

Beit Rabban Parashah Page

Parashat Ki Tavo
Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8

פרשת כי תבוא
דברים כו:א-כט:ח

Parashat Ki Tavo begins with two mitzvot—bikkurim (first fruits) and ma'aser (tithes)—where the person doing the action must also make a declaration that they are performing this mitzvah. Commands about speech are very rare—most of the mitzvot from the Torah concern actions we are supposed to do or not supposed to do. We are rarely told that we must declare something aloud.

After the description of these two mitzvot, we read that Bnei Yisrael declare that HaShem is their God (Deut. 26:17):

Today, you have declared Adonai to be your God, and to walk in God's ways, and to keep God's statutes, commandments, and judgments, and to listen to God's voice.	אֶת-ה' הִאֲמַרְתָּ, הַיּוֹם: לַהֲיוֹת לְךָ לֵאלֹהִים וּלְלַכֵּת בְּדַרְכָּיו, וּלְשָׁמֵר חֻקָּיו וּמִצְוֹתָיו וּמִשְׁפָּטָיו--וּלְשָׁמֵעַ בְּקוֹלוֹ.
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What can we learn from this emphasis on speech and making declarations? What are some mitzvot in your life where what you say and what you do are connected very closely? How do you think speaking aloud about your connection to HaShem might affect how you feel about the mitzvah you are doing?

What about other areas of your life? How do words and actions connect with each other? How do you feel when your words and actions don't match?

As we begin to get ready for the upcoming holidays, why might it be helpful to think about the connection between our words, our actions, and our relationships to each other and to HaShem?