

A Joke With A Lesson

Mordechai's wife calls: "Hello? Mordechai, I'm locked out of the house! Can you come quickly, please?"

"I won't be able to arrive for another two hours. Could you please wait at a neighbor's house?"

"Okay, I'll just go shopping while I wait."

Mordechai said, "Ehh... actually, I'll be there in ten minutes."

What's The Lesson? When there's a real will, there's a way!

Shaya saw a kid standing on his head, and next to him, his father was smiling.

Shaya asked the father, "Why are you so happy?"

The father said, "It's the first time my son is using his head..."

What's The Lesson? We have to look at the positive side.
At all times!

Short Stories and Inspiration.

R' Chaim Kanievsky ztl used to visit his parents every day. He saw how much his mother appreciated his visits, so he would spend time speaking with her each day. He would then learn for a few minutes with his father, the Steipler Gaon.

After his mother passed away, Reb Chaim stopped visiting daily.

One day, when Reb Chaim met his father on the street, the Steipler asked him, "Why did you stop coming to visit? I also enjoy it when you come." After that, Reb Chaim continued his daily visits.

Camp

2026!

What's The Lesson? For Reb Chaim, visiting his parents was not a break from his learning schedule; it was part of his learning schedule. Part of Torah learning is having good middos, especially showing respect to your parents.

Life is about balance: having a rabbi/fav will help, as it's good to know when one should learn and when to spend time helping others, and one should ask them!

This Connects To The Summer:

They say a joke: "One of the only times a child calls home from camp is when they need more money..." But the truth is that everyone enjoys a phone call, a father, a mother, grandparents, both Bobby and Zeidy.

If Reb Chaim, who loved every minute of Torah learning, made time every single day for his parents, then we should try to follow his example.

Camp is almost starting. Remember: it's a great mitzvah to call home! If not every day, then at least once, twice, or a few times each week. Even a short phone call can mean so much to the people who love you.

Pain Hurts!

When the wife of R' Aryeh Levin ztl passed away, he was very broken. He had been very close to his wife, and her loss was very difficult for him. The Beis Yisroel of Gur ztl came to comfort him.

The Rebbe said, "Look at me. I am a strong person, a strong Rebbe." He pointed to his hat and silk kapota, then to the two gabbaim with him, and then to his chassidim. The Rebbe quietly repeated to himself, "A big man."

Then, in a whisper only R' Aryeh Levin could hear, the Rebbe pointed to his heart and said, "But right here inside, I am broken into little pieces." The Rebbe then turned and left. (The Rebbe's entire family, wife, and kids were killed in the war...)

Later, Reb Aryeh Levin said that these words gave him comfort and strength to continue. He understood that even when a person feels broken inside, there are still people who need him. For their sake, he must keep going, stay strong, and not let his pain stop him from helping others.

What's The Lesson? Of course, one shouldn't ignore their emotions; pain hurts. But not letting pain take over one's life is very important and necessary. At the same time, it does not mean a person isn't broken inside. But one needs to realize that if they are still alive, there is a reason: YOU are still needed!

This Connects To This Week's Parshah.

Yehoshua is described as "the servant of Moshe from a young age." In life, every person is a servant of Hashem from a young age. Every person is sent on a unique mission. And when it comes to that mission, each person is a leader. You are a leader to your family, your friends, your neighbors, and the people around you. Don't ignore them. Be a shining light.

Even when you don't feel strong or are in pain, others are waiting to be uplifted. You can be the one who smiles at them, speaks kindly to them, inspires them, and makes their day. Pain is real, but one needs to remember he still has a purpose!

ד"ר

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לעילוי נשמת שאולתאלי איתור שבאג בן חיים קלונקום

This is not meant to rule practical *halachah*; rather, it's to show the sweetness of learning.
Based on R' Yitzchak Zilberstein's *seforim*

Q. Who Comes First?!

Shloimy was about to walk into the shul when he saw his friend Kalmy.
Kalmy was already wearing his tallis and tefillin, standing at the door.

They looked at each other and started arguing over who should enter the shul first.

Kalmy said, "Someone holding a sefer or a holy thing, such as tefillin, should enter first to honor the sefer or object."

Shloimy said, "I know, but you should still go in first; you're already wearing your tallis and tefillin!"

Kalmy said, "But you're carrying your tallis and tefillin in your hands, so we're in the same situation. You should go in first!"

Who is right? Who walks through that door first?

Who To Ask?

Of course to R' Yitzchak Zilberstein Shlita!
A. Who makes Torah Learning so sweet & geshmak!!!

The person wearing the tefillin now should go in first because the tefillin is actually being used for the mitzvah right now!

While Shloimy is only holding them to use for a few minutes.

STORY

R' Aharon Kotler ztl was once walking with a talmid when they came to the door of the yeshiva. The talmid held the door open and said to R' Aharon, "The rosh yeshiva should go in first."

But Reb Aharon replied, "You are holding a sefer; you go in first."

The talmid responded, "But rosh yeshiva, this is your sefer."

How can the sefer be more worthy than the person who wrote it?"

Reb Aharon took the sefer, walked in, and the talmid followed him.

Then, Reb Aharon gave the sefer back to him!

Should I Be A Counselor In Camp?

A bachur once came to R' David Feinstein and asked him if he should go spend his summer as a counselor or rather join a masmid program, which would give him more time to learn and grow personally.

R' David Feinstein replied, "It's important to do everything: to learn and to also influence others!"

R' David Feinstein repeated what his father, R' Moshe Feinstein ztl, used to say: Just as a person is obligated to give a tenth of his money to *tzedakah*, he is also obligated to give *maaser*, one tenth of his time, to others.

R' David Feinstein looked at the bachur and said, "Now is the time to fulfill your obligation. And if you are only going for four weeks, you're getting away cheap! Besides, even if you are in camp, encouraging and inspiring others, and giving younger kids a good time, you will also find time to learn, if you want to."

Then R' David Feinstein added one more line: "In the zechus of helping others, you yourself will be able to learn even better afterwards."

What's The Lesson?

Of course, everyone should ask their Rabbi or Rav what is best for them.

But the concept of taking responsibility is a great opportunity to become more mature and to bring out talents and strengths you may not even realize you have.

Some people choose to go to travel camps, which can be a lot of fun. But being a counselor can not only be a great opportunity for you, but also a way to make a great impact on others that they will remember for the rest of their life!

Think back: Have you ever had a great counselor and can still remember how good he was to you?
YOU can be that person for someone else, too!

This Connects To This Week's Parshah:

Aharon would go and light the Menorah.

In life, every person, each soul, is like a candle waiting to be lit.

Camp is an opportunity for many to become inspired, to light their soul, and become energized with the geshmak of Yiddishkeit.

Sometimes, all it takes is one great counselor to inspire others by being *erlich*, good, and also fun, showing what it means to be a good role model who can have fun and yet still daven and learn. It can be YOU!

Of course, one should make sure to be in a positive, *kosher environment* with good influence; again, ask your Rabbi, what's good for one isn't for another!

Continue Being Great!

There was a bachur who got permission to drive his car to yeshiva.

On the way, his car broke down. He called the Rosh Yeshiva, R' David Trenk ztl, and explained that he would be late because his car had broken down.

R' David Trenk came down and waited together with the bachur for the tow truck to arrive and pick up the car.

After some time passed, the bachur said to R' David Trenk, "I know the Rabbi is very busy and has many things to do. The Rabbi doesn't need to waste time staying here. I can wait by myself."

R' David Trenk said, "I know that I can go. But if it were my own son here, I would wait with him, and you are my own son!"

What's The Lesson? Chazal teach us that a person's students are considered like their children. Just as there is nothing we wouldn't do for our own children, we should have the same care and concern for our students.

This Connects To This Week's Parshah:

R' David Trenk didn't say, "Now that I am a Rosh Yeshiva, I teach, I'm busy, and I don't have time for such small things." Even after becoming great, he stayed the same caring person, always ready to help.

Aharon Hakohen became the Kohen Gadol and was told to light the Menorah. Chazal say, "*Aharon did not change when it came to lighting the Menorah.*"

Question: What does it mean that he didn't change anything? Of course, Aharon followed all Hashem's instructions!

Answer: It means Aharon himself didn't change; he didn't stop caring about others, and he continued to be a person who loved and made peace between people, even after receiving the mitzvah of lighting the Menorah and becoming a kohen gadol. (R' Meir of Premishlan)

Great people continue to see the regular person who also needs help, no matter what high levels they reach, because helping others is a great mitzvah!

A Geshmaka Question & Readers Answers

This Weeks Geshmaka Question:

How could Klal Yisroel complain about the manna? They said they missed the fish, cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic from Mitzrayim and even wanted real meat. But since the manna could taste like anything, what exactly was their complaint?

Last week's Geshmake Question: Why does the Torah repeat each offering of the nes'rim instead of writing it just once, especially since they all brought the same thing?

Mishpachas Rosengarten Answers:

The Ramban explains that, even though they all brought the same gift, each leader chose an offering to bring pleasure to Hashem.

The Torah repeats each offering separately to show that every leader and his gift had unique importance because they didn't just copy each other!

M. W. Answers: All of the nes'rim had their own reason for bringing their kind and number of karbanos, and, with hashgacha pratit, they all brought the same. Therefore, they all had the same right to have their karbanos written in the torah.

Ask your friend or Rav/Rabbi for an answer and it may appear here.

Text your answer in by Sunday to (347) 669 0369 or by email to torahiswetter@gmail.com