



The Joy of Torah - For Life

## **Parshas Ki Sisa**

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The Midrash Shmuel Rabasi says on the pasuk - “עַת לַעֲשׂוֹת לָהּ הִפְרוּ תוֹרָתָךְ” - that if you switch the order to הִפְרוּ תוֹרָתָךְ then עַת לַעֲשׂוֹת לָהּ, it comes out that one who makes his Torah learning into "itim" or set times, destroys the covenant with Hashem! Because just like a child wants to eat at all times of the day, so too a person should want to study Torah at all times. The Eitz Yosef asks, that one of the questions we're asked after death is did we designate times "kovata itim" for Torah study, implying it is a good thing to do? Why then in the midrash calling it a bad thing? He answers that a person has to set aside time to learn for sure, but not that he learns ONLY during those times and not during other "free" time, rather he should use his set times, and his free time to study Torah, and only NOT learn when he is busy with work or his other needs!

It's an amazing thing that someone, whether a yeshiva bachur or working man, who perhaps learns many hours a day, and keeps very respectful learning sedorim, can be considered a “destroyer of the covenant” if he doesn't learn during his “free time!” What we see from here is that learning isn't just something important we need to fit into our daily schedule, but rather - it's our default schedule anytime we aren't exempt. No matter how much or little we learn, the mindset should be - “I'm always learning - except when I need to take care of things or need a break to refresh to be able to learn again”. This paradigm shift could be life altering and impact thousands of hours of Torah learning over our lifetimes.