

הם אמרו שלשה דברים: הוו מתונים בדין, והעמידו תלמידים הרבה, ועשו סיג לתורה.

“Be deliberate in judgment, raise many students,
and make a fence around the Torah.” (פרק א משנה א)

1.

הוו מתונים בדין

Don't be so quick to judge!

We make mental judgments of people and situations all the time! Slow down. Things are usually more complex than the way they initially appear to be...



Have you ever been in a car where the light is green, but the driver had to stop because people were still crossing, yet, behind you everyone is beeping like crazy?! You laugh at them because you know that they're being ridiculous! So why are they acting that way? Because they don't see the full picture!

Very often, we are like those drivers honking! We think we know everything, but we really don't! We need to stop and think, and only then can we judge a situation more accurately!

Practical Examples...

Suppose you meet someone for the first time. Do you automatically form an opinion of this person? Why is this not a good practice? How is this not good for the person you are assessing? How is this not good for you?

Your father bought your brother a new Shabbos suit for Yom Tov. You didn't get anything new to wear since Pesach!! Your thoughts on the matter...

Two friends are having an argument and want you to get involved. Do you take sides before you even hear what they are arguing about?

Your teacher seems to be lavishing extra attention on one of your classmates. Do you think that is unfair? If this situation is bothering you, what would be a good way of going about it?

Remember: Sometimes the light is green, and the driver ahead is just checking his text messages, wasting people's time!... it's time to honk the horn!! We need to be slow to pass judgement, though ONCE WE HAVE ENOUGH EVIDENCE, WE SHOULD MAKE A JUDGMENT CALL!