



Parshas Vaera 5766

January 27, '06
Volume V Issue 12

If I need five dishes for Shabbos day, may I rinse all ten that were used on Friday night?

This *halacha* engages in the problems of *hachana* – preparing **on** Shabbos for **after** Shabbos. It is imperative to know that several *poskim*¹ explain that the basis of *hachana* is ‘toiling’ on Shabbos for after Shabbos. One may not perform an action when the total benefit is for after Shabbos (or on Yom Tov for after Yom Tov).

The *Mechaber* writes² that one may not bake or cook **on** Yom Tov for **after** Yom Tov, even if the next day is Shabbos. The *Magen Avraham* adds³ that even an action that does not involve performing a *melacha* is prohibited: e.g. one may not wash dishes or fetch wine⁴ from the cellar on Yom Tov for the next day.

So to answer the question...

First we will examine the *halacha* of washing dishes. The *Shulchan Aruch* writes⁵ “one may wash dishes that are needed for Shabbos, for example, if needed for another meal. However, after *seudah sh’lishis* they may not be washed. Drinking vessels may be washed all day because one drinks the entire day”.⁶

We see from the last sentence that it is not necessary to definitely know that glasses will be needed; a probability suffices. The understanding being that if an action is not categorized as being done for **after** Shabbos or Yom Tov it is permitted. Indeed the *Mishna Berura*⁷ writes that if one **knows** that glasses will **not** be used later in the day, they may not be washed.

It would therefore seem that if one needs five plates for the Shabbos meal and ten dishes were used during the Friday night meal, one may only wash five.

However, the *Magen Avraham* writes⁸ that if one cup or glass is needed one may wash ten cups.

What is the reason for this?

The *Magen Avraham* explains⁹ that since a glass is needed and in principle any one can be used, one may wash them all. Similarly, beds may not be made for sleeping on Shabbos if they are not going to be slept in on Shabbos. One may prepare ten beds on Shabbos if one of the beds is going to be used.¹⁰ This is true even if one does not need more than a single bed.¹¹ As stated, *hachana* does not necessarily involve a *melacha*. The fact that one is ‘working’ or occupied for **after** Shabbos is what is prohibited.

¹ See M”B *simon* 323:28.

² *Simon* 403:1.

³ Cited in M”B *simon* 403:1.

⁴ The *Sha’ar Hatsiun* 403:2 cites the *Chayei Adam* saying that when very necessary, one may fetch the wine early in the day in a way that it will not be noticeable that it is done for the next day.

⁵ *Simon* 323:6.

⁶ One does not usually use dishes after a meal whereas unlike glasses that are used for drinking the entire day.

⁷ *Simon* 323:29.

⁸ Cited in M”B *simon* 323:26.

⁹ Cited in M”B *ibid*.

¹⁰ The latter case requires explaining, because washing dishes might be seen as a single action but beds are entirely separate entities. The single similarity is ‘making beds’. See also *SS”K* 12:4.

¹¹ *Machtsis haShekel simon* 323:8.

Does that mean that one may not make beds on Shabbos morning?

If the purpose is to make the room tidy it is permitted. The *Magen Avraham*¹² writes that if one uses the bedroom one may make the beds because a messy state is disturbing. This is considered a Shabbos necessity and not preparing for after Shabbos.

On a similar note, one may not remove dishes and food from the *seudah sh'lishis* table because it is preparing for after Shabbos. If however people continue sitting around the table after eating and the sight of dirty plates or food is disturbing, they may be removed and placed in the kitchen. This too is 'for Shabbos' and not for after Shabbos.

What if dishes in the sink are disturbing?

By the same token one might argue that a housewife who "can't stand" dirty dishes in the sink should be permitted to wash them for her state of mind and it is not preparing for after Shabbos.

We must say that it is an invalid argument. For example, we mentioned that one may not bring wine from the cellar on Shabbos for *havdalah*¹³ on account of *bachana* (or working on Shabbos for after Shabbos). What if the lord of the manor is very meticulous and for his peace of mind he wants to know that *havdalah* will be ready when he comes home from shul after *ma'ariv* and bringing the wine from the cellar will provide him with peace of mind? It is obvious that it cannot be allowed because he really is preparing for after Shabbos.

We can say that making beds is accepted to be necessary to tidy the room but washing dishes is not accepted as being necessary for Shabbos, even though some individuals might regard it as necessary for them.

Actions may be taken to avoid a mess, such as placing dirty pots in the oven or in the pantry or placing a sink cover over the used dishes.

¹² *Simon* 302:6.

¹³ *M"B simon* 667:5, *SS"K* 28:73.

May the gabai roll the sefer torah on Shabbos for reading after Shabbos?

This is forbidden even if it is for Yom Tov after Shabbos, on account of *bachana* on Shabbos for after Shabbos.¹⁴ The *ba'al koreh* (person who reads the torah) may learn and rehearse on Shabbos for the Yom Tov *leining* because he is learning torah, which is an immediate benefit. The *Oruch haShulchan* says¹⁵ that if the *gabai* reads several *pesukim* in the *sefer torah* it is permitted to roll it to the required place because he is learning and not 'preparing'.

Vort on the Parsha

Knowledge is not always the key to the heart.

The *possuk* states that Pharaoh's heart was **כבד**, which *Rashi* explains to mean heavy. However, the Midrash explains that his heart was hard. Pharaoh by now realized that Hashem had total control over the elements and that He was all powerful. This did not alter his actions and attitude. There was a mental blockage between what he knew and what he felt. His heart remained hard.¹⁶

Food For Thought

My hotel room door is opened with a card, what may I do on Shabbos?

There is a video camera for security in a hotel lobby; may I walk in front of it?

What's with motion detectors on Shabbos?

May I walk past a detector that turns on a security light in the street?

Answers coming be"H next week.

¹⁴ *M"B simon* 667:5.

¹⁵ *Oruch haShulchan simon* 667:2.

¹⁶ חכמה ודעת.

One may receive and distribute these weekly shiurim by calling or writing: Office 99 Rechov Bayit Vegan, Yerushalayim, Phone Numbers: U.S. and Canada 732-370-3344 Israel 972-3-616-6340

South Africa 078 1655 242 UK 44-020-8731-6666 Australia 61-296835626 Switzerland 0114143 333 0288

• e-mail: shabbosweekly@shemayisrael.com, or www.shemayisrael.com,

weekly sponsorships are available as well.

If you would like to send a question to Rav Ostroff, you can write to him at shabbosweekly@shemayisrael.com.

Note: The purpose of this series is intended solely for the clarification of the topics discussed and not to render halachic decisions. It is intended to heighten everyone's awareness of important practical questions which do arise on this topic. One must consult with a proper halachic authority in order to receive p'sak.