


מִצְוֹת
לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה
#61

 We learn this mitzvah from Parshas Kedoshim: (שמות כ"ז)
וְלֹא תִשָּׁבְעוּ בִשְׁמִי לַשָּׁקֶר

Today we started a new *sefer* and a new set of *halachos* in Rambam, about *Shevuos*, promises. Today's *mitzvah* is that we are not allowed to break a promise we made using Hashem's name — that's called a *Shevuas Bitui* or *Shevuas Sheker*.

 The details of this mitzvah are explained in Mishnayos & Gemara:
Mesechta Shevuos perek Gimmel

Rambam: Hilchos Shevuos

In today's Rambam, we learn about the four different kinds of promises (*Shevuos*) that a person might make and get punished for. Here are two of them:

1) *Shvuas Bitui* — A *Shvuas Bitui* is a false promise. One way a person makes a *Shvuas Bitui* is by promising not to do something he already did. Another way is if he promises not to do something, and then does it; or if he promises that he WILL do something and then he doesn't.

2) *Shvuas Shav* — A *Shvuas Shav* is a meaningless promise. One type of *Shvuas Shav* is if someone makes a promise about something that everyone knows is not true (like if he

promises that a tree is made of gold). Another kind of *Shvuas Shav* is a promise that everyone knows is true (like a promise that the sky is the sky).

It is also a *Shvuas Shav* to make a promise we can't keep. For example, a promise not to do a *mitzvah* (we can't make a promise like that!); or a promise that it's impossible to keep (like saying we won't sleep for 3 days).

We also learn what counts as a promise. One *halacha* is that if a person makes a mistake and says a promise, they are allowed to change their mind if they do it right away, and then it's not counted as an *aveira*.