



One Must Forfeit All of His Possessions to Avoid Transgressing!

9. The *Rema* (OC 656) rules that one should not spend more than one-fifth of his net worth in order to fulfill a *mitzvas asei*. For example, if his total assets amount to \$1,000, he does not need to spend more than \$200 to buy an *esrog*. The same applies to all other positive commandments.

However, when it comes to a *mitzvas lo sa'asei*, the *Rema* writes that **a person is required to spend all his money to avoid transgressing any prohibition, certainly one which incurs *kareis***. Even if it will cause him to lose his source of livelihood and he will have no choice other than to go begging from door to door, he is not permitted to transgress a negative commandment. (*Mishnah Berurah* *ibid*:10.)