poor people —

Giving to each one a gift, or money, or cooked food or other kinds of food...

Furthermore, we should not be too meticulous concerning Purim tzedakah-money: anyone who puts out his hand to take — should be given money.

— Maimonides

FOR REFLECTION

- Why do you think that Purim is singled out to “not be too meticulous” regarding *tzedakah* money?
- Why must we give to at least two people in need on Purim day? Why isn't one enough?
- Technically, we can't fulfil this *mitzvah* by making a donation to an organization that helps people. We must give directly to at least two individuals on Purim day. Why?

It is better for people to spend more on gifts to the poor for Purim than to spend more on...sending treats to friends, for there is no greater or more glorious joy than to bring happiness to the hearts of the poor, orphans, widows and strangers. — Maimonides

FOR REFLECTION

- Does giving to those in need bring you joy?
- Why did we make baskets today not only for clients who are in financial need but also some small baskets for other clients?
- What did you learn today about Purim? About giving to others? About yourself?



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE

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May the
kavod/dignity of your
fellow be as dear to you
as your own.

Pirke Avot/Ethics of our Ancestors