



## On the Air with Rav Aviner ~ #72

From Ha-Rav's weekly radio programs in Israel

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Prepared by Rabbi Mordechai Friedfertig

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### Parking in the mall parking lot

Q: Is it permissible for me to park in the free mall parking lot and visit a friend who lives close to the mall or am I stealing by using their parking?

A: It is a problem, since the parking lot is for a certain purpose and you are using it for another purpose. While this is not explicitly written in any place, it is clearly the intention.

Q: If I buy a drink in the mall, can I leave my car in the parking lot for two hours to visit a friend?

A: Everything must be done based on what we understand to be the intention. This means that if the parking lot is empty and you bought a drink, it does not matter to them if you stay. But if the parking lot is crowded then their intention is not that the cost of the drink buys you parking there for a long period of time.

### Amount of children

Q: We have two boys and two girls. I want to continue to grow the family, but my wife does not. What is Ha-Rav's advice?

A: After you have a boy and girl, one should continue to have children as it says: "In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand" (Kohelet 11:6 and Yevamot 62b). But we are not told how many children to have. The guiding principle is to

have the most children possible based on one's ability – one's physical ability, one's emotion ability and one's financial ability. One's ability is a personal decision. You cannot force your wife insofar she would like more children but is unable. This reminds me of the words of the Mesech Chochma on the mitzvah of "Be fruitful and multiply" (Bereshit 9:7). As is known, women are not obligated in this mitzvah. This is a wonder – how can a man have children alone? The Mesech Chochma explains that women are not obligated since sometimes pregnancy is quite difficult, and childbirth is difficult and taking care of a baby all of the time is difficult and the Torah does not force someone to do something which may sometimes be beyond his ability. But if Hashem does not command women to have children, how will children come into the world? Hashem also implanted a desire for children within women as we see with Rachel. "Give me children or I will die" (Bereshit 30a). Therefore, a woman has children because of her desire. There is a balance between the desire and the difficulties, and a woman navigates between them. This appears in the Torah not when Hashem commands Adam. "Be Fruitful and multiply" (Bereshit 1:28), but after the flood when he commands Noach. "Be fruitful and multiply." The first command was before the curse of "You shall bear children in pain" (Bereshit 3:16) and there was therefore no reason to be lenient. But now there is the difficulty of the curse. I therefore recommend not to pressure your wife and let her decide on her own.

#### Davening on a bus

Q: Is it permissible to daven on a bus while seated?

A: It is clear that a bus is not a great place to daven, and it is difficult to concentrate on a bus. Sitting is also not appropriate, since one needs to pray as if standing before a king. But we must differentiate between when there is a choice and when there is no choice. If a person is on a bus for some reason and he will miss davening since he will arrive too late then it is preferable to daven on the bus. If it is possible to stand – he stood stand; if it is impossible – he should sit. But if there is a choice then he should certainly daven in the proper frame of mind in an appropriate place (Shut Be'er Moshe 3:14).

Special thank you to Fred Casden for editing "On the Air"



**Yeshivat Ateret Yerushalayim** P.O.B. 1076 Jerusalem 91009 Tel.02-6284101 Fax.02-6261528  
[www.ateret.org.il](http://www.ateret.org.il) To subscribe, send e-mail to: [mororly@bezeqint.net](mailto:mororly@bezeqint.net)

