

# KINDNESS AND JUSTICE

*by Rabbi Daniel Travis*

The third pillar that supports the world is gemilas chasadim, acts of kindness. One of the most powerful tools that a Jew has at his disposal is the Divine attribute of middah k'neged middah, Hashem's measure for measure response to our actions. If we show kindness to others, He will respond in turn with kindness to us by answering our prayers.

In the morning one can generally find people in shul, and it is an opportune time to speak to people about tzedakah matters. Even though it is generally forbidden to involve oneself in other activities before prayer, one is allowed to collect tzedakah. Certainly, giving tzedakah is also permitted; moreover, it is a segulah that one's prayers will be answered.

According to the Arizal, a person should give charity during the "Vay'varech David" passage right after the phrase, "v'haosher v'hakavod milfanecha" (and wealth and honor are before You). While saying the words which follow, "v'Atah moshel ba'kol" (and You rule over everything), he should set aside money for tzedakah (Mishnah Berurah 51,19). It is customary in some shuls to collect tzedakah during this time.

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