

**Parshat Ki Teitzei**  
**Rabbi Eryn London**  
*Class of 2017*

This week's Parsha, *Parshat Ki Teitzei*, lists many *mitzvot*. While reading the Parsha, it seems as if every couple of verses we learn about a new law that is not at all connected to the law listed previously. One commonality among these *mitzvot* is many fall into the category of laws pertaining between people. We read about laws of marriage; laws requiring people to return lost objects; laws about deal fairly in business; and laws about caring for the poor.

I can feel Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur approaching. Already next week, we will be gathering together on Saturday night to start saying *slichot*, liturgy of confession and praying for atonement for our sins of the past year.

Maimonides teaches in his work on the laws of repentance:

*Teshuvah* (repentance) and Yom Kippur only atone for sins between a person and God; for example, a person who ate a forbidden food or engaged in forbidden sexual relations, and the like. However, sins between two people, for example, someone who injures a colleague, curses a colleague, steals from them, or the like will not be forgiven until they are given what is owed to them and is appeased (*Mishna Torah, Hilchot Teshuva* 2:9). It is not good enough to just say the prayers when one treats another person poorly, one must go out of their way to right their wrong.

*Ki Teitzei* contains 74 different commandments. It contains more *mitzvot* than any other Torah portion read throughout the year, with many pertaining to how we are supposed to be interacting with one another. With only three weeks before Rosh Hashana, we should take the reminder from the Parsha and look at how we acted in our interpersonal lives. How did we treat those that we love and are close with? How did we treat our enemies? Did I make sure that my employees were paid on time and their due wages? Did I embarrass anyone?

In the coming weeks we can take this time for both action and reflection. As we start preparing to delve into the time period of repentance and atonement, we must also take the difficult step towards asking for forgiveness and righting any wrongs that we might have done towards other people in this past year. In addition, it can be a time to reflect on how we might improve in our interpersonal relationships in the upcoming year.



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