Teacher Or Supporter - Who Comes First?

If you come across objects lost by

• your father and
• your Torah teacher

and are able to only return one of them to its owner...

...your teacher must be given precedence.

The Torah source for this is the passage (Devarim 15:4) “But there shall be no poor among you” which indicates that a person should avoid poverty. Nevertheless, warned Rabbi Yehuda in the name of the Sage Rav, one who strictly adheres to this selfish avoidance of poverty will eventually suffer poverty.

Although you are not obligated to give others precedence over yourself you should go beyond the letter of the law except in a case of substantial loss. Otherwise, consistent selfishness will detach you from charity and kindness and bring upon you the punishment of poverty.

Bava Metzia 33a