

Deuteronomy 24:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In any case thou shalt deliver him the pledge again when the sun goeth down, that he may sleep in his own raiment, and bless thee: and it shall be righteousness unto thee before the LORD thy God.

Analysis

In any case thou shalt deliver him the pledge again when the sun goeth down, that he may sleep in his own raiment, and bless thee: and it shall be righteousness unto thee before the LORD thy God. The emphatic in any case makes returning the cloak mandatory, not optional. Regardless of the debt, the creditor must not let the poor debtor spend the night without his garment.

The purpose that he may sleep in his own raiment shows God's concern for the poor's basic comfort. Economic rights do not override human needs - the creditor's claim on the pledge is subordinate to the debtor's need for warmth.

The promise and bless thee indicates the grateful debtor will call down God's favor on the compassionate creditor. Mercy toward the poor generates blessing, creating positive relationship despite the debt.

The declaration it shall be righteousness unto thee before the LORD counts compassionate creditor practice as righteousness. God evaluates how we treat the poor, and mercy in economic relationships constitutes righteous behavior.

Historical Context

This daily return and recollection of the pledge became regular reminder of the debt while ensuring the poor person's nightly comfort. The ritual reinforced accountability while protecting the debtor.

That God counts this as righteousness demonstrates His value system - merciful economic practices matter as much as ceremonial and moral obedience.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does mandatory return of the pledge teach about human needs over economic rights?
2. How does mercy toward the poor generate blessing for the merciful?
3. Why does God count compassionate creditor practices as righteousness?
4. What does this teach about God's evaluation of how we treat the vulnerable?
5. How should awareness that God observes economic relationships shape our business practices?

Interlinear Text

תֵּשׁ יֵב	תֵּשׁ יֵב	אֶת לֹ	הַעֲבוֹט	כָּבֹא	הַשֶּׁשׁ מִשֶּׁ	
In any case	In any case	H0	H853	him the pledge	goeth down	when the sun
H7725	H7725			H5667	H935	H8121
וְשָׁכַב	בְּשָׁלְמָתוֹ	וּבְרֵכְךָ	וְלֹ	תְהִי הֵ		
that he may sleep	in his own raiment	and bless	H0	H1961		
H7901	H8008	H1288				
אֲדִקָּה	לְפָנֶי	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ			
thee and it shall be righteousness	unto thee before	the LORD	thy God			
H6666	H6440	H3068	H430			

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 6:25 (Righteousness): And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.

Daniel 4:27 (Righteousness): Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.

Deuteronomy 24:15 (References Lord): At his day thou shalt give him his hire, neither shall the sun go down upon it; for he is poor, and setteth his heart upon it: lest he cry against thee unto the LORD, and it be sin unto thee.