

מצות
עשה
#171

 We learn this mitzvah from Parshas Ki Sisa: (שמות יב:ב)

וְנָתַנוּ אִישׁ
כֶּפֶר נַפְשׁוֹ לֵה'

We again learn the *mitzvah* of giving a half *Shekel* (*Machatzis Hashekel*) every year to the *Beis Hamikdash*. We will IY”H get to do this *mitzvah* again when *Moshiach* comes!



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

Machatzis Hashekel

Nowadays, even though we don't have a Beis Hamikdash yet, we still give a Machatzis Hashekel to remember the one we hope to be giving soon!

We give it on Taanis Esther, right before Purim, because the Machatzis Hashekel is connected to Purim! The Medrash says that the Machatzis Hashekel the Yidden would give cancelled out the shekalim that Haman gave to Achashveirosh to bribe him to make the gezeira.

The Rebbe explains an important lesson about *Ahavas Yisroel*, that we can learn from the *mitzvah* of *Machatzis Hashekel*:

Every Yid only gave a half, which reminds us that on our own, we are incomplete. We are only whole if we are *b'achdus* with another Yid!

When we know that all Yidden are one big unit, and that we are complete only when we are together with another Yid, it will make us so excited every time we see another Jew!

We will know — this person is who makes me whole! We will treat him with tremendous *Ahavas Yisroel*, because he is truly part of us.

See sichas Parshas Vayakhel, 5752

מצות
עשה

#153

 We learn this mitzvah from Parshas Bo: (שמות יב:ב)

הַחֹדֶשׁ הַזֶּה לָכֶם רֵאשׁ חֳדָשִׁים

The *Beis Din* needs to make a calendar, and decide the right time for each month to start.



The details of this mitzvah are explained in Mishnayos & Gemara:
Mesechta Sanhedrin perek Alef, Mesechta Rosh Hashana and Brachos

Rambam: Hilchos Shekalim, Hilchos Kiddush Hachodesh

PEREK DALED

Today we finish learning the *halachos* about things the money can be used to pay for.
the *Machatzis Hashekel*, about what kind of

PERAKIM ALEF AND BEIS

Now we start to learn the *halachos* of *Kiddush Hachodesh*. We learn how the *Beis Din* decides when the new month starts. Because a month can be 29 days or 30 days, depending on if we see the new moon. If someone sees the moon, they come tell the *Beis Din*! The *Beis Din* asks them lots of questions to make sure that they are telling the truth.

How do they know?

There are ways to figure out how the moon should look at different times of the year.

The *Beis Din* knows which part of the sky the moon should be in, and which way it should be pointing. They know how wide the moon should be, and when you should be able to see it.

After we learn about the witnesses in the next few *perakim*, we will be learning about how the *Beis Din* figures all of these things out! This way they will be able to be sure that the *eidim* are telling the truth.