



The Joy of Torah - For Life

## **Parshas Mishpatim - The Root of Happiness!**

**Shmuz by Rabbi Chaim Juni**

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One of עשרת הדברות prohibits coveting someone else's possessions. The **אבן עזרא** comments that many people are in wonder about this Mitzvah, how can the **תורה** demand from a person not to desire what is beautiful in his heart... To explain it he brings a **משל** about a peasant that sees a princess who is beautiful and he doesn't desire her, because it's impossible for him to marry her. Or like a person isn't so crazy that he desires to grow wings and fly, or like a person doesn't desire his mother even if she is beautiful because he is accustomed from his youth that she is forbidden. He continues to say that everyone must know that desires cannot be attained through his efforts, but rather only what Hashem set aside for him. He says once we understand this then we will not desire what others have. The **אבן עזרא** is saying a fascinating idea. Our desires must first be deemed accessible in our minds before we desire them!!!!!!

He continues to say that one who can stop desiring others' belongings we be happy with their lot. This is also incredible; we assume that we desire what we don't have because we aren't happy with what we have, but in truth it's the opposite. We aren't happy with our lot **BECAUSE** we desire others' belongings.