

מצוות
עשה
#154

 We learn this mitzvah from Parshas Mishpatim: (שמות כ"ב:)

וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי תִשָּׁבֵת

Today, we learn a very important *mitzvah* again: To rest on Shabbos! Hashem tells us clearly in the Torah that “on the seventh day you should rest.” This *mitzvah* means that we are not allowed to do any *melacha* on Shabbos — and that we can’t let our animals or our slaves do *melacha* either.

The *Chachomim* explain to us what “*melacha*” means — the 39 kinds of work that were used to build the *Mishkan*.

 The details of this mitzvah are explained in Mishnayos & Gemara: *Mesechta Shabbos* and *Mesechta Beitzah (Yom Tov)*

Rambam: Hilchos Shabbos

PEREK GIMMEL

The Rambam teaches us that we are allowed to begin a *melacha* before Shabbos and let it finish by itself on Shabbos. There are some exceptions to this when it comes to cooking or making a fire. The *Chachomim* were worried that a person might stir the fire to make food cook faster on Shabbos, which is a *melacha*! This is the reason why we have a *blech*, to cover the fire and remind the person not to make the fire higher on Shabbos. This way, we can let something continue cooking on Shabbos.

PEREK DALED

This *perek* discusses something called *hatmanah*, covering a pot to keep it hot on Shabbos. We are not allowed to wrap it fully in something that would add heat (like an electric blanket!) even before Shabbos. On Shabbos, we aren’t even allowed to wrap a pot with something that DOESN’T add heat, because of *gezeiros* the *Chachomim* made to keep us far away from doing *melacha* on Shabbos.

PEREK HEY

We learn about the *mitzvah* of lighting Shabbos candles! We learn when to light, what kind of wicks and oil we should use, and not using the light of the Shabbos candles so we don’t put it out.

Did you know that the Rambam says it’s a *halacha* to have a Shabbos alarm in a city? This way everyone knows when to stop working and when to light Shabbos candles.