



June 11, 2010

כ"ט סיון תש"ע

פרשת קרח

Candle Lighting 7:54 PM

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ראשי הישיבה

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Dvar Torah - The Power of Tzedaka

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg once said, "Every dollar makes a difference. And that's true whether it's Warren Buffett's remarkable \$31 billion pledge to the Gates Foundation, or my late father's \$25 check to the NAACP." Those words are very true. We all appreciate the concept of charity and understand the importance of giving, but do we realize how much influence even a small gift has? We see from this week's *Parsha* that charity, even in diminutive amounts, can carry great merit.

In this week's *Parsha*, Korach, Dasan and Aviram were punished for creating a schism in K'lal Yisroel. The earth opened up and swallowed Korach, those in his household, and all his belongings. The *S'forno* explains that the evildoers' property was consumed along with them in order that these *resha'im* should not get any merit from future good deeds done with their property. Hashem wanted to prevent a *tzadik* at some time in the future from receiving assistance from Korach's wealth. The *S'forno* likens this to a situation where one unintentionally dropped a coin from his wallet and a poor man found it and used it for sustenance. The merit of that charity goes to the one who dropped the coin, albeit unknowingly. So to, if a *tzadik* at some

future time would benefit from a portion of Korach's possessions, it would have been a merit for him.

This is puzzling. Korach was challenging Moshe *Rabainu* and Aharon *HaKohen* in front of all of K'lal Yisroel. He was ostensibly accusing them of usurping the mantle of leadership and priesthood for themselves and their families. The evil they were perpetrating was great, and was deserving of a unique punishment never seen before or again. Why was it necessary for all of his possessions to be swallowed by the earth? What possible difference could it have made to Korach's judgment if a few coins would have benefitted a *tzadik* at some later date?

We see from here the tremendous power of even a small amount of *tzedaka*. Even a few coins, if spared from the abyss, could have presented a significant merit for Korach and his cohorts. How much more so charity given with pure intentions and a giving heart has the potential to have tremendous impression in Heaven. Let us appreciate the power of *tzedaka* and give what we can; the greatest impact of our gift may even be on ourselves.



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Dvar Halacha – Brachos Rishonos

Chazal instituted that a *bracha* must be recited before any food is eaten, even a very small amount. If one unintentionally put food in his mouth without making a *bracha*, he should remove it from his mouth and make the *bracha*. If removing the food from one's mouth will render the food inedible, it is preferable to move the food to the side of one's mouth and make the *bracha*. Even though it is undesirable to make a *bracha* with food in one's mouth, it is preferred over wasting the food or eating it without a *bracha*.

If one inadvertently placed a drink in his mouth without reciting a *bracha*, one should spit it out, even though it will go to waste. This is due to the fact that it is impossible to say a *bracha* with a liquid in one's mouth, and it is more preferable to waste food than consume it without a *bracha*. If, however, he is thirsty and has no other drink, he may swallow the liquid to quench his thirst.

The Weekly Quiz

Other than his father and grandfather, which of his ancestors could Yaakov Avinu have seen?

Answers may be submitted in writing to the Spotlight office or emailed to Quiz@ytcteam.net. The first correct answer submitted will be announced in the next Spotlight. You need not be a student to participate. Hatzlochah!

Answer to last week's quiz:

Q: According to Rav Yosef Caro ז"ל ר"י, why does the letter "ש" on our Tefillin have three stems on one side and four stems on the other?

A: The four sided "ש" is representative of the Luchos that were engraved, making the "ש" formed out of four pieces. The other "ש" is a normal one.

Congratulations to Avidor Gerstenfeld of our 9th grade for being the first of many to submit the correct answer.

YTC Spotlight

Pearl Harbor Survivor Addresses YTC Memorial Day Assembly

YTC students had the unique opportunity to participate a special assembly in commemoration of Memorial Day. The students were addressed by two guest speakers, each with their own experiences with the US military.

One presenter was US WWII veteran Mr. Abe Stein. Mr. Stein spoke to the students about what life was like in the US Armed Forces during World War II. Particularly, Mr. Stein shared his experience on the morning on December 7, 1941. Mr. Stein was stationed in Pearl Harbor and vividly recalled seeing the Japanese fighter jets descending upon his base. He recalled in heart-rending

detail the terrible aftermath of the attack. He also recollected a Pesach seder he helped conduct with the lone Jewish resident of the Hawaiian island, Kauai.

The gathering was also addressed by Mr. Isaac Jaroslawicz, Esq. Mr. Jaroslawicz served as the Executive Director and Director of Legal Affairs for the Aleph Institute, a not-for-profit national organization that provides religious, educational, advocacy and humanitarian services to nearly 4,000 Jewish men and women in federal and state prisons across the country,



approximately 2,500 Jewish men and women serving in America's armed forces here and abroad — and to their approximately 25,000 spouses, children and parents left behind. Mr. Jaroslawicz spoke about the needs and circumstances for Jews serving in the US military, as well as what can be done to help our co-religionists.

The program concluded with Secular Studies Principal Rabbi David A. Levine inducting 8 new members to the Yeshiva's chapter of the National Honor Society and presenting the secular end-of-year awards to well-deserving YTC students.



Mussar Va'adim Come to YTC by Ezri Hoenig, Grade 11

One of the weekly highlights of being part of the Yeshiva Toras Chaim Dr. Abe Chames High School student body is having the privilege to attend the Thursday night Mussar Va'ad. This entirely optional program was student-initiated and is student-run. The bi-monthly Va'ad, instituted this year, is either given by Rabbeim on the Yeshiva's faculty or Rabbonim and mechanchim from the community at large. Topics discussed included

the power of *tefilah*, interpersonal relationships and lessons learned first-hand from Gedolim.

"Although it entails spending an extra half-hour at Yeshiva on an already late night," said YTC 11th grader Yaakov Sharfman, "it is well worth it, considering everything I learned and gained from attending the Va'adim." The program concludes with hot *cholent* and ice cold soda.



Rabbi Tzvi Nightingale, Executive Director of Aish South Florida, participating in a recent Mussar Va'ad

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