

# Should we give to Beggars?

MATTHEW 5 VERSE 42 (FROM THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT)

Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

## INFORMATION

The short answer to this question is YES.

A frequent argument regarding the giving to people on street corners and at intersections, is that many of these people are not truly homeless or helpless. While that may, in fact, be true, we, however, cannot know that to be the case with any certainty. Hebrews 13:2 tells us that sometimes people engage with angels when they thought they were engaging with men.

Hebrews 13:2 - Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Another related argument is whether we should give our money to organizations that will help those in need instead of giving to the individuals themselves. Giving to charitable organizations is something we should do, but our charity should not end there.

Ultimately, we should consider the gift of salvation and compare that to our gift to beggars. Jesus freely gives salvation to all who seek Him. He knows full well that we are completely undeserving, AND he knows that we will trample upon his gift even after we receive it. Nevertheless, Jesus still saves people. How does that compare to our willingness to give to others in need, even when we suspect that they may not use it appropriately?

If you are hesitant about giving money to beggars because you think they will use it for alcohol or drugs, then an alternative might be to stock up on gift cards in various denominations from places like McDonalds or Chic-fil-A or even grocery stores. While this could be used to obtain alcohol or drugs, it will be harder, and you will still be able to give.

## WHAT IT MEANS TO OUR FAMILY

Quite simply, we should give to beggars when we are empowered to do so. If we encounter someone that asks for money and we have it to give and the opportunity presents itself, then we should give.

# Relevant Passages

## **Proverbs 14:21**

He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.

## **Proverbs 21:13**

Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

## **Proverbs 22:22-23**

Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate: 23 For the Lord will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.

## **Proverbs 28:27**

He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

## **Proverbs 29:7**

The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: but the wicked regardeth not to know it.

## **Proverbs 31:20**

She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.