

ASK THE RABBI

Question: What is the most important mitzvah in the Torah?

Answer: The Mishnah tells us that we don't know the value of one mitzvah over another. Hashem didn't tell us each mitzvah's individual value because Hashem understands human nature and didn't want some mitzvot ignored, while others will be observed more stringently due to their high value.

The Rabbis explained that the mitzvah of Torah learning is as important as all other mitzvot. When one can either do a mitzvah or learn Torah, the Rabbis explain that one should learn Torah.

There are two schools of thought of why Torah learning takes precedence. One school says because Torah study is more important than all other mitzvot. The other school of thought explains that Torah study leads to fulfillment of mitzvot, and therefore one should study Torah so he knows and is inspired to observe all mitzvot.