# **PURIM: COMMANDMENTS**

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## There are four mitzvot for Purim:

### 1. Shalach Manot (Gifts of food to promote friendship)

Send to one person at least two readily edible foods that will be appreciated by the recipient. Sending gifts of food (<u>mishlo'ach manot</u>) must be done on <u>Purim</u> day. The earliest time to send <u>mishlo'ach manot</u> is after hearing the morning <u>megila</u> reading (so that the commandment of giving gifts to friends is also covered by the blessing of <u>she'hecheyanu</u> over the <u>megila</u>).

#### 2. Gifts to Poor People

Give some money to at least two poor people or to a fund designated to give to poor Jews on *Purim*. The earliest time in the day to give gifts to the poor on *Purim* is daybreak.

# 3. Hearing the Megila Twice (evening and morning)

- If you miss hearing a word or even syllable of the <u>megila</u> on <u>Purim</u>, say it to yourself and then catch up to the reader.
- If you are not near a *minyan* and do not have a *megila* scroll, you should read the *megila* from a book. But you will not have fulfilled the commandment of reading the *megila* and so you do not say any of the blessings.

## 4. Eating at a Purim se'uda.

- The minimum amount to eat and drink for a *Purim* meal is at least 1.3 fl. oz. (39 ml, or 1/6 cup) of bread, any amount of meat (if you enjoy meat), and some wine (any amount more than you normally drink).
- The earliest time you may eat the *Purim* meal is from daybreak; the latest time you must begin is before sunset. You must eat at least 1.3 fl. oz. (39 ml, or 1/6 cup) of bread and some wine (and meat if you enjoy it) before sunset. You may continue your meal after sunset as long as you ate the bread before sunset.