

SICHA POEM

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



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Chof Av

— By Rabbi Mottel Friedman, Coral Springs, FL

There was a time when the Bais Hamikdash was short on wood
And several families came forward and said that they would
Offer their own wood – a mitzvah that was great
And there were specific dates when each family would donate

The day they donated would be a chag – a private family holiday
One of those days was 20 Av, the Gemara Taanis does say
If the donating day came out to be on a Shabbos they would surely
Push it off to Sunday but not do it on Friday early

Rashi in the Gemara tells us why they delay
They can't donate on Friday because it's not yet their day
Their turn starts on Shabbos so the first chance that they could
Give their gift is Sunday so that's when they bring their wood

But in his commentary to the Rif, Rashi says a new explanation
It's still the previous family's time to fulfill their obligation
If the family whose day is Shabbos comes early to the game
They would be infringing on the first family's time frame.

The Rebbe says these two explanations seem to say opposite things:
According to the first there's no way to move up their wood offerings
But according to the second if the other family says it's ok
Then family two can bring their wood on family one's last day

The Rebbe explains that the obligation to bring wood is a vow they took
 And when we decide the legal boundaries of any vow we take a look
 At what the people had in mind when the vow was made
 And they wished the vow to include, what promise it conveyed

In our scenario, when a family vowed to bring the wood offering
 They knew that their day falling out on Shabbos could be a common thing
 And they knew the first family would want all their time so their vow also meant to say
 That if the day fell on Shabbos their obligation would be pushed off to Sunday.

So Rashi's two explanations work together quite well and jive
 When he says that on Friday the time for the offering had not yet arrived
 He is referring to the fact that implicit in the vow was the condition that if their day fell
 On Shabbos, they would wait 'till Sunday and then all would be well

This all applies to a situation where one family's vow
 invades the time of another family's and conflicts with it somehow
 In such a case you would delay what you promised to do
 So the other family's not upset or feel cheated by you

But if for example a yahrzeit falls on Shabbos and you vowed
 To give Tzedakah on each yahrtzeit you're certainly allowed
 To advance your charitable giving in honor of the yahrzeit to Friday
 For to fulfill a mitzvah there is no reason to delay!
