

LETTING GO

Text:

In the Jubilee year, fields that have been sold in the Land of Israel revert to their ancestral owners.

“In this Jubilee year you shall return, each man to his inheritance.... And the Land shall not be sold with finality, for the Land is Mine.”

[Leviticus 25:13-23]

Do not feel resentful about it, for it is not yours.

[Rashi]

Question:

There are many laws in the Torah that we are expected to observe – some which we understand and some which we don't. Why here does God deem it necessary to “justify” Himself by explaining that the land is really His?

Answer:

God wants us not just to observe His laws, but to do so with a full heart – with commitment, enthusiasm and joy. Because relinquishing “our” property is difficult, God provides a helpful tool: remembering that the land is really His makes it easier for us to let go.

Message:

Often we know what is right, but we struggle with emotions that prevent us from doing it with a full heart; even if we do the right thing, our heart is heavy and our attitude is negative. But we have a choice: with proper focus, we can shift our attitude from one of resentment and ambivalence to one of serenity and joy. The Torah guides us in doing so, providing us with the tools we need to accomplish this goal.