Purim: Commandments

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 (*mishlo'ach manot*) must be done on *Purim* day. The earliest time to send *mishlo'ach manot* is after hearing the morning *megila* reading (so that the commandment of giving gifts to friends is also covered by the blessing of *she'hecheyanu* over the *megila*).

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 *megila* on *Purim*, 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.

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