The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
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סימן ר"נ סעיף א'

Overview

Siman 250 Seif 1 (a):

One should rise early on Friday to prepare one's Shabbos needs.

- Chazal teach that one should prepare for Shabbos first thing in the morning, meaning after shema and shemone esrei. If one regularly studies Torah after davening or if he studies with others he should not skip that study session. If merchandise is sold in the morning and items will not be available after one finishes studying he should schedule his studies for after shopping. If the stores are open before davening and items will not be available after davening one should shop first and then daven but he should first recite shema since the time already arrived. (M.B. 1)
- It is better to shop on Friday than Thursday since it is more evident that one is shopping for Shabbos unless it is an item that requires extensive preparation that should be purchased on Thursday. It is logical that on short days the more one could prepare on Thursday the better. It is appropriate for one to declare that his purchase is to honor Shabbos since speech has a strong effect on sacred matters. Although one prepared for Shabbos in the morning it is appropriate to also prepare in the afternoon. (M.B. 2)
- Shammai would designate a nice item for Shabbos and if a nicer item would become available he would eat the first item and designate the second item. Hillel would eat the first item and have trust that Hashem will provide another one for Shabbos. Many Poskim agree that Hillel would admit that Shammai's approach is preferred and his approach was due to the fact that he wanted to strengthen his trust in Hashem. It is obvious that for items that are not readily available one should hold onto it for Shabbos. (M.B. 2)
- There is a mitzvah to taste food on erev Shabbos to make sure that it is tasty and Sefer Shulchan Shlomo asserts that tasting each food on Shabbos is a mitzvah and the practice is alluded to by the words טועמיה חיים זכו. (M.B. 2)

Halacha Highlight

Preparing for Shabbos before Friday

Shulchan Aruch Siman 250 Seif 1 (a)

ישכים בבקר ביום ששי

One should rise in the morning on Friday

Shulchan Aruch writes that one should rise early in the morning on Friday to prepare for Shabbos. Mishnah Berurah (סק"א) derives this obligation from the pasuk (Shemos 16:5) that equates preparing for Shabbos with the gathering of the manna. Just as the manna was gathered first thing in the morning, so too preparations for Shabbos should be done first thing in the morning. Mishnah Berurah (סק"ב) further explains that shopping for Shabbos on Friday rather than on Thursday is a greater display of honor to Shabbos since it is more evident that one is shopping to honor Shabbos. However, those items that require extensive preparation should be purchased on Thursday so that one has sufficient time to prepare that food.

Aruch HaShulchan (סע' ב') writes that even if shopping on Friday will entail greater exertion, it is nevertheless a mitzvah to shop on Friday. Similarly, when baking challah for Shabbos Biur Halacha (סי' רמ"ב סע' א' ד"ה והוא) writes that one should bake specifically on Friday since it is thereby evident that one is baking for Shabbos. For this reason, Rav Nissim Karelitz (חוט השני ח"א פ"ד סק"א) writes that those who bake or cook large quantities at a time and then freeze it for the coming weeks do not fulfill the mitzvah of preparing on erev Shabbos. Certainly, those people who purchase food for Shabbos do not fulfill this obligation since there is a mitzvah for one to personally prepare for Shabbos. He concludes, however, that "a wise person has eyes in his head" and each circumstance has to be weighed individually. Similarly, Poskim write that nowadays that we have the ability to cook food in advance of Shabbos and it will remain tasty for Shabbos, it is preferable to make those preparations even before Friday so that one will be prepared for Shabbos in advance of the outset of Shabbos (פסקי תשובות אות א' והע' 8).