



Agudas Yisroel Anshei Kielce

ZMANIM FOR PARSHAS VAYIGASH

Hadlokas Neiros: 4:26
Mincha Erev Shabbos: 4:30
Friday Night Learning: 8:00

Shacharis: 8:45
Kids Program: 9:30
Mincha: 4:15

Shabbos Ends: 5:30
Shabbos Ends R"Y: 5:57
Sunday Shacharis: 8:00

Yosef Provides Us With A Lesson In Etiquette

Parshas Vayigash
Rabbi Yissocher Frand

When Yosef finally reveals himself to his brothers, they are shocked and frightened. He tries to console them by telling them “It was not you who sent me down here, but G-d; He has made me father to Pharaoh, master of his entire household, and ruler throughout the entire land of Egypt.” [Bereshis 45:8].

Rav Yerucham Levovitz cites an interesting Medrash in Parshas Tetzaveh in reference to this pasuk [verse]. G-d gave the mitzvah of lighting the Menorah in the Beis HaMikdash to the Jewish people. The Medrash states “It is not that I need the light of the Menorah. I am, after all, the Light of the World. Rather, I command you to light for Me just as I provided illumination for you (in the Wilderness). This will give you the opportunity to return the favor, so to speak.”

Rav Yerucham says that we learn a powerful lesson in proper etiquette from this Medrash. When someone does a tremendous favor for his friend, the beneficiary may approach the benefactor and ask how he might be able to repay the kindness. What is the proper response of a benefactor in such a situation?

Most people would say that the proper response is to shrug off the favor and say, “Forget about it! Don’t worry! You don’t have to pay me back.” This Medrash teaches otherwise. The proper response is in fact to suggest a way in which the beneficiary can pay the benefactor back. Someone who is truly sensitive for the feelings of his friend will not want the friend to feel indebted.

If you do not give to the beneficiary the opportunity to return a favor, the relationship will remain as one of debtor and benefactor. Deep down, the benefactor is thinking “this guy still owes me big time,” and the beneficiary is thinking the same thing. Maintaining such a relationship is not proper etiquette. It is not being a mensch. A person with outstanding
www.agudahsouth.com
mailings@agudahsouth.com

character traits will tell his beneficiary, “You know, there is something you CAN do for me...”

Even if that which the beneficiary will do in return is not as significant or as important a favor, it at least gives the person the opportunity to feel “I’ve paid him back,” so that the recipient does not have to go through life thinking, “I owe this guy. I owe this guy. I owe this guy.”

This is what G-d is teaching by asking Klal Yisrael for a “favor” – to light a light for Him in His Temple. We would not have been able to move 5 feet forward in the Wilderness without G-d’s Light. What is more, He doesn’t need our light. But nevertheless, in His Kindness, He gave us an opportunity to “pay Him back.”

The Rosh, in the Orchos Chaim l’ha’Rosh, states that not only does this have ramifications when someone does us a favor — it also has implications when someone commits an offense against us. The Orchos Chaim consists of very cryptic sayings from the Rosh. In this case, he says, “Don’t consider it a sin if a person wishes to excuse himself in front of you.”

The scenario that the Rosh is speaking of is when Reuvain hurts Shimon in a very profound way. Two weeks later, Reuvain comes before Shimon and says, “You know, I realize I acted horribly towards you, but – I want to explain.”

Again, what is our normal reaction to such a situation? “Forget it. I don’t want to hear your explanation. I don’t need to hear your explanation. It is done already – just forget it!” The Rosh explains that reacting in that way is not practicing exemplary midos. Shimon is refusing to hear the explanation because he wants Reuvain to suffer. He knows that from this point forward, every time Reuvain sees him, he will feel bad. Shimon, by not being willing to listen to Reuvain’s

explanation is setting up a future relationship where Reuvain will always “owe him something.”

Therefore, the Rosh says, if a person sins against you and comes to explain – do not consider this a further sin on his part. On the contrary, hear him out. Listen to his excuse – whether it is a good excuse or not. Even if his excuse is total nonsense, let him say it anyway. Let him have the satisfaction of being let off the hook, as though he in fact settled his debt to you. Such a practice represents super character traits. One who is prepared to let his neighbor “off the hook,” even if perhaps he does not deserve to get off so easy, is most praiseworthy.

Rav Yerucham finds an example of this in Yosef’s response here to his brothers. Imagine how the ten brothers felt. They took Yosef, intending to kill him. In the end, they sold him into slavery. Their behavior toward him was almost inexcusable. What can they say to him now? What kind of apology can they hope to offer under such circumstances?

Yosef tells them, “You did not sin toward me. It all turned out for the best. This was all part of G-d’s Divine plan. You were just pawns – puppets in the hands of the puppeteer.” Yosef was attempting to relieve his brothers of their unbelievable burden of guilt. This, says Rav Yeruchem, demonstrates the pristine quality of the midos of Yosef haTzadik.

<p>This Week’s FNL is sponsored by: Chaim & Chaya Leah Rivlin</p>
<p>This week’s Kiddush is sponsored by: The Shul</p>
<p>Seudas Shlishis is sponsored by: Yehudah and Esti Cohen In honor of the Yartzheit of; Meir Ben Yosef Tzvi Ben Yosef Moshe Eliyahu Ben Yitzchak</p> <p>The guest speaker for seudas shlishis is Rabbi Shmuelli Heller</p>
<p>The cholim list is being updated for Chodesh Teves. If you would like to submit a name to the cholim list please email gabbai@agudahsouth.com or contact one of the gabbaim.</p>

Upcoming Weekday Schedule for Parshas Vayeichi

<p>Shacharis</p> <p>Sunday: 8:00 am Monday: 7:00 & 7:55 Tuesday: 7:00 & 8:00 Wednesday: 7:00 & 8:00 (Asara Beteves) Thursday: 6:45 & 7:45 Friday: 7:00 & 8:00</p>	<p>Mincha 12:45 & 4:35 pm</p> <p>Maariv 4:55 pm</p>	<p>Asara Beteves</p> <p>Fast begins: 6:38 Shacharis: 6:45 & 7:45 Mincha: 4:30 Shekiya: 4:48 Maariv: 5:15 Fast ends: 5:33</p>
--	---	---

To sponsor Kiddush/Seudas Shlishis contact Baruch Klein (kiddush@agudahsouth.com.)
To sign for the bulletin, submit announcements, add names to the cholim list or yahrzeit calendar go to www.agudahsouth.com/mailling-lists, email mailings@agudahsouth.com or speak to one of the gabbaim.