

A Universe of Chesed

by Rabbi Jack Abramowitz

Want to perform acts of chesed (loving kindness) but not sure of all the details?

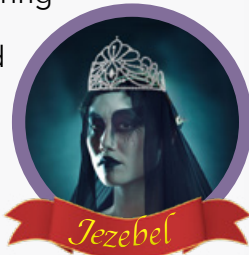


Here's a handy guide to help you get started with some of the more common deeds we can do. *Please note that this guide is not a substitute for a thorough study of these mitzvot.*



How To GLADDEN A BRIDE & GROOM

The mitzvah of being *mesameiach chasan v'kallah* is said to protect one from suffering (*Shaarei Teshuvah* 4:11) and to serve as a merit for children and grandchildren (*Mateh Moshe*). The evil Queen Jezebel's punishment was mitigated because she performed this mitzvah (*Tur*, EH 65, et al.).



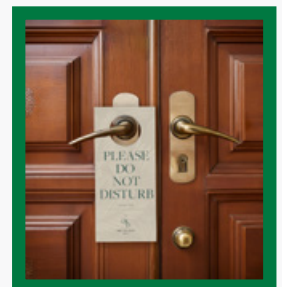
One fulfills this mitzvah by dancing before the couple and praising the bride, as well as by wishing the couple mazel tov to increase their joy. Those who lack the ability to sing and dance can fulfill the mitzvah to gladden the couple by giving them wedding presents.

Those present are obligated to gladden the couple regardless of whether or not they ate from the wedding meal. Those who ate, however,



must be extra careful to contribute to the *simcha* (*Brachos* 6b).

Nevertheless, if someone should arrive late, only to find that the *chasan* and *kallah* are in the *yichud* room, that person may eat from the wedding meal and even leave before the couple returns to the hall. This is because the couple wants their wedding to be well attended, so just showing up contributes to some degree.



Along similar lines, a prominent person fulfills their obligation to help the couple rejoice just by being there, since they are gladdened by their presence. However, it would still be advisable for that person to dance before the couple or to serve the couple in some capacity, such as by passing them some water.

