

A Joke With A Lesson

Binyomin told his friend Zalmon, "I learned the hard way that a person has to be very careful how they speak."

Of course, but what happened now? Zalmon asked.
Binyomin said, "I walked into the barber shop, and the barber asked me how I was doing. I feel like a zero. I told him."

"Afterward, I closed my eyes, expecting my regular haircut, but I guess the barber took what I said literally and gave me an actual zero haircut. I usually never take such a haircut!"

Zalmon laughed and asked, "So what did you do?"

Binyomin said, "I walked out and gave him ZERO...!!!"

What's The Lesson? Some feel like they are worth zero, like they aren't good enough.

The truth is, there is no such thing as a zero. If you are a Yid, that means you have a soul, you are amazing, and have a part in Hashem's master plan for this world!

Short Stories and Inspiration.

Have Worries?

A Yid once went to a Rebbe saying he had many worries. The Rebbe asked him, "Did you ask Hashem for help?"

"No," He answered, "I have so many worries. I can't concentrate while davening."

The Rebbe said "that a Yid can't speak to his father in Heaven is even a bigger worry than all your other worries!"

What's The Lesson? If a person feels crushed by worries, that is a reason to seek Hashem's help, not to give up! Hashem helps those who seek his help!

Try it! Say "Hashem, I really need your help! I can't do this on my own!"

This Connects To This Week's Parshah

In this weeks parshah it says "I prayed to Hashem (9:26). We sometimes forget the power of davening.

I once heard that in heaven, we won't always be asked, "How come you didn't learn more or do more mitzvahs?"

Because we may have good answers and real excuses. But when they ask you, why didn't you ask Hashem for help? Why didn't you try to become better? Why did you give up? For that, we won't have any answer!

Become A Happier Person!

If a bachur comes home and asks his mother, "What's for supper?" and his mother brings him regular supper, and he complains, "Again the same supper? I We already had it two days ago."

Then the bachur goes on to eat and say *birchas hamotzi*, to thank Hashem for the food he gave you if you can't thank and appreciate your parents for what they did for you. (Rabbi Avigdor Miller ztl)

What's The Lesson? being a grateful person to others is part of serving Hashem!

This Connects To This Week's Parshah.

It says in this weeks parshah, "You should eat... And bless Hashem."

If you want to have a good and happy life, then being a grateful person is one of the most important things!

Benefits of being grateful:

- 1) Thinking positively.
- 2) Focusing on the good.
- 3) You will smile more if you are grateful.
- 4) You'll notice more people, see what they do, become more grateful, and give them compliments.

"Thank You Hashem" isn't just a song, its real! Thank him!

Opposite of being grateful:

- 1) Thinking negatively.
- 2) Focusing on what's going wrong.
- 3) You will smile less if you are not a grateful person.
- 4) You will not notice others and may even make fun of them, as you never have to tell them thank you anyway.

ה'תש"פ

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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. Take A Risk?

Dovy finally got a new job and started working as a delivery man, taking papers, packages, and more, delivering all over the city.

One day, his boss, Yossi, sent him to take a package, but Dovy couldn't find parking.

He decided to take a risk and parked at a pump. He quickly went to deliver the package, but as he came back, he saw he already got a ticket.

Dovy decided to do a tricky move. He called his boss, "Yossi, I am about to deliver the package, but I can't find parking. What should I do? Should I risk parking at a pump?"

The boss said, "It's important to deliver it always on time, so I guess take the risk, but make it quick."

When Dovy came back from his job, he dropped off the ticket to his boss, and Yossi just said, "It is what it is. I'll have to pay for it."

But that night, Dovy had a hard time falling asleep. He felt a little guilty for what he did. He asked the boss only after he got the ticket.

Is this considered tricking and stealing from the boss?

Who To Ask?

Of course to R' Yitzchak Zilberstein Shlita!

A. Who makes Torah Learning so sweet & geshmaki!!

A person isn't allowed to eat their friend's food without permission, even if they know the friend will be happy once they find out that a friend took it.

Since he didn't give you permission to take it yet, you aren't allowed to take it. (Tosafos Bava Basra 22a)

So it would seem Dovy is wrong for what he did. He can't do something without asking first; he should have asked for permission first.

But in truth, our case is different;

the boss showed that it's part of the business, and sometimes it's worth taking risks. It's as if the boss made it clear to his workers, "in a tight situation, take the risk", so it's as if the worker already asked permission.

In Short: Dovy does not have to feel guilty, as he did nothing wrong.

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Our Test Today!

Many Yeshivas were on the run during World War I, and after the war, both the Slabodka Yeshiva and the Yeshiva of R' Boruch Ber Leibowitz settled in the same town. It was there that R' Boruch Ber saw R' Reuven Grozovsky, who was a bachur learning in the Slabodka Yeshiva, and was very impressed with him, especially with his *yiras shamayim*, and he took him as a son-in-law.

(R' Reuven later became the Rosh Yeshiva of Torah V' das)

Right before R' Reuven's wedding, news reached the Altar of Slabodka that R' Reuven's father had passed away.

It would be very difficult and almost impossible to make it to the funeral since many roads were still blocked.

The Altar of Slabodka told the bachurim not to tell anything to R' Reuven, so it shouldn't take away from the simcha and joy of the wedding.

The bachurim asked, "But what about Kaddish? Shouldn't he say Kaddish for his father?"

The Altar of Slabodka said, "The Rama says that the reason one tells a son of his father's passing is so that he can say Kaddish.

R' Reuven, however, already says Kaddish 24 hours a day!

How? By him doing the right thing the whole day, his entire day is one big Kiddush *Shiem Shamayim* of the highest degree!

What's The Lesson?

By doing the right thing every single day, you are becoming a person who people will look at and say, "he is a good person." This is a kiddush Hashem!

It used to be that we were tested to kill ourselves to make a Kiddush Hashem;

Today, our test is not through death, but by living and doing what's right, living and being a constant kiddush Hashem!

This connects to This week's parshah

It says in this week's parshah, "you will be blessed by the nations."

This could also mean "that People will be so impressed by the holiness of Jews that they will bless them!" (Rabbanu Bachya)

"Remember, today, our test is not through death, but by living and doing what's right!"

Forced To Learn?

Someone once asked R' Michel Yehudah Lefkowitz zt"l "How much should parents or rabbaim push children to review their learning?"

R' Lefkowitz stopped the person who asked the question and asked "why do you use the word PUSH?"

We don't push and force children to learn!

We have to teach them to review and encourage them to review with joy and with an upbeat attitude.

We don't stand over them and force them."

What's The Lesson?

Yiddishkeit is so geshmak, one doesn't need to be forced to do it.

The Yetzer Hara however keeps making challenges and you may need some chizuk and encouragement to keep fighting to learn and do more mitzvahs.

But keep reminding yourself how geshmak and lucky it is to be a Yid; Hashem is waiting for you!

This connects to the summer:

In the summer, people go on vacation, children are in camp, but learning each day - even a little - is still important.

No one needs to be forced to learn, all you need to feel the sweetness and you won't want to go a day without learning!

A Geshmaka Question & Readers Answers

A Geshmaka Summer Question:

What life lessons can be learned from swimming or playing sports? Think and send in your answer!

Last week's Geshmake Question:

In Parshat Va'eschanan, we learn about the mitzvah of Krias Shema.

Question: Why Do We Cover Our Eyes When We Say "Shema Yisrael Hashem Elokeinu Hashem Echad" during Krias Shema?

Avraham Yakov Braun Answers:
Maybe because we want to show that one of the biggest ways of having *Shmiras Einyaim*, guarding our eyes, is by accepting Hashem as king and by accepting to do His will!

C.F. Answers:
I once heard that it's because we want to tell ourselves and remind ourselves that having emuna and accepting Hashem means we don't always see and understand everything! We believe He does everything for our good, even when we don't see anything!

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