



Project: Sermon Resource for Shluchim  
 Distribution Date: August 21, 2007 / ז' אלול תשס"ז  
 Parsha: Ki Teitzei / כי תצא

בי"ה

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1. The minimum wage debate:
  - Raise it and help poor workers support their families.
  - Don't raise it for that will diminish businesses' profits.



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2. What does Torah say?  
 "When you enter your friend's vineyard and eat his grapes to your heart's content you shall not gather them into your basket."

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3. Does Torah allow stealing from a vineyard?  
 Rashi: This only applies to employees.  
 You cannot forbid a worker to taste the product he's working on.



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4. Torah's message for the employee,  
 "Don't gather them into your basket."  
 You can only eat at work; you can't take a doggy bag.



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5. Even eating at work has a limit:  
 Mishna: "We don't want to teach  
 workers to be pigs."  
 If you're a pig nobody's going to hire  
 you.



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6. Perhaps the lesson is to keep  
 minimum wage down:  
 If minimum wage goes up the number  
 of jobs will go down.  
 Hundreds of people will be left  
 without jobs.

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7. This advice applies everywhere.  
 Story: "Rebbe, *zeit nit kein chaser.*"  
 See, it applies to mitzvos too.



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8. Don't be so religious about mitzvos  
 that involve physical pleasure!



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9. Gluttonous Kohanim:  
 In the Temple only the gluttonous  
 would take from the Show Bread and  
 insist on getting their share of  
*mantas kehuna*.



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10. The lesson:  
 Serving G-d in His world, we may enjoy  
 ourselves- though we must not overdo  
 it.  
 We must work hard to become His  
 partners in creation.

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