

Dvar Torah by **Rabbi Chanoch Yeres**

to his community at

Beit Knesset Beit Yisrael, Yemin Moshe

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SHO-F'TIM

In the latter part of our Parsha, we learn about the Mitzva of Tz'daka. The verse teaches us that the world was created with the haves and the have-nots as it says,

"For the poor shall never cease out of the land" (15:11). This imperfection in the world creates the basis for the Mitzva of Charity.

Why did G-d create such a cruel world where there are those who need to beg for survival?

G-d, in his infinite wisdom, gives mankind a hand in building and sustaining the world. It is only through acts of Chesed performed by Man that the perceived imperfection is erased, and the world becomes whole again.

Avraham stands as an example of excellence of the attributes of Chesed, Tz'daka and kindness in all forms. In the throes of great physical pain, he searched in the hot blazing desert for the opportunities to fulfill this mission. Why does the Torah wait until after his circumcision to describe the degree of self-sacrifice with which Avraham performed the Mitzva of Tz'daka?

Rabbi M. Shapiro quotes a Midrash telling what Avraham said to himself. "Before my circumcision many wayfarers passed my tent, now that I have been circumcised, they have ceased." Why? The neighbors of Avraham stopped coming because they thought he was now too different from them; he would no longer be interested in helping them. Avraham demonstrated that this was not the case. While there are many reasons to separate people by geography, we must realize that, when it comes to kindness and pity, there are no boundaries and there are no divisions. The Talmud in Gittin notes that we are obligated to sustain the non-Jewish poor together with the Jewish poor.

Avraham pointed out that while there is a distinction between people and valid reasons to maintain uniqueness, there is a practical need to be generous and helpful to all, "Kiddush Hashem" - "Sanctification of G-d's name".

Surely through such commitment to chesed we are not only partners with G-d in building the world, but we will also hasten the redemption of our people and the restoration of Israel's glory. 🏴‍☠️