

Torah thoughts from an honest mouse

Posted by an honest mouse - 15 May 2010 23:39

I thought it was silly to keep starting a new topic with every dvar torah so I decided to put them all in one place. Here goes....

PARSHAS BAMIDBAR

Rav Chaim Shmulevitz says in Sichos Mussar that we can learn a tremendous lesson from the fact that the Levi'im were counted separately. Rashi says (1:49) that H'shm foresaw that He would decree death against the 20-60 year olds that were counted in this week's parsha and He wanted to count the levi'im separately so they shouldn't be tangled up in the decree. We see from this that when there is a gezair against the tzibur it doesn't matter if people are righteous, there's no differentiation made and everyone is given the same treatment as the tzibbur.

He goes on to say that the opposite is true as well. When Elisha offered to daven specifically for the 'shunamis woman' on Rosh Hashono, she answered that she'd rather stay with the tzibbur cause she would be judged with the whole tzibbur for the good instead of being scrutinised personally (melachim 2: 4:13) .

The whole world is chasing shmutz and if we stay as part of that tzibur we will c'v risk being punished with the midas hadin that doesn't differentiate between good and bad people. But conversely, if we're part of GYE, then not only are we surrounding ourselves by positive influences, we are also joining the tzibbur which is clocking up more zechusim than we can even imagine!!

May H'shm give us the koach and the ability to wholeheartedly move our allegiance over to the right tzibur!!!

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Re: Torah thoughts from an honest mouse

Posted by an honest mouse - 28 Feb 2011 13:46

PARSHAS PEKUDEI:

Rashi at the begining of the sedra points out that Betzelel was named as such coz he clearly had ruach hakodesh (ie in the shadow of Hashem).

How does rashi know? coz he even did stuff that Hashem told Moishe but Moishe didnt repeat to him. ie Moishe was 1st told about the aron and all the keilim of the Mishkan coz they're the ikkur and then the mishkan itself, but clearly it was to be built in the opposite order and Betzalel knew that even though Moishe didnt tell him.

This reminded me of rabbeinu dov's peshat in derech erez kodmoh latorah. The keilim inside the mishkan are like the torah itself - that's the ikkur - that is Hashem's gift to us to enable us to reach great heights.

But we 1st need to build the mishkan which will house the keilim - ie ourselves as a mikdash me'at, we are supposed to make ourselves a place where Hashem and the torah can function. Ie we have to be proper people with our middos straight, right across the spectrum before we can put the torah inside ourselves.

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Re: Torah thoughts from an honest mouse

Posted by an honest mouse - 07 Mar 2011 13:43

PARSHAS PEKUDEI:

The last rashi in sefer shemos asks why all the bnei yisroel's encampments were called journeys? surely they were stopped, they werent journeying! He answers that seeing as the overall journey was from mitsrayim to erez yisroel over a period of 40 years, even the stops are considered part of the journey.

This gave me an encouraging thought. We say its progress not perfection - progress being a consistent upward climb in the long run. sure there are gonna be times where we cant grow,

where we stop and rest and just tread water to stop from sinking. But Hashem takes those stops and dips into account and counts them as part of the journey, because they are part of the overall journey toward sobriety.

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Re: Torah thoughts from an honest mouse

Posted by an honest mouse - 22 Mar 2011 13:31

PURIM:

a very fitting bit of chizuk from a mashgiach:

Message from Rabbi Menachem Glick

??? ???? ??"? brings down in the ???? ?????? an unbelievable ???? in the name of the ??????". The ??????"? says that ??? ???????? means ??? ?-?????. ??? ?????? is similar to ??????, and it is secondary to ??????. We must understand the similarity between ??? ?????? and ?????? and certainly why ??? ?????? is secondary.

The similarity between ??? ?????? and ?????? can be understood if we look into the end of ?????? ??????. The peak of the ?????? ??? ?????? is the seven times we say "' ??? ?????????". The ?????? ???' ?????? ??"? always said that the fundamental ?????? is ?????? on the source of sin. We complete the ?????? of ??? ?????? by strengthening our ?????? that everything comes from the ?????? ?? ??????. The catalyst for inspiration to do ?????? is ??????, and lack of ?????? is the cause of sin. ?????? is also the time we strengthen our ??????. Klal Yisroel realized the reason behind ???'s decree, did ??????, and were saved from the decree. They were able to see that the ?????? was not a series of coincidences, but rather ?????? ?????? every step of the way.

We still must understand why ??? ?????? is secondary to ??????. The ???? in ??? ?? says that at ??? ?????, the ?????? ?? ?????? was ??? ?????? ?? ??????. Klal Yisroel accepted the ?????? under coercion. However, in the time of Mordechai and Esther they accepted it willingly. ??"? explains ?????? ??? from the love of the miracle. The obvious question is, Klal Yisroel had seen many miracles throughout the generations, why was this miracle so unique that it inspired them to accept the ?????? willingly now?

? ' ????? ?????????? ?"?" in his ??? ????? ????? explains that the uniqueness was the fact that it was a ?? ?????. Superficially we think that ?????? ?????? are greater miracles then ?????? ????????. However, the truth is that ?????? ??????? show more love of ?' to ?"?" then ?????? ??????. The revealed miracle happens when ?"?" is on a high level and they are worthy of it, which might not be at all times. The hidden miracle shows that ?' is with us even in the ????? and even if we're not on the highest level. ?"?" saw that what seemed to be a catastrophe was really a blessing in disguise. For example, ????? ?????? was taken away to be the wife of ??????????. The wife of ??????, the ????? ????? has to be married to ?"?" a non Jew (?"?" if one of the ?????? ??????'s wives had to marry Sadaam Hussein...) However, this situation enabled her to be the savior of ?"?. This is what ?"?" means by ????? ??. The love that ?????? has for ?"?" at all times inspired ?"?" to have love for him also.

With this we can understand why ?????? takes precedence over ??? ??????. ??? ?????? is love between ?"?" and the ??????" when we're clean from sin and are similar to ???????, but ?????? shows that the ??????" has not and will not forsake us in all situations! ?????? can give us ?????? that the ?????? ?????? is with us in ????? and ?????? ?' ?????? will soon reveal himself with our ??????

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Re: Torah thoughts from an honest mouse

Posted by an honest mouse - 24 Mar 2011 13:43

PARSHAS SHEMINI:

The Chasidoh is listed as one of the non kosher animals. Rashi says the animal was so called because they did chesed with their friends.

Why then is this animal not kosher? What's wrong with chesed?!

The Rishiner Rebbe answers that its because they only did chesed with their own min, they didn't branch out and do chesed with other animals. It's not the jewish way to restrict chesed to one group.

What a limud for us. We must be kind and giving to all types of people. When you think about it, the reason is because all people are creations of Hashem. Chavivin odom shenivro beztelem & varachmov al kol ma'asov. This idea helps us remember that the world belongs to Hashem and He is in charge of and loves *everyone*.

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Re: Torah thoughts from an honest mouse
Posted by an honest mouse - 31 Mar 2011 12:27

PARSHAS TAZRIA:

The Metzora's punishment is *isolation*! Isolation is a punishment! let's stop punishing ourselves and get out of isolation!

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Re: Torah thoughts from an honest mouse
Posted by an honest mouse - 08 Apr 2011 10:55

PARSHAS METZORAH:

Rashi says that having tzora'as on the houses was really a brocho in the end because the jews found the treasure hidden by the people who lived there before.

This is a beautiful Moshul for us. Our struggle is the negah that we get and we're forced to get it all out in the open and deal with it, like all the keilim had to come out of the house. But, as a result of that, we realise it was really a brocho all along, we discover the treasure that we had within all along - our potential for closeness to Hashem and to give and love. All we needed, was a push to get it out in the open.

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Re: Torah thoughts from an honest mouse
Posted by an honest mouse - 14 Apr 2011 21:44

PARSHAS ACHAREI MOS:

In this week's sedra there is a possuk found often in the torah. Hashem says about a sinner, "I will place my face toward that man" which rashi explains to mean that Hashem will totally clear His schedule and focus all His attention on dealing with this sinner.

Why does Hashem need to clear His schedule to deal with this guy? He runs everything that goes on in the entire world all at the same time! I think that we are being taught a lesson here. Hashem is ready for each and every one of us to establish a relationship that is as if there is only me and Hashem.

If He treats it like that for a sinner kal vechomer for someone who is trying to establish a kesher with Him! That is how we have to imagine our relationship with Hashem to be. Hashem will as-it-were clear all of His time for us, if we make the effort to clear our time for Him.

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Re: Torah thoughts from an honest mouse
Posted by ZemirosShabbos - 14 Apr 2011 22:01

that is a beautiful idea! thanks

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Re: Torah thoughts from an honest mouse
Posted by an honest mouse - 27 Apr 2011 13:04

PARSHAS KEDOSHIM:

in this week's sedra, at the beginning of perek 20, it says "vehiskadishtem ve'heyisem kedoshim", you shall make yourselves holy and you will be holy. Why the double loshon? If we make ourselves holy of course we will be holy!

The meshech chochmo says this possuk is refering to thoughts about idol worship and it is so hard to control our thoughts. How can we be expected to do that? so the torah is saying, you do the actions of making yourself holy and I (Hashem) will ensure that you will actually be holy.

This also applies to us and our struggle with lust! It's so hard to control our thoughts, but if we take the steps to remain holy by implemeting all the suggestions on GYE that work for us, Hashem will ensure that we will remain holy.

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Re: Torah thoughts from an honest mouse

Posted by an honest mouse - 28 Apr 2011 12:36

PARSHAS KEDOSHIM:

Towards the end of the parsha, there is the section of arayos. In the pasuk about not having relations with a sister, the torah calls it a "chesed". Obviously this is a word that requires an explanation.

The Radak says that this word has 2 meanings - kindness and disgrace. The reason being that the disgrace of immorality stems from an over indulgence in the desire to give, to do chesed. Giving without restriction or constraint will lead to immorality.

For those of us who have encountered the disgrace of immorality, the Radak is telling us that it all stems from a burning desire to do chesed, to give. If we can channel it in the right direction and look after, this desire can help us give give give, but to the right causes.

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Re: Torah thoughts from an honest mouse
Posted by an honest mouse - 28 Apr 2011 13:20

HALLELL:

We say in Hallell, "loi hameisim yehalelu Koh, veloi kol yordei dumah. *Va'anachnu* nevarech Koh...".

Taking this vort (www.guardyoureyes.org/forum/index.php?topic=2196.0) from rav chaim shmulevitz further, if we are takers living only for ourselves in isolation, we will not be able to praise Hashem, we wont appreciate His hand in our lives because we will be in a mindset of "never enough".

However, if we live in a spirit of "*va'anachnu*", living together with other people, not only for ourselves, then we will be able to bless Hashem - then we will see His hand in our lives and we will appreciate what he does for us.

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Re: Torah thoughts from an honest mouse
Posted by an honest mouse - 12 May 2011 15:01

SEFIRAS HA'OMER:

At this time of year, we are mourning the death of 24,000 talmidim of rabi akiva. Chazal tell us they died because they didn't give kovod to each other, a chisaron in "ve'ohavto lerei'acho kamoicha".

During this time of year therefore, we should take the lesson and be mechazek ourselves in this mitsva, we should treat the people in our lives with greater respect, our wives, children, parents, employers. We should also give women in general more respect and realise that they are people and not just there for our pleasure.

Lastly, there is a diyuk in the posuk, in order to love your fellow as you love yourself, you have to love yourself first. This is something that can be difficult for an addict as we have belittled ourselves for so long. We have to remind ourselves that we are tzelem Elokim and Hashem loves us!

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Re: Torah thoughts from an honest mouse
Posted by an honest mouse - 19 Sep 2011 12:24

(oy vey, it's been a long time...) KI SAVO:

Devorim: 28:34:"vehoyisa meshugoh mimarei einechoh asher tireh" - *You will go crazy from the sight of your eyes that you see*

This possuk sounds sooooo familiar to me! We have slowly but surely, over a period of many years, made ourselves

crazy by seeing things that we shouldn't have. We have distorted our perceptions and priorities and made ourselves go crazy jumping from one type of life to another. We have been literally living a kloloh, a curse. It's time to move into the brochos, I think.

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Re: Torah thoughts from an honest mouse
Posted by an honest mouse - 22 Dec 2011 14:13

CHIZZUK FOR CHANUKA:

In Parshas Noach, Noach gives the well known berocho "*yaft Elokim l'yefes, veyishkon beohalei shem*".

There is real true beauty out there in the world with Yefes, modern day western culture, but the permanent dwelling with Hashem is inside our own ohel, our home. We're all craving connection and we're looking for it outside, but the real, true and lasting connection is to be found in our homes, ie in how we conduct our lives and act at home with our loved ones.

Maybe that's why Chanuka comes in the winter, when it's all dark outside, you can't see what's going on out there, but inside our homes, the light is ablaze with fire...

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