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כ"ו כסלו תשע"א

פרשת מקץ

Candle Lighting 5:11 PM

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Dvar Torah - Reality Check by Rabbi Chaim Glazer



We live in a society where being busy is a status symbol. As journalist Michael Kinsley put it, one of the best ways to flatter someone is to say to them, "You must be really busy," which is taken to mean, "You must be really important." According to the

Pew Research Center, over 90% of 18-29 year-olds sleep with their cell phones near their beds, yet another sign of the American 24/7 lifestyle. There are many dangers looming for one who leads this kind of life, one of which we see in this week's Parsha.

After interpreting Paroh's dream correctly and offering sound advice regarding proper preparations for the years of famine, Yosef is appointed overseer in Paroh's house and ruler over Egypt, second only to Paroh himself. After informing Yosef of his new position, Paroh remarks, "See, I have placed you over all of Egypt!" This verse seems to be repetitive. Yosef had already been told of his new duty. The *Seforno* explains that Paroh's intent was to impress upon Yosef the tremendous responsibility he was about to take upon himself. Paroh was telling Yosef, "See and focus well to be the best leader you can be, because I am placing in your hand a great responsibility."

Let us analyze this. What was the point of Paroh's "pep talk"? He was appointing Yosef to this post because of Yosef's great wisdom and superior intelligence. Would not one as wise as Yosef, who Paroh himself called the greatest thinker in the land, not realize this great responsibility and important duty? Did he really need Paroh to remind him of this and instruct him to "see and focus well" on this?

We see that despite his great wisdom, the pressures of the job and the hectic demands made on Yosef could have caused him to lose focus on how important his duty really was. Paroh was telling Yosef that he needed to do a "reality check," and focus on the importance of his new mission.

Let us make a "reality check" in our own lives. Perhaps there are important parts of our lives that we have neglected or undervalued, not because we intended to do so, but because our hectic schedules and frenetic pace of life have gotten in the way. Parents, friends, spouses and children may be the most important parts of our lives, but if we don't "see and focus well" on our feelings towards them, we run the risk of "not seeing the forest for the trees."

Dvar Halacha – Washing upon Arising

by Yehuda Silverman, Grade 9

Chazal instituted that upon arising in the morning, one needs to wash his hands before *davening*. There is a disagreement between the *Rosh* and the *Rashba* as to the reason for this *takana*. According to the *Rash* the reason is because our hands move around when we are sleeping and it is likely that one touched a normally-covered part of the body, necessitating one to wash his hands before *davening*.

According to the *Rashba*, the reason we wash is because we are considered to be a new creation each morning. For this reason,

we have a responsibility to praise and serve Hashem like a Kohen who is coming to serve in the *Beis Hamikdash*. Just as the Kohen would wash his hands in the morning from the *Kiyor* before performing the *Avodah*, we wash our hands before our service as well.

One practical difference between these approaches is when one stays up all night. According to the *Rosh*, his hands are not dirty so he would not need to wash them. According to the *Rashba*, one would need to wash regardless of whether his hands were actually dirty.

YTC Spotlight

The Weekly Quiz

What is the greatest number of pesukim ever read from the Torah on Shabbos?

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 question: Q. Who was the last Chashmonai?

A. A girl named Miriam, who was Mattisyahu's great-great-great-great granddaughter. Many others were executed by Herod.

Yasher Koach to Yehuda Silverman, grade 9 and Alexander Weiss from Miami Beach for their correct answers!

YTC Chanukah Chagiga



This past Wednesday night, the Yeshiva held its annual Chanukah Chagiga. The Chagiga was a perfect blend of Torah, *ruach*, dancing and fun. Scores of *talmidim* joined with their parents, *rabbeim* and friends of the Yeshiva to usher in Chanukah in style.

Grand Rabbi Y. A. Korff, the Rebbe of Zvhil – Mezhibzh, addressed the crowd. He inspired the *talmidim* and *ba'ali batim* by delving past the veneer and uncovering the true, pure and holy nature of the Chashmonayim. He captivated the crowd as he wove Torah, *mussar*, and *chassidus* into a beautiful tapestry.

The *talmidim* were also treated to a special game, raffle and video presentation, along with a scrumptious buffet complete with *latkas*, *sufganiot*, cake and fruit.

One of the highlights of this unforgettable evening was the YTC band. Comprised exclusively of our own *talmidim*, the YTC band brought much *ruach* to the event. The dancing was truly heartfelt and uplifting.

Everyone departed with a song on their lips, a smile on their face and a new appreciation for Chanukah, and each other, in their hearts.

