BIRKAT HAMAZON: MEZUMAN AND MINYAN

Birkat HaMazon: Reason for Mezuman

Saying *birkat ha'mazon* with a *mezuman* (or a *minyan*) is important since it gives honor to God.

Birkat HaMazon: Seating for Minyan or Mezuman

You may join with other men to make a *minyan* or *mezuman* (a *mezuman* is any group of 3 or more Jewish men 13 years old or older and so a *minyan* is also a kind of *mezuman*) for *birkat ha'mazon* if, while you are eating:

- You can see any other tables at which the other men are eating, or
- You had the same waiter as the other men, even if you could not see the rest of the group (such as in an L-shaped room).

Birkat HaMazon: Eating for Mezuman

Say *birkat ha'mazon* as a *mezuman* if:

- You don't have enough men for a *minyan* (see above), AND
- Two men wash, said *ha'motzi*, and ate bread, AND
- One or more other men ate any food other than water and salt.

NOTE If the three men's eating overlapped in time with each other, they MAY say *birkat ha'mazon* with a *mezuman*.
If the three men began eating at the same time, they MUST say *birkat ha'mazon* with a *mezuman*.

Birkat HaMazon: Eating for Minyan

You may say *birkat ha'mazon* with a *minyan* if:

- At least seven men washed, said *ha'motzi*, and ate bread, with
- Enough other men who ate some food (anything other than water or salt) to total 10 men.

NOTE If the 10 men's eating overlapped in time with each other, they MAY say *birkat ha'mazon* with a *minyan*.
If the 10 men began eating at the same time, they MUST say *birkat ha'mazon* with a *minyan*.

Birkat HaMazon: Women's Mezuman and Minyan

Women (even if 10 or more) do not make a *minyan*, only a *mezuman*. So do not say the *birkat ha'mazon's minyan* introduction but simply say the *mezuman* introduction if:

- 10 or more women ate together, without men present;
- At least two women washed, said *ha'motzi*, and ate bread; AND
- At least one more woman ate some type of food.

NOTE Women are never required to make a *mezuman*. So when three women are eating together and no men are present, they may say *birkat ha'mazon* as a *mezuman* but they are not required to do so.

Birkat HaMazon: Until When To Join Mezuman

You may join a *mezuman* by eating any food (except water and salt) up until the leader says "*rabotai nevareich*."

Birkat HaMazon: How To Join Mezuman and Continue Eating

To join a *mezuman* and continue eating:

1) Reply to "*rabotai nevareich*," etc.,
2) Say *amen* after the leader says the first paragraph's final blessing, and then
3) Finish eating and say *birkat ha'mazon* on your own.

Birkat HaMazon: How Many Men Needed for Baruch Hu U'Varuch Shemo

Say *baruch hu u'varuch shemo* before *birkat ha'mazon* even if only three men are present; you don't need a *minyan*.

NOTE Only the leader (*mezamein)* says this, not the other two men.

Birkat HaMazon: Standing Up to Honor God

Stand up a little to honor God when you say God's name in the introduction (*nevareich eloheinu*) if you ate with 10 men. This is a non-binding custom, not a *halacha*.

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