

MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP

GIVING ALMS

Our Time, Talent, and Treasure

Almsgiving is a beautiful act in which one reaches out in love and charity to those in need. This tradition finds its roots in ancient Hebrew society and is seen as a requirement for the life of the faithful. Almsgiving is so essential that the prophet Isaiah calls it a prerequisite for hearing the voice of God. Further, Jesus' teaching on the importance of assisting those in need cannot be understated, "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Mt. 25:40).

This act of caring for the poor and needy can be found throughout Scripture and is an essential part of the Church's tradition. Caring for the poor was a requirement in the Law of Moses because it maintained community harmony. Even the early Church was deeply concerned with caring for the poor.

But you may ask yourself, "Who are the poor in my midst?" And the answer is much larger than just the homeless. While caring for our homeless brothers and sisters is of great importance to us as disciples, we can engage in almsgiving in many ways. Giving alms is not just about giving money. It's caring for the elderly, the sick, the disabled, the depressed, or the stranger in our community; any person in our midst who is in need can receive alms. It is any form of giving from what you have to those who have little. For example, in ancient Hebrew culture alms were not just considered money. Even the excess crop from a harvest was to be left in the fields so the poor could have their share. So whatever you have to give, whether it be time, talent, or treasure, look at those in your midst who may be in need, and reach out to them in charity and love. Because what you do for them, you also do for God.



Lenten Reflection Questions:

Who are the people in my midst who are in need of my help?

What do I have in excess?

How can I give more of my time, talent, or treasure to those in need?