

RaYBaSH's Torah Thoughts for Kids
Parashah #49: Ki-Teitzei "When you go out"
Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19
By: Yehudah ben Shomeyr

Deut. 25:4 Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn.

The Torah Tells us that it is mean to tie up an animals mouth and not letting it eat or drink when it is doing work for us, we need to be nice and let it eat and drink along the way as sort of payment for the job. In our everyday life it is like whenever someone does something good for you, it is always a good Idea to show your thanks by giving them something in return. If the nice thing they do is actually what they do for a job, and they did it for you just to be nice and really didn't expect anything in return from you. It is still a good Idea maybe not to repay them with money, because they may take that as an insult because what they did for you was a gift and they never expected to be paid. But it may be a good idea to take them out to eat, give them a fruit basket, some candy, a card, or even a gift certificate to their favorite restaurant.

And if someone shares a gift or talent with you, which helps you out in some way, to show your thanks you may want to give them a little money for their trouble, or a gift you know they would like, such as a book, or a plaque or an award of some kind.

You see in the eyes and mind of God this is seen as a form of kindness or charity on your part, and that is always considered a good deed, a mitzvah in Judaism.

According to the Rabbi's and Sages, charity or a good deed helps protect one from evil, and makes God very proud of us and in turn, God may reward you with an answer to a prayer, or a gift. It is just like doing something nice for our parents without being asked, like doing the dishes, or taking out the trash, and this makes our folks happy and it makes them want to do nice things for us in return as a reward for doing a little extra. Like maybe they will take you out for an ice cream, or give you a little extra allowance. But we not do nice things just get nice things back. No, the Messiah and our Rabbi's and Sages teach us to do nice things without expecting any reward. Why? Simply because it is the right thing to do. And a good deed always takes us a step closer to God, and a step further away

from sin. For our Rabbis and Sages have said that a sin leads to another sin and a good deed leads to another good deed (Perkei Avot 4:2).

Shalom and Shavuah Tov!

-- Yehudah ben Shomeyr