



BE A MENTSCH

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Trust Hashem!

פְּרִשֶׁת בְּקָר

In this week's Parsha, פְּרִשֶׁת בְּקָר, we learn about the mitzvah of *Shmittah*. All the land in *Eretz Yisrael* was put to rest for one year. Nobody should plant or harvest during that year. Hashem promises that our harvest in the sixth year will produce enough food for the next three years. *Being A Mentsch* means that we trust 'ה to take good care of us since we rely on His help. We call this בְּטָחוֹן! Just like we have a *day* of rest called שְׁבֻתָּה, we have a *year* of rest called שְׁמִטָּה. Just like שְׁבֻתָּה there are many acts of work we don't do to bring a feeling of קְדוּשָׁה, so too with שְׁמִטָּה. This helps remind us that everything we have belongs to 'ה. We also have to trust 'ה that he will give us food even though we don't work the land in the שְׁמִטָּה year. Since this year is a שְׁמִטָּה year, we have an opportunity to observe this Mitzvah.

It also means that we don't have to do things that are wrong in order to get what we want, since we rely on Hashem to take care of all our needs. If we see that somebody else has something we want, we must not take it. Our wants will be taken care of by Hashem; sometimes we will get what we want honestly, and many times we will not be able to get what we want. We must have בְּטָחוֹן in Hashem, that we will be taken care of properly.

Also, we know that שְׁבֻת לְוִי was not given a share in the land of *Eretz Yisrael* together with all the other שְׁבֻתִּים. How come? They could have complained, "Why did Hashem give all the other שְׁבֻתִּים so much land and he didn't give us any." The Rambam asks this question and explains as follows. שְׁבֻת לְוִי has only two goals - serve Hashem and teach תּוֹרָה וּמִצְוֹת to the rest of Bnei Yisrael. They are Hashem's soldiers! So they only have 48 cities; they don't need anything else. They trust Hashem to survive so that they will be able to support themselves and their families. שְׁבֻת לְוִי must dedicate all the years of their lives, not just the שְׁמִטָּה year, to serve 'ה. However, even if we aren't from שְׁבֻת לְוִי, we can still choose to fulfill the Mitzvah of בְּטָחוֹן and act like the לְוִיִּם.

Have a Great Shabbos!