



Table Talk Parshat Bechukotai

This week's Parsha frames what happens when the Jewish people follow Hashem's commands and when they do not... below is a discussion about both.

ויקרא כ"ו:ג'	Leviticus 26:3
אם-בְּחֻקֹּתַי תֵּלְכוּ וְאֶת-מִצְוֹתַי תִּשְׁמְרוּ וְעִשִּׂיתֶם אֹתָם:	If you follow My laws and faithfully observe My commandments...

רש"י על ויקרא כ"ו:ג' ב'	Rashi on Leviticus 26:3:2
ואת מצותי תשמרו. הווי עמלים בתורה על מנת לשמר ולקיים, כמו שנאמר "ולמדתם אתם ושמרתם לעשותם" (דברים ה')	AND TAKE HEED OF MY COMMANDMENTS — Study the Torah laboriously with the intention to take heed and to fulfil its teachings, as it is said, (Deuteronomy 5:1) "and ye shall learn them and take heed to do them".

אבן עזרא על ויקרא כ"ו:ג' א'	Ibn Ezra on Leviticus 26:3:1
אם בחקתי. תשמרו ועשיתם. מצוה ללמוד וללמד ולעשו:	If you follow My laws ... observe, and practice ... We are required to <i>study</i> and to <i>teach</i> as well as to <i>do</i> .

Let's Talk!

Why is it important to learn about the mitzvot and not just do them?
Who should we teach about the mitzvot? Who taught you about them?
Why is Torah study so central to Judaism?

ויקרא כ"ו:י"ד	Leviticus 26:14
ואם-לֹא תִשְׁמְעוּ לִי וְלֹא תַעֲשׂוּ אֶת כָּל-הַמִּצְוֹת הָאֵלֶּה:	But if you do not obey Me and do not observe all these commandments...

"The choice – God is saying – is in your hands. You are free to do what you choose. But actions have consequences. You cannot overeat and take no exercise, and at the same time stay healthy. You cannot act selfishly and win the respect of other people. You cannot allow injustices to prevail and sustain a cohesive society. You cannot let rulers use power for their own ends without destroying the basis of a free and gracious social order. There is nothing mystical about these ideas. They are eminently intelligible. But they are also, and inescapably, moral. I brought you from slavery to freedom – says God – and I empower you to be free. But I cannot and will not abandon you. I will not intervene in your choices, but I will instruct you on what choices you ought to make. I will teach you the constitution of liberty."

-The Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Let's Talk!

Why does Hashem give us the choice to keep the mitzvot, and does not intervene in our decisions?
What are the challenges of being free people?
How do our choices impact our lives?
How does injustice get in the way of a healthy society?



check out our school podcast! <https://www.hartorah.org/YHTPOV/>