

Agudas Yisroel Anshei Kielce



Zmanim

Candle Lighting: 6:01 pm

Mincha/Kabbalas Shabbos: 6:05 pm

Shacharis: 8:45 am

Sof Zman Kriyas Shema: 9:30 am

Hilchos Shabbos Shiur: 5:30 pm

Mincha/**SEUDAS SHLISHIS**: 5:50 pm

Maariv/Motzei Shabbos: 7:06 pm

Motzei Shabbos Rabbeinu Tam: 7:33 pm

Sunday Shacharis: 8:00 am & 9:00 am

Parshas Pekudei

Adapted from Rabbi Yochanan Zweig [www.torah.org]

Do Not Count Your Blessings

"...which were counted at the word of Moshe..."(38:21)

The Midrash quotes a verse from Mishlei "ish emunos verav berachos". This means, "Due to the trustworthy man, comes an abundance of blessing." The Midrash interprets this verse as a reference to Moshe who, because of his unequalled integrity, was appointed as the treasurer responsible for the accounting of funds collected to build the Mishkan. The Midrash cites the verse "bechol baisi ne'emon hu", which means, "In My entire house is he trustworthy" as a support.

Why does trustworthiness result in an abundance of blessing? Furthermore, how can the verse "bechol baisi ne'emon" be cited to ascertain Moshe's financial integrity, when this verse is referring to the uniqueness of Moshe's prophecy, and not his financial trustworthiness? Finally, why is Moshe the only one who is trustworthy for this position?

The Talmud states that blessing only rests on that which is hidden from the eye. Once something has been counted, its potential for blessing is lost. The Zohar questions why the accounting of funds does not violate this Talmudic dictum. The Zohar answers that since it is for a holy purpose, counting is permitted, as we see in the case of the tithing of animals. Why does something have to remain hidden to receive blessing, and why does this not apply if the counting is for a holy purpose?

The Talmud teaches that if a person finds an object without identifying markings, he is not permitted to keep it, unless he knows that enough time has elapsed for the person who lost the object to realize that it is missing. If, however, a person finds money, he is permitted to keep it, for he can be certain that the owner realizes that it is missing, "since a person consistently checks his pockets to see that his money is still there." What is the psychological insight that the Talmud is teaching us regarding the nature of a person?

Inherent in man's nature is an insecurity re-

garding his possessions, which manifests itself in the need to feel ownership over all his possessions whenever possible. Constantly touching his wallet is an example of man's need to feel connected to his possessions. In order to cater to this need with things he cannot constantly touch, man will view them whenever possible. For those assets which are intangible, such as stocks or bonds, man continuously counts them. Counting gives a person a strong sense of ownership.

The word "beracha" is derived from the word "beraicha" - a reservoir or source, for blessing means a connection to the source of existence, i.e. Hashem. If something is connected to its source, it flourishes and grows abundantly. When man asserts his dominance over an item, he separates it from its source, and the be-

racha is lost. Therefore, blessing can only rest on that which is hidden, that which man has not counted. When counting for Hashem's sake, the opposite is true; the very act of counting connects the item back to Hashem. A problem arises when man collects or counts funds, even if it be for Hashem, and he begins to feel a sense of ownership or connection to those funds. Moshe was so closely connected to Hashem, that Hashem Himself attests to his unique level of prophecy as if Moshe is in Hashem's house. Therefore, Moshe was best suited to be the treasurer responsible for collecting and counting Bnei Yisroel's donations to the Mishkan, for his actions directly connected back to Hashem. This is the explanation of the verse, "Due to the trustworthy man, comes an abundance of blessing."

Good Shabbos

This week's kiddush is sponsored by: A group of committed members.

The kids' program will take place downstairs beginning at 9:30 am.

**The guest speaker for Seudas Shlishis is R' Tzadi Zlotnick.
Seudas Shlishis is sponsored by Mr. Shraga Fishburg
in honour of his sister's birthday.**

The cholim list is being updated for Chodesh Adar II. If you would like to submit a name to the cholim list please email gabbai@agudahsouth.com or contact one of the gabbaim.

Shacharis	Weekday Schedule	Mincha
Sunday: 8:00 am & 9:00 am		7:10 pm
Monday & Thursday: 7:00 am & 7:55 am		Maariv
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 7:00 am & 8:00 am		7:30 pm & 8:00 pm (Mon-Thur)
Daf Yomi with Rabbi Kaufman: 8:00 am (Shabbos), 7:15 am (Sun), 7:40 am (Mon-Fri)		
Amud Yomi with Rabbi Rafi Greenspan: 7:20 am (Mon-Fri)		

To sponsor Kiddush/Seudas Shlishis contact Baruch Klein (kiddush@agudahsouth.com.)

Have a Simcha to announce? Email announcements to mailings@agudahsouth.com.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the email bulletin please email mailings@agudahsouth.com.

Friday Night Learning Program (FNL)

The Friday Night learning program will take place this week.

Learning Seder: 8:00 pm Or Hachaim/Esoteric Mefarshim shiur: 8:45 pm

FNL is sponsored by Rabbi & Mrs. Kaufman in honour of Boruch Klein, Benzion Chinn, Sruli Wolff and all those who have contributed to the FNL this season.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME REMINDER:

CLOCKS MOVE FORWARD ONE HOUR ON SUNDAY @2:00 AM