

Ki Teitzei

The previous *parshiot*, have lots of *mitzvot*. This *parsha* has a lot more- Seventy-four more, to be exact. Let's get started!

Returning lost objects: When we find something that somebody has lost, if there's any way we can figure out who it belongs to, we must return it to the owner. This is big *mitzvah*.

Burying the dead: Another biggie: Respecting the body of a dead person and burying it as soon as possible.

Protecting the mom: Before we take eggs or baby birds from a nest, we must send away the mother bird, so she shouldn't see and be sad. We learn from this to be compassionate to all creatures.



Fencing: Anyone who builds a new house has to make a fence for the roof, so nobody should fall and get hurt. This teaches us that we have to always take precautions to make sure that there are no dangers that might trip up others.

No mixing: We must be careful not to create *kilayim*, which is a mixture of two different things. For example, we can't plant two types of plants too close to each other where they might cross-pollinate. Same with animals: we can't yoke together two different animals; for example, an ox and a donkey. Similar to this is the idea of

shaatnez: we may not wear wool and linen mixed together.



Tzitzit: Anytime we wear something that has four corners, we have to attach strings, called *tzitzit*, at the corners. In order to do this *mitzvah* at all times, we wear a special garment with four corners with the strings attached. That garment is called *tzitzit* as well.

Eating on the job: When you have someone working for you in the field, picking fruit or vegetables, you must let him eat whatever he

wants. He can't just take whatever he wants home with him, but eating on the job is his right.

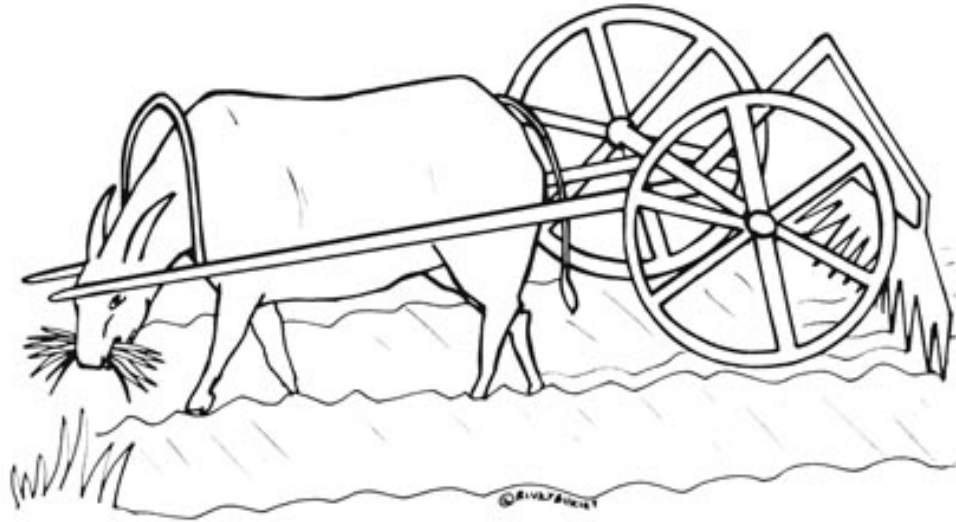
A lesson from *Miriam*: If someone says something not nice about another Jew, the consequence he receives is *tzaraat*. We learned about this a while back in *parshot Tazria* and *Metzora*. The Jews are reminded of this here, and *Miriam* is held up as an example that all the Jews saw. Because she spoke ill of *Moshe*, she got *tzaraat*.

The final *mitzvah* in this *parsha* is to remember Amalek, the evil nation who attacked the Jews after they left Egypt, and work to erase its memory.

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Before taking baby birds, we must send away the mother bird.



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When an ox works in a field, he is not allowed to be muzzled; rather, he can eat whatever he wants.