

KENESSETH ISRAEL BULLETIN

February 21, 2020



*From
the Rabbi*

“DO NOT GO AFTER THE MAJORITY TO DO EVIL.”(Shemos 23:2)

Rabbeinu Bachya says the meaning of the verse is to not follow the example of people who are engaged in wrong actions.

It is part of human nature for people to copy the behavior of others. When a person does something wrong it is easy to say that it is not so bad since everyone else is also doing it.

The Torah though is telling us every person is responsible for his choices and actions. Even if people are engaged in wrong doing I have an obligation to myself to make certain my behavior is what it should be regardless of everyone else.

It takes tremendous courage and strength to be different and not follow the way everyone is going. A person who realizes the most important objective in the world is to follow the will of the Almighty will not be impressed or pressured by the fact that others are doing something. He will weigh his behavior according to the Torah and its core values, as opposed to the standards of other people, regardless of how many they might be.

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כ"ו בשבט תש"פ - פרשת משפטים

- Rabbi Kalatsky will give his Hilchos Shabbos class at 8:35 AM
- Rabbi Goldberger will give a Parsha shiur Friday night in his home at 8:30 PM
- The Congregation extends condolences to Dr. David Bahn on the passing of his mother Dr. Adele Bahn A'H. David can be reached at 011 972 58 711 1929
- We are looking for volunteers to help with our amazing Purim event. If you are available to help with setup, decor, serving etc please reach out to Rivkah Russel of Tzipporah Leah Kalatsky.
- Winter Time Shabbat Learning: The next shiur will take place this week, Shabbat Parshat Mishpatim, Feb. 21 at 8:30PM at the Klein home, 2748 Quentin Ave, on the topic: "Property damage in the eyes of the Torah".
- Marshall Mintz is offering free rides to the airport for people flying to Israel. It does not need to be a direct flight as long as the final destination is Israel. He can be contacted at mmintz02@gmail.com 952-212-7805, 952-927-0081

*“If you believe breaking is possible believe fixing is possible.
Rabbi Nachman of Breslov”*

For this week when we are confronted with a situation of making the right choice and we think it will bring a line or a look from others let us stay strong to our core values, make the right choice and be the best Jew we can be!

Have a courageous Shabbos!

Rabbi Kalatsky

Dvar Halacha

By: Rabbi Dr. Avraham Klein

Why can't I damage someone's property?

This week's Parsha is full of laws regarding torts and compensation, including the ארבעה אבות נזיקין – the four “fathers of damage” (Exodus 21-22):

"וכי יפתח איש בור... וכי יגף שור... כי יבער איש שדה... כי תצא אש..." – “And if a man shall open a pit... And if one man's ox shall gore... If a man shall cause a field or vineyard to be eaten... If fire break out...”

In all the cases above, the Torah mandates payment to compensate for the damage, but at no point is there a clear prohibition on *causing* the damage. Is it actually permitted to cause damage and then pay for it? From many sources, the answer is clearly “no”. The Rambam writes that (Nizkei Mamon 5, 1) “it is forbidden to cause damage and pay for it, even to indirectly cause damage is forbidden.” Similarly the Tur (Choshen Mishpat 378) writes that “Just as it is forbidden to steal and rob property of one's fellow, so it is forbidden to damage his property.” The question is, why? There are a multitude of opinions on the subject. I will list some of them:

- 1) R. Moshe Mitrani (MABI”T, Kiriath Sefer Nizkei Mamon 5) writes that the prohibition on causing damage is only rabbinical (!)
- 2) R. Yonah (Avot 1, 1) writes that the prohibition stems from the prohibition on stealing. He writes that this is one of the things that are only known from the Oral law. The Tur (quoted above) also appears to hold that damaging is prohibited the same way stealing is.
- 3) R. Meir HaLevi (Yad Ramah Bava Batra 107) writes that the prohibition stems either from “Love your fellow like yourself” or “do not endanger your fellow's life” (Lev. 19, 16-18)
- 4) R. Yaakov Kanievsky (the Steipler, Kehilot Yaakov Bava Kama 1) writes that the prohibition is that of “you shall not ignore [your fellow's lost animal]”, which extends to preventing all damage to your fellow.
- 5) R. Boruch Ber Leibowitz (Birkat Shmuel Bava Kama 2) explains that the Torah states a person has liability for a bull that is known to be dangerous and he “did not pen it up”, from which we conclude that the negligence in not penning the animal up is prohibited.

Food For Thought: What do you think is the source? Can you think of a different one?

The answer to the previous FFT will be given separately.

Zmanim

February 21 - 28

	Friday erev Shabbos פרשת משפטים	Shabbos פרשת משפטים	Sunday	Monday - Thursday (Tues & Weds Rosh Chodesh)	Friday erev Shabbos פרשת תוומה
February	21	22	23	24 - 27	28
Shvat/Adar	26	27	28	29 - 2	3
Shachris	6:30 AM	8:45 AM	8:00 AM	6:30 AM	6:30 AM
Mincha	5:30 PM	5:15 PM	5:30 PM		5:45 PM
Candle lighting	5:31 PM				5:40 PM
Havdalah		6:41 PM			

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purim
 March 10, 2020
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Drawing will be at the KI Purim event
MARCH 10TH



Hamentashen
KIDS
in the
KITCHEN

Sunday, February 23, 2020
 10:30 - 11:30 am

SHAPE • TAKE • BAKE
 at Keneseth Israel
 4330 West 28th Street
 \$10 PER CHILD / FAMILY MAX \$25

RSVP to Tziporah Leah
 at office@kenesethisrael.org