

Deuteronomy 24:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands.

Analysis

Gleaning rights: 'When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands.' Forgotten sheaves belong to poor. Landowners can't retrieve overlooked produce—it's gleaners' provision. The beneficiaries (stranger, fatherless, widow) are vulnerable groups. The motivation: 'that the LORD thy God may bless thee'—generosity brings blessing. This institutionalizes charity through agricultural practice, creating dignified work (gleaning) rather than demeaning begging. The wealthy provide opportunity; poor provide labor. This balances generosity with dignity.

Historical Context

Leviticus 19:9-10 and 23:22 give similar laws. Ruth's story exemplifies gleaning (Ruth 2)—Boaz generously allowed gleaning, and Ruth worked hard. This provided for Naomi and Ruth while maintaining dignity. The system prevented absolute poverty while avoiding dependency—work was still required. Modern equivalents might include job training programs, employment opportunities, and systems

helping people work their way out of poverty rather than perpetual welfare. The goal: meeting needs while preserving dignity and work ethic.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do we provide for vulnerable in ways that maintain dignity rather than creating dependency?
2. What modern systems balance generosity (providing opportunity) with responsibility (requiring work)?
3. How does the promise of divine blessing motivate generosity toward those in need?

Interlinear Text

ע	מַר	וְשִׁכְחָתָה	בָּשָׂדֶה	הַצִּיבָּר	תְּקִצָּר	כִּי	תְּקִצָּר	כִּי
H3016	H7911	H6016	H7704	H7105	H7114	H3588	When thou cuttest down	a sheaf
לֹא	בָּשָׂדֶה	לִקְחָתָה	לְגַם	לִשְׁׁוֹב	לְא	תְּקִצָּר	תְּקִצָּר	כִּי
H7704	H1616	H3947	H1288	H7725	H3808	H7114	thou shalt not go again	it shall be for the stranger
לִתְּתָם	וְלֹא	לִבְרָכָה	יְהִי	לִמְעֵן	וְלֹא	לִתְּתָם	וְלֹא	וְלֹא
H3490	H490	H1288	H3068	H4616	H1961	H3605	and for the widow	that the LORD
בְּכָל	מְעַשְׁתָּה	יְהִי	יְהִי	לִמְעֵן	וְלֹא	לִתְּתָם	וְלֹא	וְלֹא
thy God	thee in all the work	of thine hands	of thine hands	to fetch	it	it shall be for the stranger	it shall be for the stranger	it shall be for the stranger

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 23:22 (References God): And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 14:29 (Blessing): And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest.

Proverbs 19:17 (References Lord): He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Deuteronomy 26:13 (References God): Then thou shalt say before the LORD thy God, I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all thy commandments which thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them:

Isaiah 32:8 (Parallel theme): But the liberal deviseth liberal things; and by liberal things shall he stand.

Psalms 112:9 (Parallel theme): He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.

Job 42:12 (Blessing): So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.

Luke 6:38 (Parallel theme): Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Proverbs 14:21 (Parallel theme): He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.

Deuteronomy 15:10 (Blessing): Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD

thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto.

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