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GOLDBERG
PARSHA NOTES

MISHPATIM 5783

IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO HASHEM

Shemos 21:1

וְאֵלֶּה הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים אֲשֶׁר תָּשִׂים לִפְנֵיהֶם:

These are the rules that you shall set before them:

What does this mean?

Rashi

Therefore Scripture says, **אשר תשים לפניהם**, “which thou shalt set before them” (cf. Genesis 34:23) — like a table fully laid before a person with everything ready for eating.

Chida

The Shulchan Aruch (‘set table’) sets out the halacha in a clear and concise way.

R. Yosef Karo merited to write it due to his humility.

Why does Hashem give these laws right away?

R. Yosef Sorotzkin

It is hard to not get caught up in the vicious cycle. It is too easy to behave badly if we have been treated badly.

Here, we are being taught to break the cycle. We need to treat our indentured servants properly, for example.

Shemos 21:18

וְכִי־יִרְיֹבֵן אֲנָשִׁים וְהִכָּה־אִישׁ אֶת־רֵעֵהוּ בְּאֶבֶן אֹו בְּאֶגְרֹף וְלֹא יָמוּת וְנָפַל לְמִשְׁכָּב:
אִם־יָקוּם וְהִתְהַלֵּךְ בְּחוּץ עַל־מִשְׁעָנָתוֹ וְנָקָה הַמַּכָּה רַק שְׂבָתוֹ יִתֵּן וְרָפָא יִרְפָּא: {ס}

When [two] parties quarrel and one strikes the other with stone or fist, and the victim does not die but has to take to bed: if that victim then gets up and walks outdoors upon a staff, the assailant shall go unpunished—except for paying for the idleness and the cure.

What can we learn from this?

Rashi

Hashem gives permission to heal.

Ramban

The negligence would be on Hashem.

Otzar Peleos HaTorah

We see in the gemara that Jews' involvement in the medical profession goes way back.

R. Avraham Schorr

One only needs Shabbos to be healed.

Shemos 22:20-21

וְגַר לֹא־תוֹנֶה וְלֹא תִלְחָצֶנּוּ כִּי־גֵרִים הֵיִיתֶם בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם:
כָּל־אֱלֻמָּנָה וַיְתוֹם לֹא תַעֲנוּן: אִם־עָנָה תַעֲנֶנּוּ אֹתוֹ כִּי אִם־צָעַק יִצְעַק אֵלַי שָׁמַע אֲשַׁמַּע צַעֲקָתוֹ:

You shall not wrong or oppress a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You [communal leaders] shall not ill-treat any widow or orphan. If you do mistreat them, I will heed their outcry as soon as they cry out to Me.

Why can we learn from this?

Rabbenu Bahye

Our experience as outsiders should impact us.

Ibn Ezra

We will be transported with miraculous speed to Yerushalayim.

Why is there double language?

R. Avraham Schorr

You are doubly hurting them, as they have no one to share their woes with.

Shemos 23:7

מִדְּבַר־שָׁקֶר תִּרְחֹק וְנָקִי וְצַדִּיק אֶל־תִּהְרֹג כִּי לֹא־אֶצְדִּיק רָשָׁע:

Keep far from a false charge; do not bring death on those who are innocent and in the right, for I will not acquit the wrongdoer.

What does it use this unusual language?

R. Yosef Sorotzkin

You need to stay far away from lies to get to the truth.

Shemos 19:16

וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי בִּהְיוֹת הַבֹּקֶר וַיְהִי קֹלֶת וּבָרָקִים וַעֲנָן כָּבֵד עַל־הָהָר וְקוֹל שֹׁפָר חֲזָק מְאֹד וַיִּחַרַד כָּל־הָעָם אֲשֶׁר בַּמַּחֲנֶה:

On the third day, as morning dawned, there was thunder, and lightning, and a dense cloud upon the mountain, and a very loud blast of the horn; and all the people who were in the camp trembled.

What were the sounds?

Otzar Peleos HaTorah

When the Baal Shem Tov taught, the sounds of Har Sinai could be heard.

How long did Har Sinai last for?

Rabbenu Bahye

It lasted for a year.

