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*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

**John 3:16 (NIV)**

*Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.*

**Matthew 6:1-4 (NLT)**

*When you harvest the crops of your land, do not harvest the grain along the edges of your fields, and do not pick up what the harvesters drop. It is the same with your grape crop—do not strip every last bunch of grapes from the vines, and do not pick up the grapes that fall to the ground. Leave them for the poor and the foreigners living among you. I am the Lord your God.*

**Leviticus 19:9-10 (NLT)**

*If one of your fellow Israelites falls into poverty and cannot support himself, support him as you would a foreigner or a temporary resident and allow him to live with you. Do not charge interest or make a profit at his expense. Instead, show your fear of God by letting him live with you as your relative. Remember, do not charge interest on money you lend him or make a profit on food you sell him. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God.*

**Leviticus 25:35-38 (NLT)**

*But if there are any poor Israelites in your towns when you arrive in the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tightfisted toward them. Instead, be generous and lend them whatever they need. Do not be mean-spirited and refuse someone a loan because the year for canceling debts is close at hand. If you refuse to make the loan and the needy person cries out to the Lord, you will be considered guilty of sin. Give generously to the poor, not grudgingly, for the Lord your God will bless you in everything you do. There will always be some in the land who are poor. That is why I am commanding you to share freely with the poor and with other Israelites in need.*

**Deuteronomy 15:7-11 (NLT)**

## JESUS TEACHES US THAT GIVING TO THE NEEDY:

### 1. IS A CHARACTERISTIC OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

*Watch out! Don't **do your good deeds** publicly, to be admired by others...*

**Matthew 6:1 (NLT)**

*Be careful not to **practice your righteousness** in front of others to be seen by them...*

**Matthew 6:1 (NIV)**

*Jesus replied, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."*

**Matthew 22:37-40 (NLT)**

### 2. IS MORE ABOUT THE WHY THAN THE WHAT

*Many people did believe in him, however, including some of the Jewish leaders. But they wouldn't admit it for fear that the Pharisees would expel them from the synagogue. For they loved human praise more than the praise of God.*

**John 12:42-43 (NLT)**

*Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

**Psalms 51:10 (NIV)**

### 3. HAS ITS REWARDS, AND THAT'S OKAY.

*When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.*

**Matthew 6:2-4 (NLT)**

*If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord—and he will repay you!*

**Proverbs 19:17 (NLT)**

*For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.*

**2 Corinthians 5:10 (NLT)**