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Shabbat - Vayigash,

שבת פ' ויגש

Sat. 14 - 15 Dec. 2018 - 7th of Tevet, 5779 -

ז' בטבת תשע"ט

Issue Number 876

Baal Koreh Rabbi Asher Sebbag (Page - 250).

Mufteer & Haftarah Mr Yaakov Georgy (Page -1144).

Fast of the Tenth of Tevet on Tus. 18-12-18 .תענית עשרה בטבת ביום שלישי 18 דסמבר 2018.

Fast starts 6:45 Ends 16:46. מ-06:45 עד 16:46.

Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat & Arbit. 15:20

Shabbat Candles. 15:35

Shabbat Shahrit - Followed by Kiddush. (Shema 9:21). 08:30

Mincha Shabbat - Followed by Seuda Shlishit. * (Sunset - 15:50). 15:10

Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a. *

Arbit Motzei Shabbat. 16:50

Shahrit Weekday - (Sunday - 07:30). 06:30

Mincha & Arbit - **on Tue. 18/12/18 Fast of Tevet, Mincha is at 15:15.** 15:30

Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a. 16:00

Next Friday: Mincha, Shir Hashirim, Kabbalat Shabbat & Arbit. 15:20

Next Friday: Candles. **Shabbat. Vayechi** 15:39

Vayigash 5779 (Genesis 44:18-47:27)

Dec 9, 2018 | by [Rabbi Kalman Packouz](#)

GOOD MORNING! What is your greatest pleasure in life? Most people will initially think of physical pleasures -- those that can be obtained through the 5 senses. Given a few moments of reflections, many people will shift to more ethereal pleasures -- particularly the joy of a good marriage and if not, at least the joy of children and grandchildren.

A cigar smoker once asked me, "Do you know the greatest pleasure a cigar smoker has?" Without stopping for a response, he continued, "The joy of giving a good cigar to someone. If you smoke it, you have the pleasure of that cigar for an hour or two. However, if you give it to someone to enjoy, you have that pleasure forever." Of course, many people who find

cigars unpleasant, disgusting and revolting will have difficulty with even considering this analogy, so I will focus on pleasures that we can all enjoy.

There is an old Jewish saying, "Money doesn't solve all problems, but it sure makes being poor easier." We strive to earn money to cover our expenses. It is not unusual that as we have "extra" money that we will strive for nicer things -- homes, cars, clothing, jewelry, art ... We acquire possessions which we hopefully enjoy, but when the time comes for downsizing, we find that no one wants our precious things. It could be that they are called possessions, not because we possess them, but that they possess us...

Things don't make us happy. Happiness and pleasure comes from

focusing on what you have. If you don't appreciate what you have, you won't appreciate what you get.

Strangely enough, what can give us the greatest pleasure in life is not what we physically have, but what we have when we take from our earnings and possessions and give away. How we help others gives our lives meaning and happiness -- and brings us closer to the Almighty. It also gives us great merit in this world for health and success and for the eternal pleasure in the next World. This is the *mitzvah* of *Tzedakah*.

"**Tzedakah**" is often translated as "charity". The correct translation is "righteousness". It is not merely a charitable act to give to the poor; it is the obligation of every single person. There are many *mitzvot* (commandments) that come under the classification of *Tzedakah* and ultimately all of the *mitzvot* come under the commandment to emulate the Almighty. Just as the Almighty takes care of us though we are less than perfect, likewise we are commanded to take care of humanity -- not just with our money, but with our time and effort.

Maimonides enumerates Eight Levels of *Tzedakah* (from highest level to lowest):

1. Give a present, lend him money, take him as a partner, find him work before he needs to ask for charity.
2. Give charity where neither the giver nor the receiver know the identity of the other.
3. Give where the donor knows the recipient's identity, but the recipient is unaware of the donor's name.
4. Give where the recipient knows the donor's identity, but the donor does not know who the recipient is.
5. Give before being asked.
6. Give after being asked.

7. The donor gives less than he should, but with a pleasant countenance.
8. The donor gives begrudgingly, but does not express this to the recipient. The Code of Jewish Law (*Yorah Daiah* 249:3) states that if a person outwardly shows his displeasure, he loses the merit of giving.

What is the source of the *mitzvah* of *Tzedakah*? The Torah states, "If there be amongst you a needy man from amongst your brethren within any of your gates in your land which the Eternal your God gives you, you shall not harden your heart nor close your hand from your needy brother. You must definitely open your hand to him, and must definitely lend him on pledge sufficient for the needs in which he is lacking" (Deuteronomy 15:7-8).

How much of one's income should go to charity? One is obligated to give a tenth of his income to charity. It is meritorious to give a fifth (*Yorah Daiah* 249:1). There are many examples of giving *ma'aser* (a tenth or tithe) in the Torah. Abraham gave Malkiezek one-tenth of all his possessions (Genesis 14:20); Jacob vowed to give one-tenth of all his future acquisitions to the Almighty (Genesis 29:22). There are also mandated tithes to support the Levites (Numbers 18:21,24) and tithe for local poor (Deuteronomy 26:12).

How much should one give to an individual? The Vilna Gaon taught that the principle of supplying each person according to his needs is hinted to in the verses written in the previous paragraph. When a person shuts his hand, his fingers give the appearance of all being the same length. When a person opens his hand, however, he notices that each finger is a different length. So too with charity. Every poor person has different needs and our obligation to each one is in accordance with his unique situation. "Do not shut your

hands" (verse 7), that is, do not give equally to every individual. "You shall surely open your hand" (verse 8), that is, notice that everyone is different, and give accordingly."

How does one separate ma'aser? It is often hard for people to part with their money. In the first paragraph of the *Shema* it says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart, all of your soul and all of your money." The Rabbis in the Talmud ask, "Why does it say, 'All of your money?'" The answer: for some people, parting with their money is more difficult than parting with their life. (For those old enough to remember Jack Benny -- who was Jewish -- now you know the source of the joke for his "I'm thinking it over" response when challenged by a robber "Your money or your life!")

One easy method for those who receive a paycheck is to take one-tenth of the net paycheck and deposit into a separate philanthropic account. It keeps the accounting honest and makes it easier to fulfill the *mitzvah*. If one has investments he needs to make an accounting semi-annually or at least annually.

For a complete overview is [The Tzedakah Treasury -- An anthology of Torah teachings on the mitzvah of charity](#) - to instruct and inspire by Rabbi Avrohom Chaim Feuer.



TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK

Vayigash, Genesis 44:18 - 47:27

We left off last week with Joseph's pronouncement that he was keeping Benjamin as a slave for stealing his wine cup. Judah steps forward to challenge the decision and offers himself as a slave instead of Benjamin. Joseph is overcome with emotion, clears the room of all

Egyptians and then reveals his identity to his unsuspecting brothers.

The brothers are shocked! They suspect Joseph's intentions, but accept his offer to bring the extended family to Egypt. Jacob is initially numb and disbelieving of the news, but becomes very excited to see his son.

The Torah recounts the 70 members of Jacob's family which went down to Egypt. Jacob reunites with Joseph, meets Pharaoh and settles with the family in the Goshen district. During the famine, Joseph buys up all of the property and people in Egypt for Pharaoh with the grain stored during the seven good years.

* * *

Dvar Torah

*based on Growth Through Torah by
Rabbi Zelig Pliskin*

The Torah states:

"And Pharaoh said to Jacob, 'How many are the years of your life?' and Jacob said to Pharaoh, 'I have lived one hundred and thirty years. The years of my life were few and bad and they have not reached the years of my fathers'" (Genesis 47:8-9).

Ultimately, Jacob lived 33 years less than his father, Isaac. Why was he not granted the years of his father?

The commentary Daas Zkainim cites the Midrash that Jacob was punished for saying that the days of his life were few and bad. He lacked appreciation for life. The Midrash tells us that the 33 years he was denied correspond to the 33 words in verses 8-9.

Rabbi Chaim Shmuelewitz often cited this Midrash and explained that we should gain such a great appreciation for life itself that even if we have many difficulties in life, we will still live a life of joy. Experiencing this daily joy of living,

we would be unable to say that our life was bad. The ultimate level to strive for is feeling a tremendous joy in living; then trivial matters will not cause you to complain.



Shabbat Shalom,
Kalman
Rabbi Kalman
Packouz

Hot Kiddush: sponsored by Souhaila Ishak and her children on the Yarsite of her late husband **Gourji** ז"ל.

Seuda Shelishit: sponsored by the Tricot family in memory of the late **Salman** ben Nissim Tricot ז"ל.

Condolences: to Kathleen Benjamin and her sons, Lionel and Jeremy הגי"ו, on the passing away of, (husband, father) **Saul Shaul** Benjamin ז"ל, we wish them and all the family long life and free of sorrow.

Condolences: to Aliza Ezekiel and her sons, Ivan and Jason הגי"ו, on the passing away of, (husband, father) **Osmond Asher** ben Yitzchak Chaim Ezekiel ז"ל, we wish them and all the family long life and free of sorrow.

Dear all: If anyone wants an alliyah please approach our gubbay Adel, David or Ghassan before Shahrit not later then 9:15.

Kolel every Sunday: We are still having a Kolel every Sunday at the Synagogue hall from 09.30am - 12.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

A message to those saying Kaddish: please gather behind the TEBBA and recite the Kaddish together. As it will be a good help to the new Kaddish readers.

THE KEHILLA WISHES חיים ארוכים "LONG LIFE"
TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE YAHRZEIT

02 Tevet Dr. Maurice Gubbay	19 Tevet Mr Nadhim Mouallim
03 Tevet Mr Mayer Levy	20 Tevet Mr Cesar Sassoon
03 Tevet Mrs Gilda Aslan	20 Tevet Mr Joe Sassoon
08 Tevet Mr Yaakov Georgy	20 Tevet Mr Robert M. E. Sassoon
08 Tevet Mr Maurice Sheena	20 Tevet Mr Ezekiel Ezekiel
05 Tevet Mr Joseph Clement	20 Tevet Mr Maurice Lawee
09 Tevet Mr Nissim Tricot	24 Tevet Mrs Naomi Sheena
11 Tevet Mr Zohair Ishak	27 Tevet Mrs Gracy Dallal
14 Tevet Mr Moshe Moses	28 Tevet Mrs Naomi Cohen
16 Tevet Mr Adrian H. Klein	29 Tevet Mr Elie Abdulezer
17 Tevet Miss Nancy Dwek	29 Tevet Mrs Doris Ezer
18 Tevet Mrs Naomi Cohen	29 Tevet Mr Salem Abraham

Quote of the Week

We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give