

## Parshat Vayechi 5766

- Aharon Ziegler. We do mitzvos because we were commanded, not to return a favor.

This parsha has a profound message for human relations.

Yaakov Avinu on his death bed needs a favor from his son yosef. Look at the language he uses.

(47:29) "מִרְצַמְבּ יִגְרַבְקַת אֵן לֹא..דְיִנְיַעֵב ןָה יִתְאַצַּמ אֵן ׀א".

It would seem that a father who has done so much for a son all his life should not have to beg and beseech his son for a favor he needs. The son owes him that much!! According to my rebbi, we see from here that when we do someone a favor , a chesed, that person does not owe us anything. We are not his creditor nor is he our debtor. Of course, he on his part should show appreciation, and thank us properly. But that's his obligation to himself. He has to be a mench.

But we cannot say at some future period "i did you a favor, now you owe me a favor". Halakha does not operate that way. We have no claims to make or demand. We have to love every jew-

ym staht esuaceb ti od I .em sevol wej yreve ro rovaf a em did wej yreve esuaceb ton , ואהבת לרֵיעֵךְ, mitzva. A child must give kavod to a parent not because of what the parent did for the child, but simply because of "דְמַא תְּאוּ דְיִבְאָ תֵא דְבַכּ". Yaakov avinu understood that very well.