

MESIVTA'S MESSAGE

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THOUGHTS *on the* PARSHA RABBI GERSHON ROCKOVE

Before the בוד, ה' warns the מצרים that the בוד will kill any animal that is left in the field. However, they can save their livestock by bringing them indoors. The תורה relates: ה' הירא את דבר ה', those who feared ה' brought their animals indoors. But, ה' ואשר לא שם לבו אל דבר ה', those who did not place their hearts to the words of ה', left their animals in the fields. These animals would be killed by the בוד.

Rav Shlomo Volbe notes that the תורה describes the non-compliant מצרים as people who didn't focus on the words of ה'. This was the reason they didn't heed ה' warning. If they would have focused on ה' message and allowed it to truly sink in, they would have heeded the warning.

No matter how powerful the message, no matter how awesome the speaker, we must invest energy to make the lesson part of us.

Rav Yisroel Salanter (אור ישראל אגרת א) taught this same lesson to his תלמידים. Rav Yisroel noticed that his תלמידים had

not properly implemented what they had been taught. Rav Yisroel lamented כמעט רגע היה נכנס באזניכם ועוד מעט קט ואיננה, my lessons "momentarily enter your ears, and shortly thereafter are gone." Rav Yisroel tells the תלמידים that this phenomenon is natural and common but cannot be accepted. They must rededicate themselves to live as true עבדי ה'.

The משנה in פרקי אבות א:יד says אין לי אם איני עובד את ה', if I don't help myself, others cannot help me.

Why not? רבינו יונה explains, outside inspiration is only impactful for a short amount of time. Sustained growth requires that a person "יעורר את עצמו," arouse himself.

The keys to growth as עובדי ה', both in quality and lifespan, are in our own hands. May we be זוכה to grab onto them, to be שם לב לדבר ה', and grow into people that ירא את דבר ה'.

SPARKS of MUSSAR

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Rav Nosson Zvi Finkel - "Caring for the Sick"

Two talmidim always attended R' Nosson Zvi when he lay sick in bed in Jerusalem. Shabbos evening, one of the talmidim told R' Nosson Zvi that in their hotel a minyan had gathered for Maariv. R' Nosson Zvi told him to go, but after he returned, R' Nosson Zvi rebuked him. "How can you leave a sick man and go to pray?" asked R' Nosson Zvi. "The Rambam states: 'Whoever visits the sick takes away part of his sickness... If he does not visit the sick it is as if he sheds blood.' If so, was your prayer considered a mitzvah? It is bloodshed!"

FEATURED TORAH *Message* JOEY SOSNICK 10TH GRADE

When פרק ו פסוק משה spoke to משה ב to tell him to take the Jews out of Mitzrayim, he said אני ה'. Why did ה' have to say this? Didn't משה know that He's ה'?

The Daas Zekeinim answers that ה' put

משה in charge of פרעה. משה might have thought that since he was an אדון over פרעה he was perhaps no longer under

the אדנות of 'ה. We know that משה would never think this with his mind, but in his heart, he might do so. Rav Henoch Liebowitz, זצ"ל, comments that we see from here that though you might assume that what you think in your brain and what you feel in your heart are the same thing, they are actually quite different.

He brings another yesod for life from here, too. He says that even though you are doing a mitzvah, it may lead to something bad in your middos. משה was following the command of 'ה exactly, but 'ה still had the concern that משה's yetzer hara would get to him and make משה think that he was greater.

RECENT *Happenings* MORDY KRAMER 9TH GRADE

Next week, MTI's basketball teams will start to play in our annual league at the JCC. Last year, the season was cancelled because of COVID, but we're competing again this year. The varsity team is 11th and 12th graders and the junior varsity is 9th and 10th. We've been practicing for the past few weeks with our coach, Coach Chase. This week, our uniforms came, so we're really excited. I hope to have a blast and perhaps win the championship!

Upcoming & Ongoing MTI Community Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBOS
	Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym					
2	3	4	5	6	4:22PM 7	8
Women's Orchos Tzaddikim University City	7th & 8th grade boys learning & gym program	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim Chesterfield				
9	10	11	12	13	4:23PM 14	15
Women's Orchos Tzaddikim University City	Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim Chesterfield				
16	17	18	19	20	4:27PM 21	22
	Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim Chesterfield				
23	24	25	26	27	4:32PM 28	29

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

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

MAZEL TOV

Rabbi & Mrs. Shmuel Wasser on the marriage of their daughter Ruchama to Mordechai Aminov!
(Enjoy some photos from sheva brachos at MTI!)



5 min
Ahavas Chessed
with Rabbi Shmuel Wasser

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