

מצות
עשה
#180

 We learn this mitzvah from Parshas Shoftim: (דברים יט:ט)

וַעֲשִׂיתֶם לוֹ כַּאֲשֶׁר זָמַם לַעֲשׂוֹת לְאָחִיו

Today's *mitzvah* is that if the *Beis Din* has two witnesses to prove that the first witnesses were lying, they are called *Eidim Zomemim*. The *Beis Din* gives them the same punishment that they were trying to make the person get!

Reuven and Shimon came to Beis Din and said they saw Moshe doing an aveira on Tuesday, so he deserves malkos. But before Moshe gets malkos, two new eidim came and said that Reuven and Shimon were lying! They couldn't have seen Moshe do an aveira on Tuesday, because they were together out of town on Tuesday! Now the Beis Din gives malkos to Reuven and Shimon, since that was what they were trying to make Moshe get.

 The details of this mitzvah are explained in Mishnayos & Gemara:
Mesechta Makos

Rambam: Hilchos Eidus

PEREK CHOF

In this *perek* we learn more details about today's *mitzvah*. The *Beis Din* only punishes lying witnesses if BOTH of the witnesses are proven to be lying, and only after the *Beis Din* already issued their *psak*. But even if they aren't punished, since we know they are liars, we don't trust them as witnesses in *Beis Din* anymore!

PEREK CHOF-ALEF

This *perek* teaches us specific examples about when *Eidim Zomemim*, witnesses that we proved to be lying, have to pay money to the person they were lying about:

If *Eidim Zomemim* lied and said that Reuven had to pay back \$500 last week, and Reuven says he only has to pay it back next year, the *Eidim Zomemim* owe Reuven money! They pay him however much it is worth to be able to use \$500 for a year.

PEREK CHOF-BEIS

What do we do if two groups of witnesses each say something different? We know one group is lying, but don't know which one!

Let's say that two groups of people come to be eidim, one from Chevron and one from Yerushalayim — but they say different things. One must be lying! If one person from each group later come to be eidim about something else, we don't believe them! That's because one of them must be a liar, so we really don't have two witnesses.