

What's the lesson? In life, everyone makes mistakes. The goal isn't to burn the other ear! Learn from the first mistake, grow from it, and make sure it wasn't wasted and that something important was learned!

We know that Elul stands for "I am for my loved One, and my loved One is for me." This could also be explained in a deeper way; "I am for my loved One, for Hashem," can mean not only that I am for Hashem, but that I also accept how Hashem deals with me and believe that everything He does is for my good. Then, "my loved One is for me." Hashem is for us and accepts us too, no matter what we have done! (Based on Nesivos Shalom)

What's the lesson? Hashem is the One who truly wants what is best for us! This is our life's work: to keep reminding ourselves that Hashem only wants what's truly good for us!

לעילוי תעמדת האלימנאצא אויפזעה שווארצ ריטויס פארן פלוצווייטומס
לכות רפואה שלימה אריה לייביש בן טויבא

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. How Important Is It To Daven With A Minyon?

R' Yiddi was the famous *mohel* in his area. One morning, he was rushing to shul to catch the last minyon in the town when someone came running to him, completely out of breath.

"Excuse me! Are you R' Yiddi, the famous *mohel*?"

"Yes..." R' Yiddi said.

"I can't believe it! Hashem sent you! Please, you have to come with me!" R' Yiddi had no idea what he was talking about.

"Our son's bris is right now in the shul down the block. All the guests are there waiting, the whole family is there, the baby is ready, and our *mohel* called that he is sick and can't come! I walked outside, completely lost, and of all people, YOU are walking by! This has to be from Hashem!" Can you please come right now and do the bris?"

For R' Yiddi, doing another bris was no problem. He would gladly do it, even without being paid. But then he looked at the time. The last was about to start.

If he went to the bris, he could still daven before *zman tefillah*, but he would lose his chance to daven with a *minyon*.

Yiddi looked at the father, and imagined the room full of people waiting. The bris couldn't continue; the food was out and getting cold, and soon people would have to leave. The father was begging him with tears in his eyes, and it sure looked like Hashem had placed him there at exactly the right moment.

R' Yiddi stood there thinking, "What should I do?"

Who To Ask?

Of course to R' Yitzchak Zilberstein Shlita!

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

1) If a *mohel* was about to daven Mussaf and was asked to do a bris *milah*, he should not miss davening with a *minyan* because of the bris, unless there's a real risk that the bris will not happen that day without him.

The reason is that it's not the *mohel's* mitzvah; it's the father's mitzvah to make sure his son has a bris *milah*, and the father just asks the *mohel* for help. So the *mohel's* own mitzvah, to make sure he davens with a *minyon*, comes before someone else's. (See *Shaarei Teshuvah* 286:4 and *Kaf HaChaim* 90:58)

2) Davening with a *minyon* is 100 times greater than being a *mohel* or a sandek.

Therefore, if someone is asked to please come and be a *mohel* or sandek but knows he won't be able to daven with a *minyon*, he should not do so.

The Yetzer Hara works very hard to tell people that davening with a *minyon* isn't so important. But the fact that the Yetzer Hara fights so hard against it shows us just how important it really is! This helps us realize we need to make sure we daven with a *minyon*. (Based on Shulchan HaTahor 52:1)

3) All this is when planning ahead. A person should not plan to miss *minyon* in order to be a *mohel*. But in our case, it wasn't planned; everyone was already waiting, and there was no other *mohel*. He should NOT make everyone wait. This is called *tircha d'tzibbura*, causing a group of Yidden to wait and become stressed.

In short: Yiddi should do the bris, even though it means he will have to daven alone.

A Role Model!

Once, the Mountain Dale Rosh Yeshiva, R' Shlomo Rothenberg ztl, had to ask a boy to leave the Yeshiva. R' Rothenberg went over to the boy, Yanky, and said, "Yanky, you know how we tried to make it work, but now it's best for you to move on."

Let's make a deal: just because you're leaving the yeshiva doesn't mean that I can't be your friend. We have a relationship, and it doesn't end here. I want to be your friend for life. I care about you now, just like I did when you were in the yeshiva... Maybe even more! R' Rothenberg then gave Yanky a big goodbye hug.

Later that day, when Yanky was home, his father heard banging coming from Yanky's bedroom. He got worried and thought, "What's going on in there? Is he angry about what happened?"

His father went to check and saw Yanky banging a nail into the wall to hang a picture. His father was shocked and couldn't believe what he saw.

"Are you hanging up a picture of R' Rothenberg?"

"Yes," Yanky said. "But," his father asked, "wasn't he the one who threw you out of the yeshiva?"

"That's true," Yanky said. "But that doesn't change anything. R' Rothenberg told me that he loves me even more now and will do anything for my success. So who else would I want to hang on my wall? R' Rothenberg is my role model!" A few years passed. Yanky grew and changed for the better!

What's The Lesson? We live in a world that wants everyone to be perfect from the start. But life is not meant to be that way. There are ups and downs. We must always remember that behind every struggle is a person, a Yid with feelings and a holy soul. Never give up on a neshamah!

This connects to this week's parshah:

We learn about a *ben sorer u'moreh*, a boy around 13 years old, who doesn't listen to his parents and does things that Chazal say can lead him down a very bad path. The Torah says that because the way he is acting shows where he is headed, not in the right way if he continues on this path, he is put to death.

Chazal say a *ben sorer u'moreh* never happened and will never happen. So why did the Torah teach us about it?

Answer: To teach us a powerful lesson: We should never say, he is so bad. No! Never, ever give up on anyone. No matter how much trouble a child or anyone may be causing, we cannot label them and say they are a *ben sorer u'moreh* or decide what their future will be.

There is always hope. There is always a neshamah inside, and their best is yet to be seen. (Based on R' Moshe Wolfson ztl)

Sometimes all a person needs is for someone to have patience, believe in them, always be there for them, and never give up on them!

What Is My Mission?

Dr. David Lieberman once gave a speech about how to deal with people who are difficult and hard to get along with.

Dr. Lieberman asked the people in the room, "Who here can say that they have no problems, disagreements, or challenges with anyone in the world?"

Only one person raised her hand. It was a woman, and when asked how that was possible, she said, "It's very simple. Anyone I have a problem with, I just ignore and remove from my life!"

Dr. David Lieberman later repeated what this woman said in a different speech: "It almost sounds funny, but it's actually sad. That's not called having no problems. That's called ignoring problems and avoiding life!"

What's the lesson? We must learn to grow from life's challenges, not avoid them! Sometimes one must avoid certain people, but usually that's not the case, and doing that is called running away from life!

This connects to this week's parshah:

We learn about going out to war. Chazal say this war can also refer to our war with the Yetzer Hara.

In life, we all want to know what our special mission is.

What did Hashem send ME into this world to accomplish? That's the million dollar question!

Guess what, here's the secret: It is the very thing that is the most difficult for you!

The thing the Yetzer Hara makes us crazy about. Whether it's guarding our eyes, dealing with certain people, or whatever it is, this test is exactly what we were sent down here to win, grow, and become closer to Hashem through it! (Based on *Nesivos Shalom*)

(R' Tzadok *hakohen* speaks about knowing our mission in this world and says that it's also when we have something that we are very good at, and that we enjoy doing, that is also a sign that we need to use that to help the world!)

A Geshmaka Question & Readers Answers

This weeks geshmaka question:

Why do we blow the shofar the whole month of Elul: why isn't it enough to blow only on Rosh Hashanah?

Last week's Geshmake Question: We learn about judges: what are some good tips on how one can judge others in a good way and not negatively?

Srudly Klein: Judge others how you would like others to judge you! You would want others to be understanding; that's how we must see others and try to judge them positively!

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