

Useful Quotes about Tzedakah and Mitzvahs

When I was young, I admired clever people. As I grew old, I came to admire kind people.

Abraham Joshua Heschel, ז"ל

To be is to stand for.

Abraham Joshua Heschel, ז"ל

To be is to do.

Myriam Mendilow, ז"ל

To be Jewish is to be an idealist.

Unknown Source

The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And, the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference. Because of indifference one dies before one actually dies.

Elie Wiesel

Whatever I want for myself,
I want the same for that other person.

ובל מזה- שארצה לעצמי ארצה לו כמוהו

ובל מזה- שלא ארצה לעצמי ולידידי
לא ארצה לו בשבילו כמוהו
והוא אמרו יתעלה ואהבת לרעך כמוך

And whatever I do not want for myself or my friends,
I do not want for that other person.

This is the meaning of the verse,

“And you shall love the other person as yourself.” (Leviticus 19:18)

*Maimonides, Sefer HaMitzvot,
Positive Mitzvah #206*

מה אני בורא עולמות ומחיה מתים
אף אתם בן

[God says:] Just as I create worlds and bring the dead back to life,
you, human beings, are also capable of doing the same.

Midrash Psalms 116:8

שמעון בנו אומר... ולא המדרש הוא העקר אלא המעשה
Shimon [the son of Rabban Gamliel] says:
It is not what one says, but rather what one does,
that makes all the difference in the world.

Pirke Avot 1:17

Rabbi Elazar Says:

Tzaddikim-Good People say little and do much.

אמר רבי אלעזר... שצדיקים אומרים מעט ועושים הרבה

Bava Metzia 87a

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

Winston Churchill

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever does.

Margaret Mead

Charismatic leaders make us think, "Oh, if only I could do that, be like that."
True leaders make us think, "If they can do that, then...I can too."

John Holt, Educator

עת להבוק

אם ראית בת של צדיקים עומדים עמוד וחבק ונשק וגפפם

"A time to embrace" (Ecclesiastes 3:5):
If you see a group of Tzaddikim-Good People standing near you,
stand up and hug them and kiss them and hug them again.

Ecclesiastes Rabba 3:5, 1

There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.

Einstein

Mature your minds with great thoughts; to believe in the heroic makes heroes.

Benjamin Disraeli

Most of the things worth doing in the world had been declared impossible before they were done.

Justice Louis Brandeis

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

רדף צדקה וחסד ימצא חיים צדקה וכבוד:

A person who runs to do just, good, and kind deeds
attains Life, success, and honor.

Proverbs 21:21

Nothing is so contagious as an example. We never do great good or great evil without bringing about more of the same on the part of others.

La Rochefoucauld

This is happiness: to be dissolved into something completely great.

Willa Cather

How wonderful it is that no one need wait a single moment to start to improve the world.

Anne Frank

כי ידעתי למען אשר יצוה את בניו ואת ביתו
אחריו ושמרו דרך יהוה לעשות צדקה ומשפט

For I have selected him [Abraham]
so that he may instruct his children and his posterity after him
to keep God's ways:
to do what is just and right. [Tzedakah U'Mishpat] (Genesis 18:19)