

A Closer look- Kedoshim

GIVING BACK

Text:

When you come to the Land, you shall plant all kinds of fruit-bearing trees.

[Leviticus 19:23]

G-d said to the Jews, "Even though you will find [the Land] full of all good things... take care to plant... Just as you arrived and found trees planted by others, you, too, plant for your children."

[Midrash]

Question:

It makes sense to plant for the next generation – but what difference does it make whether someone else planted trees for us? The people who planted trees for us in the past are not the ones who will enjoy the trees we are planting today!

Answer:

If we enjoyed the trees planted by others, gratitude demands that we pass along the favor – even if the recipient is not the same person.

Message:

Gratitude doesn't just mean repaying an individual who benefited us. In a larger sense, we cannot just be "takers"; we must be givers. If we enjoy blessings in our lives, we are obligated to "return the favor" by finding a way to bring those same blessings to others.