



Jewish Wisdom Rabbi Joseph Telushkin

Topic: Does Judaism Have An Essence?
July 9, 2020

- 1) Did you conduct your business affairs honestly? (B.T. Shabbat 31a)
- 2) May this child attain the blessings of Torah, marriage and a life of righteous behavior. (Blessing given to a newborn child)
- 3) "He has told you, O man, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: Only to do justice and to love goodness and to walk modestly with your God." (Micah 6:8)
- 4) "Thus, says the Lord: Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom; let not the strong man glory in his strength; let not the rich man glory in his riches. But only in this should one glory: In his earnest devotion to Me. For I the Lord act with kindness, justice and equity in the world; for in these I delight. (Jeremiah 9:22-23)
- 5) "It happened that a certain man came before Shammai and said to him, 'Convert me to Judaism on condition that you teach me the whole Torah while I stand on one foot.' Shammai chased him away with a builder's plank in his hand. When the man came before Hillel, Hillel converted him and said, 'What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor: this is the whole Torah. The rest is commentary; now go and study.'" (B.T. Shabbat 31a)
- 6) "Love your neighbor as yourself (Lev. 19:18), this is the Torah's major principle (according to Rabbi Akiba). (P.T. Nedarim 9:4)
- 7) O Lord, who shall dwell in Your sanctuary? Who shall abide upon Your holy mountain? A) He who lives without blame B) Who does righteous acts C) Who speaks the truth in his heart D) Whose tongue speaks no deceit E) Who has not done harm to his fellow F) Who does not reproach his neighbor G) For whom a contemptible person is abhorrent H) Who honors those who fear the Lord I) Who stands by his oath even when it is to his disadvantage J) Who doesn't lend money at excessive interest K) Who does not accept a bribe against the innocent. (Psalm 15)
- 8) "The Jewish nation is distinguished by three characteristics: they are merciful, they are modest, and they perform acts of loving-kindness." (B.T. Yebamot 79a)
- 9) Whoever repudiates idolatry is called a Jew. (B.T. Megillah 13a)
- 10) The purpose of the laws of the Torah is to bring mercy, loving-kindness and peace upon the world. (Mishneh Torah, laws of the Sabbath, 2:3)