

Giving Selflessly
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In this week's Parsha, Parshat Behar, Hashem tells B'nei Yisrael that if another Jew should become destitute, it is your responsibility to strengthen him. This means that if you are aware of someone in need of assistance, it is your responsibility to assist that individual. This can be difficult since everyone works very hard for their money. It is important to keep in mind that all Brachot stem from Hashem. If it is difficult to part with the hard earned finances one earns, it as if we are passing the gift along which Hashem has blessed us with. The following verse seems to be there to help us keep our greed in check by saying "do not take interest from him." This verse teaches us the reason behind our initial intention, which is to help the individual out of a difficult situation. When doing chessed, it is important to focus on what the individual desires and not to focus on how you can benefit from the situation.

Parsha Questions

- 1) Where did Hashem teach the laws of Shemitah? (Har Sinai)
- 2) How often does Shmitah occur? (Once every seven years)
- 3) During the seventh year of Shmitah can we farm or plant seeds?
(No)
- 4) Is it ok to harvest the plants that grow on their own during Shmitah? (No)

- 5) Can someone sell the food that grows on his field during Shmitah?
(No)
- 6) Can someone eat the food that grows on his field during Shmitah?
(Yes)
- 7) Why can you not throw out fruit that grows during Shmitah?
(Because it is considered to be special)
- 8) How do we know that the food that grew before Shmitah will last a long time? (Because Hashem promised)
- 9) If you see someone who needs help, what should you do? (Help them)
- 10) Are you allowed to charge interest to a fellow Jew? (No)