



הלכה of the Week

~ קדושת בית-הכנסת (2) ~

~ The Holiness of the Synagogue (2) ~

One is forbidden to enter a בית-כנסת in order to escape the heat, cold or rain. If one has to speak with a friend who is in a בית-כנסת, he should enter the synagogue, recite a פסוק from the תורה or a passage from any of the holy writings, and then speak with his friend. If he does not know how to recite any פסוק he should at least sit down for a moment, because just sitting in a בית-כנסת is a מצוה.

One may not walk through a בית-כנסת as a shortcut; that is, one may not walk through a synagogue because it is quicker than walking around it.

It is a מצוה for one who entered a בית-כנסת to pray or study Torah to leave through another door in order to show that he cherishes the place (considers it to be special). (ראה: ש"ע ס' קנ"א סעיף ה' ומ"ב שם)

How do you understand this?

פירקי אבות of the Week

פרק ב

י"ח רבי שמעון אומר, יהי זהיר בקריאת שמע (ובתפלה). וכשאתה מתפלל, אל תעש תפלתך קבע, אלא רחמים ותחנונים לפני המקום ברוך הוא, שנאמר (יואל ב) כי חנון ורחום הוא ארך אפים ורב חסד ונחם על הרעה. ואל תהי רשע בפני עצמך:

Rabbi Shimon taught,

(a) Be very careful about when to recite Shema and Shemoneh Esrei;

(b) When you pray, do not pray out of habit, but beg for kindness and mercy from Hashem, as the נביא (the prophet Yoel, 2,13) teaches:

"He is merciful and kind, slow to anger, full of love and forgiving of evil."

(c) Do not judge yourself to be a bad person.

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