
Fair work...

Rabbi Alon Meltzer

*A New Page of Talmud –
Ki Teitze 5782*



You shall not withhold the wages of a poor or destitute hired worker, of your brothers or of your strangers who are in your land within your cities. You shall give him his wage on his day and not let the sun set over it, for he is poor, and he risks his life for it, so that he should not cry out to the Lord against you, so that there should be sin upon you. - **Devarim 24:14-15**

When you enter your neighbour's vineyard, you may eat as many grapes as you desire, until you are sated, but you shall not put [any] into your vessel.

When you enter your neighbour's standing grain, you may pick the ears with your hand, but you shall not lift a sickle upon your neighbour's standing grain.- **Devarim**

You shall not withhold the wages of a poor or destitute hired worker ...

לא תעשק שכיר עני ואביון
Devarim 24:14

23:25-26² The Gemara answers: We derive it from a comparison to the case of a vineyard: Just as a vineyard is unique in that it is an entity whose growth is from the ground, and the labourer eats from it at the time of the completion of its work, i.e., when he is harvesting the grapes, so too with regard to any entity whose growth is from the ground and it is at the time of the completion of its work, a labourer may eat from it. - **Babylonian Talmud, Bava Metzia 87b³** From here the Sages stated: Anyone who withholds the wages of a hired laborer violates these five negative prohibitions and one positive mitzva. He violates the prohibition of: "Do not oppress your neighbor" (Leviticus 19:13), and the

prohibition of: "Do not steal" (Leviticus 19:13), and the prohibition of: "You should not oppress a hired laborer who is poor" (Deuteronomy 24:14), and the prohibition of delaying payment of wages (Leviticus 19:13), and he has not fulfilled the positive mitzva of: "On the same day you shall give him his wages" (Deuteronomy 24:15), and he has violated the prohibition of: "The sun shall not set upon him" (Deuteronomy 24:15). - **Bava Metzia 111a⁴** All artificers and labourers being hired for wages by the day or week

shall, betwixt the midst of the months of March and September, be and continue at their work at or before 5 o'clock in the morning and continue at

work and not depart until betwixt 7 and 8 o'clock at night, except it be in the time of breakfast, dinner or drinking, the which time at the most shall not exceed two hours and a half in a day - **Poor Law, 1562⁵** Remember what Amalek did to you on your journey, after you left Egypt - **Devarim 25:17⁶** For he is poor, and he risks his life for it, so that he should not cry out to the Lord against you, so that there should be sin upon you.- **Devarim 24:15⁷**

A new page of Talmud - Rabbi Alon Meltzer