

Kiddushin Daf 34

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Exceptions to the Rule

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The *Mishna* had stated: Any positive *mitzvah* that time causes, men are obligated, but women are exempt. However, any positive *mitzvah* that time does not cause, men and women are obligated.

The *Gemora* cites a *braisa*: What are positive *mitzvos* that are caused by time? They are: *sukkah*, *lulav*, *shofar*, *tzitzis* and *tefillin*. What are positive *mitzvos* that are not caused by time? They are: *mezuzah*, *maakeh* (*building a fence on a roof*), returning a lost object and sending away a mother bird before taking the chicks or the eggs.

The *Gemora* asks: Is it a rule that women are always exempt from *mitzvos* that time causes? We see that women are obligated to rejoice on Yom Tov and to go to *hakhel* (*gathering on Sukkos after every shemitah*)! Additionally, we see that women are exempt from learning Torah (*though they must learn how to keep the laws*), procreation, and redeeming a first born child, though these *mitzvos* are not caused by time!?

Rabbi Yochanan says: We cannot derive something is always true based on a stated rule, even if the stated rule gives exceptions (*meaning that there could always be other exceptions as well*). This is apparent from the *Mishna* that states that one can use any type of food or drink for an *eiruvei chatzeiros* or *shitufei mevo'os* (*ways to be permitted to carry on Shabbos in certain areas that would otherwise be prohibited to carry in*), besides water and salt. Is this all? Isn't it true that various types of mushrooms may also not be used? Rather we see that one should not assume rules stated are without further exceptions, even when exceptions to the rule are explicitly stated. (33b - 34a)

The Source That They Are Exempt

The *Gemora* asks: What is the source of the rule that women are exempt from *mitzvos* that are caused by time?

The *Gemora* answers: We derive this from *tefillin*. Just as *tefillin* is a *mitzvah* that women are exempt from and it is caused by time (*for there is no mitzvah to wear tefillin by night and on Shabbos and Yom Tov*), so too, women are exempt from all *mitzvos* that are caused by time. The fact that women are exempt from *tefillin* is derived from the fact that they are exempt from studying Torah. Just as women are exempt from putting on *tefillin*.

The *Gemora* asks: Why don't we compare *tefillin* to *mezuzah* (*which women must perform*)?

The *Gemora* answers: *Tefillin* and Torah study are mentioned together both in the first and second portion of *Shema*. *Tefillin* and *mezuzah* are only mentioned together in the first part, not the second (*where tefillin is mentioned before studying Torah, and only then mezuzah is mentioned*).

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The *Gemora* asks: Why don't we compare *mezuzah* to the study of Torah and say that women are exempt from *mezuzah*?

The *Gemora* answers: It is not sensible, as the verse reads, "In order to lengthen your days." Do men need life, but women do not?! [Obviously, it applies to women as well.]

The Gemora asks: Sukkah is a mitzvah with a set time, as the verse states, "You should sit in a sukkah for seven days." However, we only know women are exempt because the verse states, "The citizen," implying women are exempt. This teaching implies that without this verse, we would think they are obligated! [Why would we think they are obligated if it is a mitzvah caused by time?]

Abaye answers: We would think they are obligated because the verse states, "*In sukkos they should live.*" This implies just as he would normally live, together with his wife. [*This is why the verse was necessary.*]

Rava answers: We would think that we would derive from *Pesach* that just as women are obligated to eat *matzah* on the first night of *Pesach*, so too, they are obligated to eat in a *sukkah* (*at least on the first night*). This is why the verse was necessary.

The *Gemora* asks: The *mitzvah* to go to the Beis Hamikdash on the three festivals is a *mitzvah* caused by time, yet we require the verse of "*your males*," to exclude females. Why do we require this verse?

The *Gemora* answers: We would think that we should derive this *mitzvah* from *hakhel*, which women are obligated to go to.

The *Gemora* asks: Instead of deriving from *tefillin* that they are exempt, we should derive from the *mitzvah* of rejoicing on *Yom Tov* that they are obligated (*in mitzvos that are caused by time*)!

Abaye answers: The woman's obligation of rejoicing is that her husband should make her happy (*it is not really her obligation*).

The Gemora asks: What about a widow?

The *Gemora* answers: Whomever she resides with should make her happy.

The *Gemora* asks: Why don't we derive that she is obligated (*in all mitzvos caused by time*) from *hakhel*?

The *Gemora* answers: Matzah and *hakhel* are two verses that are both stating a message, indicating to us that we should not teach that message to other *mitzvos*.

The *Gemora* asks: Why don't we similarly state that *tefillin* and the *mitzvah* to go to the Beis Hamikdash on the festivals cannot be derived from to teach that women are exempt *mitzvos* caused by time?

The *Gemora* answers: The Torah needed to say that women are exempt by both of these *mitzvos*. If it would only teach that they are exempt from *tefillin*, we would think that we should derive that they are obligated to go to the Beis Hamikdash on the festivals as they are obligated to attend *hakhel*! This is why the verse regarding this topic was necessary. If it would not teach us that they are exempt from *tefillin*, we would think that we should derive they are obligated from *mezuzah*. This is why the teaching is necessary by *tefillin* as well. [*If the verses are necessary, we cannot say that they were written in order to tell us not to derive from here.*]

The *Gemora* asks: We similarly need both verses regarding *matzah* and *hakhel*! If the Torah would say that women are obligated in *hakhel* but not *matzah*, we would think that we should derive they are exempt from *matzah* just as they are exempt from *sukkah*! However, why



didn't the Torah say the obligation of *matzah*, and from there let us derive that they are obligated in *hakhel*? I would think that if children are obligated to be brought to *hakhel*, women are certainly obligated in *hakhel*! This teaches us that the Torah's statement that women are obligated in (*matzah and*) *hakhel* shows that we should not derive that they are obligated in other *mitzvos* caused by time.

The *Gemora* asks: This is understandable according to those opinions that hold that we do not derive from two *mitzvos* where the same rule is stated. However, according to the opinions that we do derive from such a source, why don't we derive that women are obligated in *mitzvos* that are caused by time? Additionally, how do we know that they are obligated in *mitzvos* that are not caused by time?

The *Gemora* answers: We derive this from fearing one's parents (*which she is obligated to do*). Just as she is obligated to fear her parents, so too, she is obligated to perform all *mitzvos* that are not caused by time.

The *Gemora* asks: Why don't we derive that she is exempt from these *mitzvos*, just as she is exempt from Torah study?

The *Gemora* answers: This is because Torah study and procreation are two *mitzvos* where the same rule is stated, and we therefore do not derive this rule applies to other *mitzvos*. (34a – 34b)

partners, and one of them emancipated him), he works for his master one day and for himself one day; these are the words of Beis Hillel. Beis Shamai, however, says: You have created a solution for the master (for he does not lose out through this division), but you have not solved anything for the slave. He may not marry a slavewoman, for he is half-free. He cannot marry a free woman for he is halfslave. If you will say that such a person should refrain from marrying, that cannot be, for the world was created for the purpose of propagation, as it is written: He did not create it to be desolate; He formed it to be inhabited. Rather, to benefit the public (this slave), we force his master to make him a free man, and the slave writes a document for his value. Beis Hillel later retracted and ruled in accordance with Beis Shamai.

The commentators ask: How can we force the master to free the slave? Isn't there a prohibition against emancipating a slave?

The Kli Chemdah answers this question based upon the Avudraham, who says that a woman is exempt from *mitzvos* which have a time element to them, because she is pledged to her husband at these times. So too, it can be said with respect to a half-slave half-free man. Since he is partially a free man, he is obligated to observe all the *mitzvos*. Therefore, at the times where he is responsible to serve his master, he cannot do so completely, for he is obligated in *mitzvos*. Consequently, the master will anyway not be able to fulfill the *mitzvah* of working the slave forever; therefore, there is no prohibition against freeing him.

INSIGHTS TO THE DAF

Freeing a Partial Slave

The *Mishna* in *Gittin* (41a) had stated: Someone who is half-slave and half-free man (*he was owned by two*