

WARM-UP

- Who around you would you say are “in need”? What would you say they need that only others can give them?
- Share about a time that someone was kind to you. How did you feel? What was your response?
- Who would you say has had a positive influence on you? Would you say that positive influences are important in life? Why or why not?

WORD *“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”* **DEUTERONOMY 6:6-7**

(Read also **DEUTERONOMY 15:6.**)

Moses reminded the Israelites, God’s chosen people, to keep all of His commandments in their hearts. They were to teach them, speak of them, and have them in mind every moment that they were awake. There were no exceptions to these commandments.

They include the responsibility that God’s people have towards those who are limited in power or excluded from opportunities because of lack or poverty. God tells us that every moment we are awake, we must remember to show kindness and openness to the poor.

1 | Let us be kind towards the poor in our community.

"If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother . . ." **DEUTERONOMY 15:7**

Moses reminded the Israelites that they were going to live in the land that God had given to them. They would not earn or win it by their own wealth or power. In response to this graciousness, the attitude of their hearts should be soft hearts and open hands to anyone among the people of God in need of something they can provide. How do you think you have been learning to be kind towards the poor?

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2 | Let us open our hands to help them in their need.

". . . but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be." **DEUTERONOMY 15:8**

The command of God does not stop at compassion and kindness. It goes beyond our attitude and requires our action. The Israelites were to notice and be aware of the needs of their brothers and sisters in the Lord. They were not to ignore those in need or say that it was none of their business. As a community, they were to give enough to cover the costs of those needs. What needs do you see around you? What action could you take?

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Deuteronomy 7:6–11 tells us that we, God’s people, have His salvation and presence not because of anything we have done to deserve it. Instead, it is only because He loved us first and loves us no matter what. We have these for free because He paid the price for us to live in the security of His salvation. There is no greater motivation to show kindness to others than this.

APPLICATION

- What did Moses say about generosity in this passage? How does this apply to your life?
- When this commandment was given to them, the Israelites were approaching their Promised Land after God rescued them from slavery. What is the similarity of their story to ours as God’s people under the new covenant in Christ?
- What attitude were the Israelites supposed to have towards the poor among God’s people? What attitude are we supposed to have towards the poor among our brothers and sisters in Christ? What is one action you can take this week to meet someone’s needs?

PRAYER

- Thank God for His generosity to the Israelites and to us as His children.
- Pray that God will soften your heart and open your hands to have an attitude and lifestyle of generosity.
- Ask God to make you a blessing and a channel of His love to others this week.

