



From the teachings of the  
Rosh Yeshiva of Ateret Yerushalayim  
**Ha-Rav Shlomo Aviner**

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Text Message Q&A #133    Ask Rav Aviner: [toratravaviner@yahoo.com](mailto:toratravaviner@yahoo.com)  
Prepared by Rabbi Mordechai Tzion    Visit our blog: [www.ravaviner.com](http://www.ravaviner.com)

Ha-Rav answers hundreds of text message questions a day! Here's a sample:

Text Message Responsa by the Rishonim

Q: Did the Rishonim also answer questions like text message responsa?

A: Yes. For example, the Rambam was asked if one owes money to a widow, will the Shemittah year cancel it out or not? He answered: "It will be cancelled" (Teshuvot Ha-Rambam #237).

Arab who Hits

Q: If an Arab hits me, can I hit him back?

A: Through Tzahal...

Water which Drips from Air Conditioner

Q: Is the water which drips from an air conditioner on Shabbat considered Muktzeh?

A: Yes. On account of Nolad (an item created on Shabbat), since it is created from the moisture in the air. See Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chaim 310 Mishnah Berurah #32. Unlike what I wrote in my book Shut She'eilat Shlomo 4:103.

Jews – Amalek

Q: How should I respond to the words of a Rabbi who refers to other Jews as Amalek?

A: I – the humble one – am not involved with this issue, and I recommend for you not to be involved with it either.

Ascending on to the Temple Mount

Q: Is there a Mitzvah to ascend on to the Temple Mount?

A: Yes. In order to bring a sacrifice. See Rambam at the beginning of Hilchot Chagigah. And there is also a prohibition of not appearing before Hashem (on the Temple Mount) empty-handed. Rambam ibid. (See similarly the booklet "Divrei Shi"ach" of teachings between Ha-Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv and Ha-Rav Chaim Kanievski, p. 26. And I have heard that some Gedolei Yisrael explains that one should ascend to fulfill the Mitzvah of Mora Mikdash – showing awe to the Temple, but this is a big Chiddush).

#### Number on Line

Q: If I took a number and am waiting on line but decide not to wait after all, is it permissible for me to give the number to another person?

A: No. It is forbidden to help one person on the backs of others.

#### Cell Phone in Shul

Q: A cell phone rang in Shul, everyone looked at me thinking that it was mine and I pointed at the person whose phone was actually ringing. Was this Lashon Ha-Ra?

A: One should signal: It is not me.

#### Ruling in the Name of a Rabbi

Q: I heard in the name of Rabbi... that one should...

A: If you did not hear it with your own ears, do not rely on it. Check and please let me know.

Q: I asked the Rabbi and he said that he said nothing like this, rather someone asked him for a blessing and he blessed him.

A: The answer therefore hinged on the question (I saw a similar incident in the booklet "Divrei Shi"ach" of teaching between Ha-Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv and Ha-Rav Chaim Kanievski, p. 26).

#### Immersion in the Second Temple Period

Q: How did women immerse in the Second Temple Period, if they did not build Mikvehs?

A: Sea, river, spring, well. Not only women but also men. And the forty years in the desert as well, they immersed in Miriam's well, springs and different puddles (And Ha-Rav Chaim Kanievski said that in the desert they immersed Miriam's well. Derech Shichah Volume 1, p. 318).

#### Netilat Yadayim Cup

Q: Does a Netilat Yadayim cup made from plastic require immersion in a Mikveh?

A: No. 1. It was made by Jews. 2. Plastic does not require immersion. 3. It is not a utensil for eating.