

## Mishlei 21-12

### Attitude

#### Key Concepts

There are circumstances when a *tzadik* needs to understand the attitude of a *rasha* even though it is the opposite of how a *tzadik* thinks and behaves. Once the *tzadik* realizes he is observing a *rasha*, he will be able to figure out what that man's intentions are, and he will know what to expect from him. He will then interpret the intentions of the *rasha* as evil. In such a case he will not give the *rasha* the benefit of the doubt, as he normally would in dealing with a righteous person.

#### Exploring Mishlei

**(יב) מִשְׁכֵּיל צַדִּיק לְבֵית רָשָׁע מְסַלֵּף רְשָׁעִים לְרָע:**

(12) When **the *tzadik* turns his attention to the household of the *rasha*, he interprets the actions of *resha'im* toward evil.**

There are times when the actions of a person are ambiguous, and it is unclear whether his intention is good or bad. In such case, we have to go by whether the majority of that person's actions are oriented for a good purpose or a bad purpose. If that person has a pattern of sinful actions in the past, we must assume that his present actions follow the same pattern.

#### Learning Mishlei

(12) When a ***tzadik* turns his attention — מִשְׁכֵּיל צַדִּיק**  
**to the household of a *rasha* — לְבֵית רָשָׁע**  
**he interprets the actions of *resha'im* — מְסַלֵּף רְשָׁעִים**  
**toward evil — לְרָע.**