

28 *A Thanksgiving-Sermon for*

obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. To love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our understanding, and with all our soul, and with all our strength, and to love our neighbour as ourselves, is more than whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices. Let us, together with offerings of praise, order our conversation aright; so shall we glorify God, and he will still shew us his Salvation.

And let me here mind you of one Way, wherein 'tis peculiarly fitting you should express your Gratitude on this joyful Occasion, and that is, *by shewing mercy to the Poor.* 'Tis observable, when the Jews prevailed against their Enemies, and solemnized the *Feast of Purim* in Thanksgiving to God, they gave gifts to the Poor, as we read *Esther ix. 22.* And if, when we fast, and humble ourselves before God, 'tis proper to deal our Bread to the hungry, when we see the naked to cover them, and satisfy the afflicted Soul; is it not reasonable also when we are called to serve the Lord with gladness, and to come before his Presence with singing, to be in the exercise of that Charity which shall refresh the Bowels of the Poor and Needy? Can there be a more fit Occasion than a Day of religious Gladness and Thanksgiving, to open our Hands in liberal Distributions, causing the Widows Heart to sing for Joy? Let us in this way do good, for with such Sacrifices God is well pleased.

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