



March 11, 2011

ה' אדר ב' תשע"א

פרשת ויקרא

Candle Lighting 6:09 PM

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ראשי הישיבה

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**Dvar Torah - What!?! Me, a צדיק!?! by Rabbi Chaim Mandel**



When we read the first word of *Sefer Vayikra*, the small aleph reminds us of the humility of *Moshe Rabbeinu*. *Rabbeinu Yonah* in the beginning of *Sefer Vayikra* writes: "Moshe Rabbeinu was שלם בכל המדות - he was perfect."

When we think of a *tzadik*, this is what comes to mind. *Moshe Rabbeinu*. A holy person. The *Gadol Hador*. True. But is that a *tzadik*, one who has accumulated an impressive resume? What really makes a someone a *tzadik*?

*Rambam* in *Hilchos Tshuva* writes in the fifth perek: "כל אדם ראוי לו להיות צדיק כמשה רבינו - Everyone has the ability to be a *tzadik* just like *Moshe Rabbeinu*." Can we really be like *Moshe Rabbeinu*? He reached the highest gates of *Torah* wisdom!

The answer is that it's true; we could never reach *Moshe Rabbeinu's* level of *Torah* understanding. However, we can reach his level of *tzidkus*. *Tzidkus* is not dependant on how much one reached in the level of *Torah*. Rather, it is a function of one's ability to fulfill his potential. If that individual, through circumstances beyond his control, could not learn so much, or at all, he could still reach great heights.

Unfortunately, in our superficial efforts to define greatness, we tend to assign numbers to everything. Who has the highest average? Who has the most field goals? We do this even in areas of *ruchniyus*. How many *blatt Gemorah* did you cover? How many *mitzvos* did you do today? It is true that to *paskin shailos*, one needs to know and understand a vast amount of *Torah*. However, that is **not** the criteria needed to be a *tzadik*.

Most of the struggles that we deal with on a daily basis are hidden from view. No one knows the challenges we face. One person's easy '*mitzvah*' could be another's worst nightmare of a *nisayon ruchanee*, a spiritual challenge. All one needs to do to be called a *tzadik* is to put forth his best effort to fulfill the will of *Hashem*.

It's interesting to note that the word *tzadik* shares the same root as *tzad*, which means side or trap. In order to trap something, you need to come down on the open side of the trap with force to trap the animal inside. A *tzadik* is the same. When faced with a challenge, the *tzadik* chooses to come down on the correct side with force. If a person does that often enough, he is truly a *tzadik*, whom the *Rambam* testifies is of the caliber of *Moshe Rabbeinu*.

**Dvar Halacha - Honoring Parents**

by Aaron Shlomo Knobel, Grade 9

It is a positive *mitzvah* to respect one's mother and father. However, what does it mean to honor a parent? The *Chofetz Chaim* in the *Sefer HaMitzvos* answers that honoring parents is to bring them food and drink. The food and drink may be bought from one's father's earnings. However, if the father does not have a job or any income, the child should feed his parents through the child's own earnings. If one is asked to perform different tasks by one's father and mother, the *Gemorah* in *Kiddushin* writes that (assuming the parents are married to

each other) a child should first fulfill the will of his father, since his mother also has the responsibility to honor her husband.

Any child who shows disrespect to his parents has violated a positive *mitzvah* from the *Torah*. It is of utmost importance that every child greatly respect his parents because we must also show *Hakoras Hatov* to them for all that they do and have done for us.

## The Weekly Quiz

For what two sins did King Shaul die early?

Answers or ideas for future questions may be submitted in writing to the Spotlight office or emailed to [Quiz@ytcteam.net](mailto: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.. For what is Papus ben Yehuda remembered?

A. Papus ben Yehuda challenged Rebbe Akiva's efforts to teach Torah publicly despite the Roman ban under penalty of death for the activity. Later both Rebbe Akiva and Papus were imprisoned by the Romans. Rebbe Akiva said: "Papus, what are you doing here?" He replied: "Fortunate are you, Akiva, that you have been seized for busying yourself with the Torah! Woe to Papus who has been seized for busying himself with idle things!"

## YTC Spotlight

### YTC/TEAM Building Restoration Projects

On October 24, 2005, Hurricane Wilma, the strongest Hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic Basin, raged through South Florida. In its wake it left nearly \$30 billion in damage. Yeshiva Toras Chaim/Toras Emes was not immune to Wilma's fury. We recently spoke to Rabbi Mordechai Palgon, Rosh HaYeshiva, about the damage and the yeshiva's ongoing restoration project.

**YTC Spotlight:** How would you describe the damage to the Yeshiva?

**RMP:** Staggering. On our Miami Gardens Drive facility, there was significant damage to our roof that left our building exposed to wind and rain. We attempted emergency repairs, but they failed repeatedly. The prolonged exposure destroyed our ceiling and created a haven for toxic mold to infest our building. Our dormitory facility was damaged and subsequently demolished.

On our North Miami Beach Boulevard campus, a large portion of the educational facility was severely damaged as well. It too has been demolished.

**YTC Spotlight:** What is being done to restore the campuses?

**RMP:** According to the North Miami

Beach Building Inspectors Office, there was no way for us to repair our roof, replace damaged portions of our ceilings and remediate all of the mold without major fire and building code upgrades. They insisted all sheetrock and ceiling tiles in our classroom and hallways be fire retardant, among other things. This necessitated major construction work, and the permitting process triggered further code-compliance issues.

Both demolished facilities will be rebuilt, with the help of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

**YTC Spotlight:** How did FEMA become involved in the process?

**RMP:** Rabbi Benzion Chait, founding Rosh HaYeshiva, contacted FEMA, and began a process that culminated in a determination that Federal Law entitles the Yeshiva to public funds to restore our school. When we attempted to thank the FEMA



officials for their help, they replied, "Please don't thank us. What you are entitled to, you are entitled to by law, no more or less than that. There is no room for thanks."

**YTC Spotlight:** What public funds is the Yeshiva entitled to?

**RMP:** The Yeshiva is entitled to reimbursement for monies spent in the repair, restoration and reconstruction of the school buildings. We are looking forward to be Marbitz Torah in our restored facilities for many years to come.



**We Need Your Help! Come out and support our expansion plans at the next City of NMB**

## PLANNING & ZONING BOARD MEETING

regarding our two proposed new buildings!

**Starting at 6PM on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

NMB City Hall, 2nd Floor Council Chambers

17011 N.E. 19 Avenue - North Miami Beach, FL 33162



*Middle School and Early Childhood Educational Building*



*High School / Bais Medrash Helfman Residence Hall*