

A Joke With A Lesson

Yisroel said to the canteen worker in camp, "You are so lucky! You can eat from the canteen for free!"

"Don't be so jealous. I don't eat anything they fry here. I know what really goes on back there...!"

"What are you talking about?" Yisroel asked. "I remember last year they even cleaned the fryer."

"Exactly... and that was the last time they cleaned it."

What's The Lesson? Don't be jealous of others.

We don't always know the full story!
Sometimes what looks wonderful or amazing on the outside is not really so. Be thankful for what Hashem gives you, because only He knows what is truly best for you.

Bachurim came to the kitchen staff and complained, "Why is the bread always a day old?!"

"What do you want?" the head staff asked.

"Why can't you give us the fresh bread from today? We want fresh bread!"

The head staff said, "No problem, deal. Tomorrow morning, you'll get the fresh bread from today...!"

What's The Lesson? Some people push things off for tomorrow.

If a mitzvah comes your way, grab it right away; don't leave it for tomorrow!
The opportunity may pass and never come back!

Short Stories and Inspiration.

A chassan once came to the Slonimer Rebbe ztl and told him how he was preparing for his wedding. He gave the Rebbe a paper showing how he planned to learn longer and better to grow spiritually as a preparation for his wedding.

The Rebbe looked at the paper and said, "This is very good, but you missed the main thing."

The Rebbe wrote on the paper, "MIDDOS IS ABOVE ALL!"

What's The Lesson? Growing spiritually also means becoming nicer and kinder to others.

This connects to the Three Weeks:

As we go from *Shiva Asar BeTammuz* into the Three Weeks, we should be much more thoughtful about our middos and how we treat others. The *Beis Hamikdash* was destroyed because of *sinas chinom*, *hating others for no reason*. If we work on ourselves to be more focused on helping others, it will be much harder to hate others.

Do Something About It!

There was once a family that converted to Judaism and moved to Eretz Yisroel. One of the children was being made fun of in school for being a ger, a convert. Some children sadly teased her about her background.

It got so bad that she didn't want to go back to school. Her parents arranged for her to meet with R' Shach ztl, the gadol hador.

R' Shach said to her, "My daughter, do you know who I am?"

"Yes," she said. "You are Rabbi Shach."

"That's right," he said. "But there's more to that. Did you know that, like you, I am also a ger?" R' Shach smiled, took a Chumash, and showed her the pasuk, "Love the ger because you were geirim in Mitzrayim." (Devarim 10:19)

"You see?" R' Shach said. "All Yidden are called geirim. Me too!"

What's The Lesson? R' Shach didn't try to convince her to ignore the teasing of others.

Instead, he showed her that she wasn't less important than anyone else, and that she, too, is just as special as everyone else, and that there's nothing to be embarrassed about!

This Connects To This Week's Parshah:

We learn how Pinchas was rewarded for being brave. Hashem told him, "I will give you the blessing of peace!" In life, we all need the blessing of peace.

As we enter the Three Weeks, we need to make sure that we not only avoid teasing anyone but also look for opportunities to bring peace to others. If you see someone being teased, don't just stand there; do something about it. Let us be the one who helps make the world a more peaceful place.

ב"ר

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PARSHAS PINCHAS

YEAR 2 WEEK 41

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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. May I Lie?

Little Avrumy was only four years old, full of life and energy. He was always running, jumping, climbing, and checking out everything around him. Like many little children, he did not always realize that his excitement could sometimes lead to trouble.

Every day was a new adventure. Sometimes a toy would fall, a cup would spill, and once in a while, something in the house would accidentally break. It was never on purpose. Avrumy was a sweet child, but he was still only four years old and learning about the world around him.

Whenever something broke, the family would often smile and say, "It must have been little Avrumy again." It almost became a joke in the house because everyone knew how active he was.

One afternoon, Avrumy's mother was busy cleaning the house. She wanted to finish everything before her husband, Ari, came home. While cleaning the office, she moved some things around on the desk. When she mistakenly pushed the printer, it slipped and fell to the floor.

She quickly picked it up, hoping it was okay, but it was damaged. It was an expensive new printer, and she knew her husband would be upset.

When Ari came home, he noticed the printer and asked, "What happened to the printer?

Without thinking much, his wife answered, "You know, little Avrumy..."

Later that evening, she started feeling bad about what she had done. She knew the printer broke because of her.

Now she wondered if she was allowed to lie to keep the peace in the home and wanted to know what the Torah says about a case like this.

Who To Ask?

Of course to R' Yitzchak Zilberstein Shlita!

Who makes Torah Learning so sweet & geshmak!!!

We do find that one is allowed, and sometimes supposed to lie, for the sake of peace.

1) We find that when Rochel had her first child, Yosef, she said, "Now Hashem removed my shame from me," meaning that now she had someone to blame if her husband asked who broke this tool, or who ate up the figs. Your son did it. (See midrash)

This is one proof that one is allowed to lie for the sake of peace between husband and wife.

2) We find that Hashem himself colored the truth to keep the peace. When Sarah was told she would have a child, she said, "But my husband is old." But when Hashem repeated this to Avraham, he said, "Why did Sarah say 'she' is old? (Yevamos 65b)."

For the sake of peace, Hashem didn't say that she said "he's" old.

3) But this is only okay if one can blame the child when the child is still very young and does not understand the difference between a lie and the truth. Because if the child is old enough, one cannot blame him, so he should not learn that lying is okay and get used to doing it.

4) Also, one should not blame the child if the child will be hurt or punished because of it. (See *Titein Emes L'Yaakov*)

In Short: One is allowed to lie to keep peace, provided the child is young enough not to learn to lie from you, and also that he will not be punished as a result of the lie.

Who Is Really Strong?

When the **Satmar Rebbe**, Reb Yoel Teitelbaum ztl, would hold his **Friday night tish** in shul with all the *chassidim* gathered there, his Rebbeztin would light the Shabbos candles on Erev Shabbos in the shul, since she always lit the candles wherever the Rebbe ate the Shabbos seudah.

One week the Rebbe wasn't feeling well, and the rebbeztin lit the candles in the house, as the Rebbe would be eating there.

The next week, the Rebbeztin again prepared to light the candles in the house. But the Rebbe said he felt better and would like to eat in the shul and make the regular Tish.

But the Rebbeztin said to the Rebbe, "You are still not fully well, and I don't want you making a Tish. I will light in the house, and you can eat the Shabbos seudah here and get better."

The Rebbe didn't reply, as if he agreed. The conversation was over.

The Rebbe's gabbai was there, thinking to himself, "The Rebbe was one of the strongest people he knew. He wasn't afraid to speak up or stand by what he believed was right. He had thousands of chassidim, and yet here the Rebbeztin was telling the Rebbe what to do!"

The Rebbe saw the expression on his face and, as if he read his thoughts, explained with his famous humor and wisdom.

"Who do you think won the argument? The Rebbe asked. "The Rebbeztin? No! I won, because I was the one who gave in!"

What's The Lesson? Who is really strong? The one who is strong enough to know when not to fight or argue back. In life, and now for those in summer camps playing sports or certain activities, you wanted it one way; remember, it takes strength to give in!

(Remember, sometimes one must be strong, if giving in will affect them in a really bad or dangerous way.)

This Connects To This Week's Parshah:

Pinchas put his life in danger by standing up to stop others from sinning. Sometimes one must be strong enough to stand up for what is right, but not everyone is given such a great opportunity to risk their life for Hashem.

But there are still small acts of *mesiras nefesh* that one can do every day, ones that others may never know about, known just to you and Hashem.

Like a person who wants to share some lashon hara or say a sharp word, but chooses to stay quiet. This, too, is counted as doing something great! (based on R' Shimshon Pincus zt"l)

Remember, it takes real strength to give in!

A Geshmaka Question & Readers Answers

This weeks geshmaka question:

What is the purpose and reason for fasting on Shivah Asar b'Tammuz (and Tisha B'Av)? How does not eating and starving help?

Last week's Geshmake Question:

Moshe couldn't find the rock that he was supposed to speak to, so he hit a random rock. Why did Moshe hit the rock? Didn't he realize it was the wrong one?

Sruely Klein Answers: Perhaps, because when one becomes angry they forget things.

Don't Be Shyl!

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

How To Deal With pain In Life!

The Chasam Sofer ztl once shared that his great father-in-law, R' Akiva Eiger ztl, from the young age of sixteen, went through very painful and difficult times in his life.

Before R' Akiva Eiger passed away, he asked that only one thing be written on his gravestone where he will be buried: "He accepted all the suffering with love his whole life."

When the people of the town heard this, they asked him, "Is that all you accomplished? You did so much for yiddishkeit! You had many talmidim, answered so many questions in halacha, taught and spread Hashem's Torah to people all over the world!"

R' Akiva Eiger answered, "Yes, this is my greatest accomplishment in life. Even with all the pain and hardship I went through, I never complained and accepted it with love. This will open all the gates of Gan Eden for me!"

What's The Lesson? Can you imagine?

The greatness of one who accepts everything that happens in life with love!

This Connects To Pirkei Avos:

We learn that one of the 48 ways to grow is by accepting pain and hardship (Pirkei Avos, Perec 6).

The Shinover Rav ztl once told someone that it's very difficult for someone going through pain to accept it while he is going through it.

That's why Hashem DOES NOT expect him to accept it with love at that moment!

But afterward, when life moves on and one is no longer in the moment of pain, he should not complain and should believe that everything Hashem did and planned was always for his good, even when we cannot yet see or understand the good in it.