

## Bais HaVaad on the Parsha, Parshas Emor

Far and Away

*Excerpted and adapted from a shiur by Dayan Yosef Greenwald*

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[https://baishavaad.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/VAY81\\_006\\_Emor\\_Worth\\_the\\_Trip\\_Traveling\\_and\\_Preparing\\_for\\_a\\_Mitzvah.mp3](https://baishavaad.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/VAY81_006_Emor_Worth_the_Trip_Traveling_and_Preparing_for_a_Mitzvah.mp3)

*These are the holidays of Hashem...*

Vayikra 23:37

The Gemara (Pesachim 3b) tells how R' Yehudah ben Beseira, who was in Netzivin, was able to help the Chachamim in Yerushalayim catch a gentile masquerading as a Jew and illicitly eating from the korban Pesach. Tosafos wonders why R' Yehudah ben Beseira had not gone to Yerushalayim himself to fulfill the mitzvah of *aliyah l'regel* (pilgrimage to Yerushalayim for the Festivals) and offers multiple answers.

The Minchas Chinuch asks why Tosafos didn't question the fact that R' Yehuda didn't bring a korban Pesach, though it too is obligatory. He answers that a person who was far from the *Bais Hamikdash* (*bederech rechokah*) on the fourteenth of Nisan (and for Pesach Sheini) does not incur *kareis* (excision) for not bringing the korban Pesach. In his opinion, *kareis* is only incurred for not bringing the korban Pesach if one is close to the *Bais Hamikdash* on Erev Pesach and does not bring the korban, but there is no transgression in not traveling there beforehand.

Perhaps the logic is as follows: A standard case of *bitul asei* (failure to fulfill a positive mitzvah) does not involve doing something wrong; it is simply a missed opportunity. One who could have traveled to the *Bais Hamikdash* prior to Erev Pesach has been a *mevatel* an *asei* and missed the opportunity to perform the mitzvah properly. However, he does not receive *kareis* unless he is in close proximity to the *Bais Hamikdash* on the fourteenth of Nisan and does not bring the korban, in which case he has actively broken a covenant with Hashem and is treated more severely than other cases of *bitul mitzvas asei*.