

MESIVTA'S MESSAGE

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FROM MISSOURI TORAH INSTITUTE

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 5

THOUGHTS *on the* PARSHA

RABBI SHMUEL WASSER

In this weeks פרשה, the ילקוט שמעוני observes that when ה' asked משה to collect funds for the building of the משכן, ה' uses the words "ויקחו לי תרומה" which, literally translated, indicates that ה' was asking משה to raise the funds for ME- meaning ה'. What does this mean? The ילקוט שמעוני explains that ה', as our Father, wanted very much for ישראל, HIS children, to build a משכן so that He could dwell amongst us. In other words, ה' was כביכול expressing HIS own desire to have the משכן built. Before we continue, we must stop and reflect on this beautiful point- that ה' Himself has a desire to be close to us, as a father wants to be close to his children.

The ילקוט שמעוני then goes on to infer from the פסוקים that when ה' asked, He asked using words of appeasement, to make כלל ישראל feel good about giving their funds in support of this project. A careful reading seems to indicate that the reason ה' was careful in how He asked כלל ישראל to give the money, was

due to the fact that ה' was asking this favor "for Himself" and it would be inappropriate to simply ask in a regular way that כלל ישראל give of their funds.

This is a tremendous lesson for us - it was the greatest honor for the Jewish people to have a משכן housing the שכינה itself in their midst. On top of that, ה' Himself is the one asking for these funds-could there be a greater opportunity than being the one to provide this "need" for ה'? And don't they realize that all their money only came to them because of ה' in the first place!? Yet הקב"ה teaches us proper מדות and דרך ארץ- you have to be very sensitive when asking others to help you. There is never a place to make demands on others in a way that simply assumes or takes their compliance for granted. Even if you have great reasons why they will or should help you, bottom line - you must always recognize the tremendous respect that is owed to each and every human being.

SPARKS of MUSSAR

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Reb Yisroel Salanter - "Reb Yisroel's Shmoneh Esrei"

When R' Yisroel went to Warsaw to visit R' Yitzchok Meir of Ger, the Rebbe honored him greatly and when R' Yisroel left, the Rebbe escorted him to the street.

Word quickly spread among the chassidim that a great man had come to town. No sooner had R' Yisroel stepped into shul to daven Minchah than the building became filled to capacity with chassidim who wanted to see him.

How disappointed they were that this Lithuanian tzaddik davened as quickly as any ordinary person and was one of the first to finish Shmoneh Esreh! Seeing their wonderment, R' Yisroel explained: "I saw that many people had stopped work on my account. The shoemaker left his awl, the tailor his needle, the blacksmith his bellows. If I were to draw out my prayers, I would be guilty of causing Jews monetary loss."

FEATURED TORAH *Message*

ARON MAZER 11TH GRADE

HASHEM'S שכינה IN THE משכן

In this week's פרשה, we start learning about the משכן and how it was built. One of the many questions that comes up is what the purpose of the משכן was. We're familiar with the idea that the purpose of the משכן was

for ה' to rest His שכינה there. (It is interesting to note that משכן and שכינה come from the same shresh.)

But if you think about it, how could ה' rest his שכינה in a physical "house?" To the contrary, isn't ה' שכינה everywhere? In fact, ה' is called

המקום, The Place, to indicate that He is the place of the world and the world is not His place.

In Shlomo Hamelech's תפילה when he built the בית המקדש (the permanent version of the משכן,) he asked this very question:

בִּי הָאֲמִנְתֶּם יֵשֵׁב אֱלֹקִים עַל-הָאָרֶץ הַזֶּה הַשָּׁמַיִם וְשָׁמַי הַשָּׁמַיִם לֹא יִכְלְלוּךְ אִף כִּי-הִבִּית הַזֶּה אֶשֶׁר בְּנִיתִי (מלכים א פרק ח פסוק כז) "But will 'ה really dwell on Earth? Even the heavens and the heaven's heavens cannot contain You, how much less this House that I have built!"

To answer this, שלמה המלך explained that 'ה resting in the בית המקדש is for us to daven to Him at all times. 'ה has special פרטיות in the השגחה in the בית המקדש, or the משכן, where He will hear our tefillos. (See מלכים on the pasuk in מלכים א.) You could also apply this to nowadays since

we still daven towards מזרח, which is towards the place where the בית המקדש used to be, so we are still yearning for that פרטיות from 'ה in regards to our tefillos, our שבלב עבודה.

RECENT Happenings

DANIEL TROPPER 12TH GRADE

"MTI WORKOUT"

This year, Rabbi Biron started a new, amazing program for the talmidim of the mesivta and the bais medrash called the MTI Workout. The MTI Workout is a program which enables the tamidim to be able to flex their muscles in certain areas of learning. The program focuses specifically on learning for a consecutive period of time without interruption which is called *retzifus*. Each week, the amount of time for the consecutive learning increases. We started

out with five minutes of *retzifus* learning. The goal is that by the end of the program, we will be learning one hour of *retzifus*

learning.

At the end of every week there is an incentive. It is usually a slurpee or a donut. After the completion of week 10, everyone participating in the program was treated to a trip to Topgolf. The trip was amazing! We drove to Topgolf on a coach bus and played for about an hour and a half. We had the whole third floor to ourselves. It was truly spectacular to see how many people accomplished so much *retzifus*

learning. We should be zoche to continue learning and reach our goal of one hour of *retzifus* learning!



ALUMNI SIMCHOS
Yehuda Bortz on his engagement to Ms. Hannah Grayman from Baltimore!

Upcoming & Ongoing MTI Community Events

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBOS	
	A Virtual Evening of Inspiration THIS Monday Evening, February 7th, 8:00 PM Dedicated in the merit of Greg Fox ob"m to commemorate his sixth yaahrtzeit missouritorah.org/foxevent					MTI 8TH GRADE SHABBATON 5:08PM 4 5	
6	Greg Fox Yaahrtzeit Charlie Harary Virtual Event Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym	7	8	9	10	Community Parenting Melava Malka with Rabbi Shaya Cohen 5:16PM 11 12	
13	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim University City 7th & 8th grade boys learning & gym program	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim University City Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim University City Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym	28	1	2	3	4	5

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Mondays 7:30-8:40PM

Orchos Tzaddikim with Mrs. Toby Goldman
8:00 PM | Zoom: 525-786-3657

COUNTERING OUTSIDE INFLUENCES FROM WITHIN

WITH GREAT EXCITEMENT WE INVITE YOU TO A **COMMUNITY-WIDE PARENTING LECTURE**



VETERAN MECHANECH HARAV SHAYA COHEN, SHLITA
ROSH YESHIVA OF YESHIVAS ZICHRON ARYEH

MOTZEI SHABBOS
FEBRUARY 12TH 9:00 PM
TORAH PREP GIRLS SCHOOL 8136 GROBY ROAD



5 min **Ahavas Chessed** with Rabbi Shmuel Wasser

To receive recordings after each shiur, scan QR code



AMC AMERICAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION
JORDAN ROSENBLUM VICE PRESIDENT
www.stuartsamc.com
jordan@amcmort.com
314.423.0351



Cell: 314.387.0888
Office: 888.220.0988
aryehfrey@gmail.com

platinum realty.