

Think Jewishly Act Locally

Why, when we fasted, did You not see? When we starved our bodies, did You pay no heed? Because on your fast day you see to your business and oppress all your laborers!

Because you fast in strife and contention, and you strike with a wicked fist! Your fasting today is not such as to make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast I desire, a day for men to starve their bodies? Is it bowing the head like a bulrush and lying in sackcloth and ashes? Do you call that a fast, a day when Adonai is favorable?

No, this is the fast I desire: To unlock the fetters of wickedness, and untie the cords of the yoke to let the oppressed go free; to break off every yoke.

It is to share your bread with the hungry, and to take the wretched poor into your home; when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to ignore your own kin.

Isaiah 58: 3-7

Learn to do well--seek justice, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.... Zion shall be redeemed with justice, and they who return to her with righteousness.

Isaiah 1:17, 27

Seek the welfare of the city to which I have caused you to go in exile, and pray to ADONAI on its behalf; for your welfare is bound up in its welfare.

Jeremiah 29:7

At a time when the community is suffering, no one should say, “I will go home, eat, drink, and be at peace with myself.”

Babylonian Talmud Taanit, 11a.

Fight for the things you care about. But do it in a way that will lead others to join you. – Ruth Bader Ginsberg

Thou shalt not be a victim, thou shalt not be a perpetrator, but, above all, thou shalt not be a bystander. – Yehuda Bauer

No matter how cynical you become, it's never enough to keep up. – Lily Tomlin

There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest. – Elie Wiesel