

A Joke With A Lesson

Yossi wanted to visit someone he knew in prison, but he didn't know the exact address. He stopped a man on the street and asked, "Can you tell me how to get to the prison?"

The man said, "Sure. I was just released from there."

"Perfect! What's the quickest way?" Yossi asked.

"Easy. Steal something. They'll drive you there for free..."

What's The Lesson? The man gave directions based on where his life had taken him. Be careful who influences you.

Especially in camp, make friends with positive people who are kind and include others.

And even better, be that person yourself. Be nice to others, make new friends, ask them their names, invite them to sit at your table, and include them in activities.

Meir was the chassan and was very nervous.

"Why are you so nervous?" asked the photographer.

"My rebbi said he might not make it to the chupah."

"Don't worry," said the photographer. "If he doesn't make it, I can Photoshop him afterwards and I will make it look like he was here."

Meir replied, "But if you're already going to use Photoshop, let's go all the way and add two different gedolim as well..."

What's The Lesson? If we sinned and then do teshuvah out of love for Hashem, Hashem also photo-shops, and the sins are considered as if we did mitzvahs!

Short Stories and Inspiration.

In the neighborhood where R' Moshe Wolfson ztl lived, there was a woman who passed away without leaving any children. When R' Moshe Wolfson's wife had a child, the woman's family asked if he could name the child after her, and they would give him a large amount of money to do so.

R' Moshe gave his daughter her name, but wouldn't hear of taking any money for it. R' Moshe would later tell his daughter, "Remember that your life started with kindness!"

What's The Lesson? R' Moshe could have said, "I need to remember my own family members." But R' Moshe was on a very high level of real *ahavas Yisrael*, loving *Klal Yisrael*. Real love of a fellow Jew means being happy to do things for others, even when you don't have to.

This Connects To This Week's Parshah:

The only way to help an impure person become pure again was by spraying him with the ashes of the Parah Adumah. Yet, the halacha is that the person who sprayed the ashes, he himself became impure when he sprayed the ashes. This is what loving a friend means: to give up from yourself for others! (Based on R' Yitzchak and R' Mendel of Vorki.)

In life, especially in the summer, there will come many opportunities spread kindness and love to your fellow Yid, with plenty of ways to give in to others, even when you have the right to do it your way. Those are the moments and opportunities that help bring Mashiah closer and help make us better people!

Positive Musser!

R' Zechariah Wallerstein ztl once said that every year before Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, he would go to a great tzadik and mekubal to receive a blessing for a good year. One year, the mekubal told him, "Hashem is not happy with you."

R' Wallerstein was shocked. Here he was giving away his days and nights to helping Klal Yisrael, helping people privately, giving many shmirin, and inspiring so many people. "Why?" he asked.

The mekubal replied, "Because you give too much mussar! A father does not like hearing someone constantly criticizing his children. Hashem does not want to hear how bad His children, Klal Yisrael, are."

R' Wallerstein said that from then on, his speeches changed. Focusing on offering positive mussar and not by putting down, but lifting up, "You are so good, how could someone as great as you do such a thing? Let's not lower ourselves."

What's The Lesson? Don't put others down. Remind people of their greatness and how great they can still become, that can inspire them to become even better.

This Connects To This Week's Parshah:

We can never fully know the greatness of Moshe Rabbeinu. Yet, on a simple level, Moshe sinned when he struck the rock instead of speaking to it and called Klal Yisrael "rebellious or troublemakers" and became angry with them. Part of his mistake was speaking to the people in anger and calling them a negative name.

From here, we learn an important lesson about giving mussar. When someone makes a mistake, we should not respond with anger or insults. For example, during the summer, imagine someone on your team misses the shot that would have won the game. Don't get angry or call them names. That is not the way of a Yid. Are you always perfect? Of course not. Nobody is. Instead, encourage them. Say, "Better luck next time!" or "You'll get it next time!" or "Even the best players miss sometimes."

ת"ב,

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



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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. He Didn't Stop Crying!

Yitzy had a young child who was very cranky and always cried a lot. Like many parents, he was always looking for ways to calm him down.

After trying different things, he discovered something that worked surprisingly well. Whenever the child got upset he would take him outside and sit with him on the porch. The child would quietly watch the cars passing by, and within minutes he would calm down.

During the week, this wasn't a problem at all. But on Shabbos, Yitzy began to wonder about it. One Shabbos afternoon as he sat on the porch with his son, he watched the child happily staring at the cars going by.

Suddenly he thought, "Wait a second. These aren't just cars." After all, this was in Eretz Yisroel, and sadly most of the cars driving by are driven by Yidden on Shabbos.

The more he thought about it, the more uncomfortable he became with it.

On the one hand, he wasn't asking anyone to drive, and he wasn't doing anything himself. He was simply trying to calm a crying child.

Was this considered having enjoyment from chilul Shabbos?

Who To Ask?

Of course to R' Yitzchak Zilberstein Shlita!

Who makes Torah Learning so sweet & geshmak!!!

1) Most likely, this is not considered going against the halachos of benefiting from an act of chilul Shabbos, since this isn't a direct benefit and would technically be allowed.

2) Also, when children are sick, there are many halachos that we treat more lightly. For example, if the child is holding something muktzah, the father doesn't need to make the child drop the muktzah item before picking him up, because the child may cry and become sick from missing his father if his father doesn't pick him up (Shulchan Aruch Orach Chaim 309:1).

3) But Reb Zilberstein still holds that one should not show the child the passing cars on Shabbos. There is a different problem: this is a chilul Hashem!

By letting the child watch chilul Shabbos and be entertained by it, this is a chilul Hashem for the father, since this shows that chilul Shabbos doesn't bother the father so much.

Just like no normal father would let his child watch a murder so too, if it would really bother the father that other Yidden are doing chilul Shabbos, he would not want his child being entertained by it.

The Chazon Ish writes (38:4) that a person who benefits from chilul Shabbos shows that it doesn't bother him, and this itself is a chilul Hashem.

4) Therefore, it would be better (again, if there is a real need, such as if a child is sick) to get a non-Jew and ask him to turn on electric toys for him rather than have the child watch Yidden do chilul Shabbos, because the halachah is that for a sick child, one may ask a non-Jew to do a forbidden action for him (Shulchan Aruch Orach Chaim 328:17). But nowhere in halacha do we find that one can or is allowed to be more easygoing when it comes to chilul Hashem (Especially if there's a different way to help the child)!

In Short: Although it maybe technically allowed, it should rather not be done.

Learn To Laugh!

R' Fischel Schachter Shlita said that when he first became a Rabbi for younger boys, he got advice from his friends on how to be a rabbi: not to smile, be very strict in the beginning, and on the first day show who's boss and who's in control.

The first day, R' Fischel walked into class with a serious face and didn't smile. When he finally sat down for the first time in class, the chair fell backward, and his feet were sticking up. He couldn't even get up and needed a few talmidim to help him up.

He went to the menahel and said, "I quit." The menahel said, "That was quick," and asked why.

R' Fischel explained what happened and said, "I am so embarrassed."

The menahel said, "Go back into class and don't ignore what happened. Laugh with them. You don't have to be so tough."

R' Fischel asked, "But what about being strict and controlling the class?"

The menahel said, "You don't need to control your class. That's not chinuch! You have to teach them discipline and the proper way to behave. If someone doesn't behave, you may need to do something about it, not because there's no control, but because it's for his benefit, so he can learn to behave properly." And R' Fischel went back to class.

The next day, R' Fischel came into class, brought a rug, and said to the class, "This is just in case I fall down again...!" and everyone had a good laugh.

What's The Lesson? One can't control what happens in life, but one can work on how he views life. Laugh if something happens to you, and don't focus on your ego and honor. Mistakes will happen.

In fact, people often connect more to someone who is willing to admit that he, too, makes mistakes. R' Chaim Ozer Grodzensky ztl once said that he needed an expert judge in town. "What is an expert?" he was asked. He explained, "One who knows how to admit, 'I made a mistake!'"

This Connects To This Week's Parshah:

The Ramban says that the sin of Moshe was a mystery and is very deep. But on a simple level, it seems that Moshe got angry, and the pressure from Klal Yisrael was too much. They were thirsty, and Moshe couldn't find the rock Hashem wanted. He went to a random rock and hit it instead of speaking to it, trying to make things work out.

In life, we sometimes try to do things, but it doesn't always work out the way we planned. We sometimes try to control our lives, hoping certain things will happen when we want and how we want. And if they don't, we get upset or even angry.

In life, we need to do *hishitadlus* and make plans for how we want to do things, but then we have to remember that we don't really control anything, and it's all Hashem. We must go with and trust his plan.

As they say, "I had a plan, but then Hashem had a better one!" Remember, Hashem's plan isn't just what best for you now, but what's best for you for many years into the future as well!

A Geshmaka Question & Readers Answers

This weeks geshmaka 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?

Last week's Geshmaka Question:

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

C.F. Answers: I heard in the name of R' Chaim Shmuelievitz ztl that when it comes to one's personal honor or jealousy, the logic is turned off!

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 torahissweeter@gmail.com