

מִצְוַת
לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה
#320

 We learn this mitzvah from Parshas Yisro: (שמות כ"ז)

לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה כָּל מְלָאכָה

Today's *mitzvah* is the same as yesterday's. We are not allowed to do any of the kinds of work called *melacha* on Shabbos.

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

Melacha

Some people think that *melacha* means doing work. But if you think about many of the *Lamed-Tes Melachos*, you will realize that they're not such hard work! Is it work to flip a light switch? Is it work to keep a pack of tissues in your pocket, or chew gum while you're outside? Is it easier to drive to *shul* or walk to *shul*?

Really, the *Chachomim* teach us that *melacha* means not CHANGING something. When we rest on Shabbos, we are leaving Hashem's world the way He made it, and not changing it.

When you flip a light switch, you are building a circuit for the light to go on, and making a new light. When you carry the tissues in your pocket or gum in your mouth, you are bringing them into a different kind of place — from a *Reshus Hayochid* to a *Reshus Horabim*. When you drive to *shul*, you are making the gas burn in the car to bring you to a new place.

During the week it is our job to change all of the things Hashem made into things so we can use them in our *Avodas Hashem*. But on Shabbos, we rest and only serve Hashem the way things are right now!

Rambam: Hilchos Shabbos

PERAKIM TES, YUD, AND YUD-ALEF

In today's Rambam, we learn many of the *Lamed-Tes Melachos* that we started in the last *perek* of yesterday's Rambam! We learn about not cooking, or even putting something near a warm place so it will cook too. We learn about

not writing, or cutting nails, or tying knots, and many more of the *melachos* and their details!

We will finish learning the rest of the *Lamed-Tes Melachos* in the first *perek* of tomorrow's Rambam.