


מִצְוֹת  
עֲשֵׂה  
#194

 We learn this mitzvah from Parshas Vayikra: (ויקרא ה:כג)

וְהָשִׁיב אֶת הַגְּזֻלָּה  
אֲשֶׁר גָּזַל וְגוֹ'

Today's *mitzvah* is that a thief needs to give back whatever he stole, together with an extra *chomeish* (fifth)! (If the thing he stole changed, he needs to pay what it was worth to the person he stole it from.)

Because of this *mitzvah*, the *aveira* of stealing is called a “*Lav Shenitak L’Asei*”, meaning that the *Mitzvas Lo Saasei* can be “fixed up” by doing a *Mitzvas Asei* — in this case, the *Lo Saasei* of stealing can be fixed up by giving back what was stolen plus an extra fifth.

 The details of this mitzvah are explained in Mishnayos & Gemara:  
Last *perakim* of Mesechta Bava Kama

## Rambam: Hilchos Gezeilah VaAveidah

### PEREK YUD-GIMMEL

This *perek* teaches us about how we find the owner of something we found. Outside of Yerushalayim there used to be a big rock that people would stand on and announce what they found!

There's a *halacha* that in a certain case, if we find something and can't find out who it belongs to, we should watch it until Eliyahu *Hanavi* comes with *Moshiach*, and he will tell us what to do with it!

### PEREK YUD-DALED

The Rambam tells us that while we're waiting to give something back, we need to take care of it so it doesn't get ruined. For example, if we find something made of wood, we should make sure to use it so it doesn't get rotten.

### PEREK TES-VOV

This *perek* teaches us about when we DON'T need to give something back — if the owner gave hope that he will ever find it again (*yiush*). For example, if someone loses something in the sea, or in the sand on the beach, they don't really expect to ever find it again.