

MESIVTA'S MESSAGE

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FEATURED TORAH *Message*

RABBI SHMUEL WASSER

In this week's Parsha we are told of the famous incident regarding the separation of Lot and Avraham. It seems that Lot's coexistence with Avraham was causing challenges. The meforshim highlight several issues among them, that Lot was not careful with other people's property and was stealing. There are indications as well that Lot had strong leanings toward immoral behavior and denying Hashem's existence. These issues led to Avraham deeming it necessary to separate from Lot.

Despite what would appear to be very good reasons, one opinion in the medrash learns from the psukim that Hashem was angry at Avraham for sending Lot away and not working further to bring Lot closer to Hashem. In the language of the medrash, Avraham worked with EVERYONE to bring them closer - but with Lot he could not do anything?

The statement is quite astounding - we know that Avraham's primary mission in life was to bring others close to Hashem, as the medrash itself points out. Furthermore, Avraham had tremendous love and care for Lot in the past and—even later in the parsha—exhibited great mesiras nefesh to save him from the kings who captured him. How can it be that Avraham did not do everything in his power to be mekarev Lot?! It must be that Avraham, had made a decision that he HAD done everything he

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THOUGHTS *on the* PARSHA

CALEV KORNBLUM, BAIS MEDRASH

"Ding!"

You've just received a notification on your phone. Whether it is a text, an email, or an app notification, it is new information entering your mind. In a connected age, it is hard to escape outside influences. It is easy to get caught up in it all, to fill one's mind with all there is to know about the latest trend. But as Yidden, we know we have a higher calling. We are meant to live in the world of תורה and to follow the דרך of ה'. How can we escape the distractions?

וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל אַבְרָם לֵךְ מֵאַרְצְךָ וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ פָּרָשָׁה The starts מֵאַרְצְךָ וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ פָּרָשָׁה Hashem tells Avraham to leave everything he has known thus far, to remove himself from his home and birthplace, and to simply trust in ה' and the mission He has planned. Famously, Rashi explains that the word לך means he should go because it will be good for him. The Abarbanel takes it a step further and explains that the word לך really hints at the word לבדך, which means "alone." Thus, ה' is telling Avraham - I want you to leave your home, but more than that, I want you not to take anyone with you. Leave your father and brothers behind. The Abarbanel adds that the reason it is important for Avraham to heed this command is כיון 'ה' לא ידעו דרך ה' since his family does not understand the ways of ה'. He was instructing Avraham to leave so he wouldn't be around people who don't have the same

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SPARKS *of* MUSSAR

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To R' Nosson Zvi, chesed was as important as fear of G-d and observance

of mitzvos. When his son R' Moshe fell ill, R' Nosson Zvi sent a messenger to three Jerusalemites asking them to pray for his son's recovery: the old Kabbalist

R' Shlomo Elyashav, another tzadik from the elders of Jerusalem, and a medic who was famous for his deeds of kindness.

YAIR EFRON, 10TH GRADE

This Monday, we went on our annual schoolwide achdus trip to Castlewood State Park. We played exciting games of football, ultimate frisbee, and soccer, while others went on hikes in the forest. We ended the fantastic trip with a delicious barbecue and a meaningful kumzits. We couldn't have had better weather, and everybody had a highlight: for some, it was the hikes through the beautiful forest, while for others the kumzits at the end was a strong contender for the highlight. "The kumzits was super uplifting," said 10th-grade talmid Chaim Shlomo Slater. Even with all the competition during sports games, it was clear that the trip was full of achdus.

FEATURED TORAH *Message* continued

could, and that by that point the dangers to his own family were too great to keep him with him!

We can learn an incredible lesson from this: the obligation to be mekarev, and the ability to be mekarev, are even MORE than Avraham initially understood, even with his already great and deep understanding of his responsibility and his great love for his nephew.

We must learn from this that we need to recognize the incredible mitzvah of reaching out to our fellow Jews. There is almost never a case where someone is too far gone to reach. The power and emes of the Torah is a message that can touch and reach everyone; we just need to try!

**MAZEL
TOV**

- Mr. & Mrs. Menashe Brown on the birth of their daughter!
- Mr. & Mrs. David Shapiro on the birth of their daughter!
- Mr. & Mrs. Elchonon Manne on the birth of their daughter!
- Eli Silverman on his recent engagement to Miss Leeba Goldstein from Cincinnati, OH!

THOUGHTS *on the* PARSHA *continued*

level of recognition of what 'n wants.

The גמרא in טז: דף ראש השנה says a fascinating idea: ד' דברים מקרעין גזר דינו של אדם, there are things that one can do to change a Heavenly decree about oneself. One of the items on the list is שינוי מקום, changing where you are. A person can choose to change where he finds himself.

מאמרי חז"ל What we see from these two is that even things in our lives that seem set in stone can be changed. We can remove ourselves from our surroundings and separate ourselves from negative influences, trading them in for role models and positive surroundings. And when we do this, it will be good for us. All it takes is לך לך.



WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO

An Evening of Chizzuk

AT A RUACH FILLED MELAVA MALKA

WHAT HASHEM'S AMAZING CREATION CAN TEACH US ABOUT OURSELVES

מוצש"ק פרשת וירא כ"א מרחשון

OCTOBER 31, 8:45 PM

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with **Rabbi Shmuel Wasser**

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Basic powerful
hashkafas from the
Chofetz Chaim

This series is dedicated in memory of Rabbi Wasser's cousin, Melech Morel, מייזל בן איתן יצחק ע"ה, who lost his life Al Kiddush Hashem while bravely fighting for Klal Yisroel during the war in Gaza in 2024.

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