

The RYS Daily 10/12/06 As Important as Money

From The Mussar Movement, Volume 1, page 194.

In Memel as Pesach drew near, he dispatched a telegram to his son-in-law, R. Elijah Eliezer in Vilna, to perform the search for leaven in his room on his behalf. He demonstrated unequivocally that the observance of mitzvot was as important as money and business affairs." [13]

[13] See Or Yisrael, p. 112. R. Israel would also draw other analogies from money matters to reprove people. One example among many others is noteworthy, here: Once he came to an inn. The innkeeper saw a man of stature before him and asked R. Israel whether he was a shochet. There was an animal to be slaughtered, and it was too much trouble to take it to town to the local shochet. R. Israel said, "No." A little later on R. Israel asked the innkeeper to lend him a rouble. The innkeeper expressed some surprise: "Do I know you well enough to trust you?" "Listen to what you are saying." R. Israel told him. "I am unworthy to be trusted in money matters even with a single rouble. Yet you were ready at first sight to trust me with shechitah, which involves many important principles of the Torah." (L. Lipson, Midor Dor).