



SHOULD WE PURSUE JUSTICE AT ANY COST?

“If you see your fellow Israelite’s ox or sheep gone astray, do not ignore it; you must take it back to your peer. If your fellow Israelite does not live near you or you do not know who [the owner] is, you shall bring it home and it shall remain with you until your peer claims it; then you shall give it back. You shall do the same with that person’s donkey; you shall do the same with that person’s garment; and so too shall you do with anything that your fellow Israelite loses and you find: you must not remain indifferent.

(Deuteronomy 20-22)

לֹא־תִרְאֶה אֶת־שׁוֹר אֲחִיךָ אוֹ אֶת־שֵׂי נֶדְחִים
וְהִתְעַלְמָתָּ מֵהֶם הִשָּׁב תִּשָּׁבִים לְאֲחִיךָ:
וְאִם־לֹא קָרוב אֲחִיךָ אֵלֶיךָ וְלֹא יָדַעְתָּ וְאִסְפָּתָה
אֶל־תּוֹךְ בֵּיתְךָ וְהָיָה עִמָּךְ עַד דֶּרֶשׁ אֲחִיךָ אֹתוֹ
וְהִשְׁבֵּתוֹ לוֹ:
וְכֵן תַּעֲשֶׂה לְחֻמְרוֹ וְכֵן תַּעֲשֶׂה לְשִׁמְלָתוֹ וְכֵן
תַּעֲשֶׂה לְכָל־אֲבִדַּת אֲחִיךָ אֲשֶׁר־תִּאֲבֹד מִמֶּנּוּ
וּמִצָּאתָהּ לֹא תוֹכֵל לְהִתְעַלֵּם: {ס}



Discuss:

- How might the message in this text be applied to our experiences today?
- When was a time when you made an extra effort to help a friend? a stranger?
When was a time you chose not to help - or you were not able to help? Why?
- Why do you think the text says “you must not remain indifferent?” What are the responsibilities or priorities that might cause us to choose not to pursue justice (e.g. your safety and security, commitments to your family or friends, preserving your mental or physical health)?