

"Perfect For The Shabbos Table, Always Something Sweet To Share"



SWEETER THAN HONEY

Short & Sweet
Easy To Read.



PARSHAS KORACH

YEAR 2 WEEK 39

Summer Update:

Not all shuls will be receiving it as usual, especially in Brooklyn. Only a few shuls will be getting it. For more information, please reach out to us.

Going Away For The Summer?

1) If you are going away for the summer, subscribe for free and print it out for your shul.
2) If you would like your camp to receive sweeter than honey, please reach out to us.

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Sweeter than honey is

לזכות רפואה שלימה אריה לייביש בן טויבא
לעילוי נשמת שאלתיאל אייזיק שבנא בן חיים קלוימוס

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. What A Watermelon!

One hot summer day, a few bachurim decided to take a nice boat ride and enjoy the beautiful blue sea.

Out in the middle of the water, under the hot baking sun, they got very hungry. Yonah had brought along sandwiches, but then they realized this bakery never sells mezonos, only Hamotzi.

One bachur looked around and said, "We have an ocean full of water and not one washing cup!" A different bachur said, "I have a great idea. I brought along a whole big watermelon. Let's cut it in half, scoop out the melon, and we'll lower it with a string into the water, and we can wash with it for Hamotzi."

Everybody loved the idea and started scooping it out and eating fresh watermelon and already picturing themselves eating the sandwiches.

Until Yonah came and said, "Who said this can be used as a kosher washing cup? I don't know the halacha, but it doesn't sound good to me. I have a phone. I will call to ask."

Who To Ask?

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

Before eating bread, one must wash their hands from a cup. There are 5 rules:

1) It must be made to hold liquids. 2) It must be whole, not broken. 3) The container should be hollow inside. 4) It must be able to stand without support. 5) It must be able to contain at least a revi'is of liquid. (based on Mishnah Berurah 159:1)

Question: Can a watermelon stand on its own, or will it fall since it is round?
Is it made to hold liquid? Can it be considered a cup at all?

Answer:

1) One can easily scrape off the bottom a bit and make it flat. So that's not a problem.

2) The problem is that it is not meant to hold liquids. A hard construction hat can hold liquids, and one would think it would be kosher, but it is not a kosher cup since it is not meant for that purpose. The same is true of a watermelon.

3) Normally, one eats a watermelon and then throws it away; it is not meant to last long, so it is not a good kosher cup.

That's why some poskim say that plastic cups (disposable cups) are not good for kiddush, as they are not meant to last long. But even those poskim who hold plastic cups are kosher for kiddush would agree that a watermelon isn't meant to be kept and isn't meant for this purpose, and isn't kosher.

4) Even if the bachurim cleaned and dried it out and planned to keep it for a long time, it would still not be good, as Chazal say, "*batlah da'atam eitzel kol adam*" - Their opinion is not accepted and has no value if it's not what most of the world considers the norm of the world.

At one point in time, people used an ostrich egg as a cup for washing. Since it lasted, was used worldwide, and was the norm, it was a good cup to use. But any other egg is not kosher, as it isn't the norm (Kaf HaChaim 159:33). In our case, watermelon is not the norm for use as a cup and cannot be used.

5) The Rambam (Hilchos Keilim 2:1) speaks about a food, since it won't last, cannot be used as a washing cup. Watermelon is included in that since it's a food, and even just the peels are considered food, (see Rambam Hilchas Terumos 11:10).

In short: Since a watermelon does not last, and it's not meant to be used as a cup, so it's not a kosher cup for washing.

Are You Happy?

The **Nesivos Shalom** said there was a king who was very sick, and his doctor said if he wanted to be healed, **he needed to wear the shirt of the happiest person alive.**

The king sent people all over to find the happiest person alive, but they couldn't find him. Everyone, from the people **with the most money to the biggest celebrities and singers**, all said, "You know how much pressure I have? I'm not the happiest."

Finally, the messengers heard someone in the forest shouting, **I'm so happy! I'm so happy!** They ran to him and saw he was sitting deep in the ground. They asked him, "Are you very happy?"

He said, "I'm the happiest man in the world."

They said, "Perfect! The king needs your shirt."

The man said, "I don't own a shirt. I'm so poor. But that's why I'm so happy. I have no worries in life. If I owned a shirt, I wouldn't be as happy."

What's The Lesson? The more things we get in life, the more they increase stress (Pirkei Avos).

This doesn't mean we shouldn't own things.

It all depends on how we view the things we have; If we feel that the stuff we have - be it a car, house, or even job - defines us and we can't live without them, that's when stress begins.

But if a person has the mindset, "It's all from Hashem. I don't really own anything. Everything is a gift from Hashem," they will appreciate what they have and even what they don't have. And even if they lose something or something went wrong, nu nu, it wasn't really "theirs" to begin with!

This Connects To This Week's Parshah:

Korach wasn't happy with his position. In life, one must realize it's all from Hashem, what you have, and which position you have. The happiest man in the story above wasn't happy because of what he had. He was happy because of the way he viewed life.

R' Avraham Pam ztl famously said, "People look for the city of happiness, where they can go to find happiness, but they don't realize it's not a place; it's all in your state of mind and how you think."

How To React When Someone Insults You!

R' Matisyahu Salomon ztl once gave a few speeches about accepting insults from others and even accepting it with love from Hashem.

R' Matisyahu told a talmid there were times when others wronged him, and he took his personal pain and used it to better understand how the Torah wants a person to react in those difficult moments.

R' Matisyahu was once very open about himself and said to a talmid, "I was only able to get where I got in life because when I was a bachur, I learned the words of Chazal (Gittin 36) again and again":

"Those who are insulted and embarrassed but still don't answer back, who act out of love and accept suffering with joy... are like the bright sun shining at its strongest."

What's The Lesson? If you are around people, you will never run out of opportunities to work on this! Realize you have the power to be strong, to be bigger, and not to fight back.

This Connects To This Week's Parshah:

Korach complained about Moshe and Aharon that he should have been chosen as Kohen Gadol.

Question: It says Moshe fell on his face and tried to speak with Korach. But nothing in the parshah says anything about Aharon. He didn't fall or try to speak back. Why not?

Answer: It was almost as if Aharon agreed with Korach, 'If you feel you are better made for Kohen Gadol, then so be it. (Ramban)

Aharon lived by what Chazal said: not to answer back. He always tried to make peace and stop fights!

Of course, one should never let oneself be bullied, and one is allowed to defend themselves.

But if one can handle it and chooses not to respond, one can reach a very high level by staying strong and not answering back.

A Geshmaka Question & Readers Answers

This weeks geshmaka question:

How did Korach get so jealous? Didn't he know that it was all decided by Hashem? It was common sense?!

Last week's Geshmake Question:

Chazal say that after accepting the report of the spies, Klal Yisroel cried without reason and complained for nothing, so Hashem said that night will be remembered for generations as a day of crying. That night was Tisha B'Av, when both Beis Hamikdash were destroyed.
Question: Why should later generations suffer because of what happened that night long ago?

Y. Finkel Answers: When it comes to the Avos and to Klal Yisrael saying Na'aseh V'nishmah, which gave us the Torah..., we have no problem being connected to them, despite that being many generations ago. In that case, it would seem only fair that here too, we're still all in this together! The same is true here: What makes us who we are today is our nation's entire past as a whole - not just the positive points!

D. A. Answers: The Gemara says that any generation that doesn't bring the Beis Hamikdash is as if they destroyed it. Therefore, since every generation hasn't done teshuva for the meraglim, every generation is responsible as if they did it.

C. F. Answers: R' Sholom Arush Shlita said, Because we are also complaining like the spies for no reason, and when we learn to trust Hashem and therefore stop complaining and start appreciating the good we have, we will have fixed our mistake.

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

A Joke With A Lesson

"Srlu, what happened to the sugar? I can't find it anywhere?"

"It's in the basement," Srlu told his wife.

"The basement?! Why is it there?"

"Doctor's orders," Srlu answered calmly.

"WHAT?!" she asked, confused and worried.

Srlu explained, "The doctor told me my sugar was way too high, so I should lower it as much as possible. So, I lowered it as far as it could go...!"

What's The Lesson? Everyone hears what they want to hear. Sometimes we misunderstand others. We should **lower** our negative judgment of others and **raise** our judgment of others only for the good!

Shaya's wife said, "Shaya, I'm going downstairs for five minutes to shmooze with the neighbors.

"Okay." Shaya said.

As she left, she called back, "Just do me a favor, please, mix the pot every 15 minutes and turn off the flame in about 2 hours."

"No problem," Shaya said, as he thought, "What a long five minutes...!"

What's The Lesson? When we enjoy ourselves, when it comes to shmoozing with a good friend, we can lose track of time.

When it comes to learning or davening, if one enjoys it, they will not keep looking at the clock and will actually enjoy it and even lose track of time!

Short Stories and Inspiration.

Someone came to R' Matisyahu Salomon ztl to complain that they were raising the standard of living to a fancier level.

**Being
Happy
For
Others!**

R' Matisyahu heard their concern about the **spiritual danger** of creating a new normal of always wanting more, **but was also worried that this wasn't the only reason they were complaining. Rather, it was a bit of jealousy on their part** that they themselves weren't able to make extensions to their homes.

In the shmooze of Rosh Hashanah that year, R' Matisyahu spoke very powerfully about the need to work on *ayin tova*, *seeing the good in others*, being happy for others' success **rather than focusing on what you don't have.**

What's The Lesson? We have to be happy for others, and to do that, **we first have to learn to be happy with ourselves, see and appreciate the good within us, and notice how much good we already have!**

This Connects To This Week's Parshah:

We learn that we shouldn't go in the ways of Korach and his followers. **One must work to overcome jealousy, work on oneself, and learn to appreciate one's blessings rather than feel the need to compare oneself to others. Other people have their mission in this world, and you have yours!**

It's Never Too Late!

When R' Moshe Feinstein ztl passed away, people from all over came to the funeral. One yeshiva sent the bachurim on a bus. **But a few bachurim decided it was a free 'day off' from yeshiva and didn't go to the funeral.** Many years later, one of these bachurim went to daven in a shul, found a book, started reading inspiring stories, and even went to buy it.

Only later did he connect the dots and realize this was a biography of **Reb Moshe Feinstein**, and he felt so bad and guilty. **Here he was getting inspired by the person whose funeral he didn't go to.**

Someone told him, "Call his son, R' Dovid Feinstein ztl," so he called him and asked what he could do to correct the wrong he did by not going to the funeral.

R' Dovid started telling him one story of Reb Moshe, and another story, and another, and then finished by saying, "Here you go. I just gave you a hesped, and it's as if you were at the funeral, and you don't have to feel bad anymore."

What's The Lesson? 1) R' Dovid wasn't known to be a person who spoke many words, yet when he saw the need, like in our story, he shared story after story to make someone feel better. 2) It's never too late to correct something you've done wrong.

This Connects To This Week's Parshah:

Korach's sons, right before being swallowed alive, had thoughts of teshuvah. **Everything happened so fast, and they were shocked by the opening of the earth, that they couldn't even say words of teshuvah. But Hashem sees the heart. He saw that they truly felt bad for what they had done and did teshuvah in their heart; that's why they were saved.**

The power of one good thought, "I want to be better!" It's never too late. Deep down, everyone is good and wants to be good. Sometimes we just forget who we are and how good we really are!