

מִלְכָה of the Week

~ שְׁמִירַת הַלְּשׁוֹן ~

Private Information

If someone tells you private information about his business or any private matter you are forbidden to pass on that information to others. Your doing so could cause the person who confided in you (told you private information) financial loss (loss of money), embarrassment or other damage.

You are not allowed to repeat what you were told even if the speaker did not request that the matter remain secret.

However, if that person related information about himself in the presence of three or more people and did not request secrecy then those people may repeat the information to others. Since the speaker related it to a group of three or more people we can assume that he does not mind the information being known.

The best advice is that **it is a good habit never to repeat what people tell you, unless they explicitly (openly, clearly) give you permission to do so.** In this way you will avoid relating information that may cause harm.

פָּרָקִי אֲבוֹת of the Week

פרק ו
 א רַבִּי מֵאִיר אֹמֵר כִּל הַעֲסֵק בַּתּוֹרָה לְשָׁמָה, זֹכָה לְדִבָּרִים תְּרַבָּת. וְלֹא
 עַזְדָּא אַלְא שְׁבַל הַעוֹלָם כִּלּוּ כִּדְאי הַזָּא לוּ.

Rabbi Meir said:

Whoever engages in Torah study for its own sake merits many things; furthermore, the creation of the whole world was worthwhile for his sake alone [just so that he should study Torah].

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