

# Intermediate Talmud

Tractate Berachot: Chapter 7, folio 45b

Lesson Five

With Rabbi Mendel Kaplan

**The [above] text [stated]:** “R. Dimi bar Yoseph said in the name of Rav: If three persons ate together and one of them went out into the street, they can call to him and count him for zimmun”. Abaye says: This is only when they call to him and he responds. Mar Zutra said: This applies only to three; but if it is for [the purpose of completing] ten, they must wait till he comes. R. Ashi demurred to this. We should rather [he said], suppose the contrary; for nine look like ten, but two do not look like three. The law, however, is as laid down by Mar Zutra. What is the reason? — Since they [ten] have to mention G-d's name, it is not proper that there should be less than ten.

**Abaye said:** We have a tradition that if two persons have eaten together, it is their duty to separate. It has been taught similarly: If two persons have eaten together, it is their duty to separate. When is this case? When they are both educated men. But if one is educated and the other illiterate, the educated one says the benedictions and this exempts the illiterate one.

**Raba said:** The following statement was made by me independently and a similar statement has been made in the name of R. Zera: If three persons have been eating together, one breaks off to oblige two, but two do not break off to oblige one. But do they not? Did not R. Papa break off for Abba Mar his son, he and another with him? — R. Papa was different because he went out of his way to do so.