

# Agudas Yisroel Anshei Kielce



## Zmanim

Candle Lighting: 7:55 pm

Mincha/Kabbalas Shabbos: 6:30 pm & 7:55 pm

Shacharis: 8:45 am

Mincha/NO SEUDAS SHLISHIS: 7:50 pm

**Pirkei Avos Shiur: Between Mincha & Maariv**

Maariv/Motzei Shabbos: 9:01 pm

Motzei Shabbos Rabbeinu Tam: 9:23 pm

## Parshas Shoftim

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

### The Healer Is On-Call

After the sin of Bas Sheva, Nosson the prophet approached David, rebuking him for his transgression. David responded "chatasi laHashem" - "I have sinned to Hashem". Shaul too, when rebuked by the prophet Shmuel, replied "chatasi ki avarti es pi Hashem" - "I have sinned, violating Hashem's word". Although there appears to be no difference between the contrition of Shaul and that of David, the answer lies in Shaul's subsequent words, "ki yareisi es ha'am va'eshma b'kolam" - "for I was fearful of the nation, bowing to their demands". Whereas David simply stated "I have sinned", Shaul attempted to offer a reason for why he acted in the way that he did, claiming that it was due to the pressure of the people. By attempting to offer an excuse, Shaul was abrogating his responsibility for the transgression. The most important element of Teshuva is accepting complete responsibility for our actions and not attempting to shift the blame. David was therefore offered a reprieve, having repented completely, while Shaul was not, for his penitence was lacking.

Focusing upon past experiences and connecting them to present behaviors often leads to the abrogation of responsibility. The Torah wants us to focus only upon our actions when doing Teshuva, since we are expected to take complete responsibility for the transgressions we

have perpetrated. Any attempt during the Teshuva process to identify the behavior as a manifestation of a past experience is, in actuality, an attempt to mitigate blame for our actions. Therefore, the Rambam includes the principle of free choice in the Laws of Teshuva, for it is the ability to choose right from wrong that holds us completely accountable for our choices. Having proclivities or propensities from past experiences does not affect our ability to choose the right course of action. Past experiences or personality traits only make it a greater challenge to do the right thing; a person does not have the right to say that he acts the way he does because that is who he is. Unless a person meets the Halachic criteria that renders him legally incompetent to make decisions, he must hold himself completely accountable for all his decisions.

Psychological analysis can be beneficial when used to determine a person's challenges and the way in which he should address them. But, when used to deflect responsibility, it is harmful, for the behavior becomes entrenched within the person and creates excuses for his actions.

The Talmud teaches that there are two forms of "refu'ah" - "healing", the healing of sickness and the healing that follows Teshuva, as is stated in the verse "veshav verafa lo" - "and he will repent and he will be healed".<sup>9</sup> It is generally understood that this form of healing addresses the healing for the damage to our souls which is

caused by the sins that we perform. However, this healing can also be understood as the healing that Hashem affords us after Teshuva, to remove those underlying forces which created our propensity to act in a sinful manner.

During the ten days of repentance, Hashem, who is our Healer, is closer to us and waiting for us to call upon

Him. Therefore, during this time it is easier to remove the underlying causes of our malevolent behavior. Hashem will remove these causes, as long as we take complete responsibility for our actions.

*Good Shabbos*

**\*\* To ensure accurate publication of all announcements and sponsorships, \*\*  
\*\*information must be submitted to mailings@agudahsouth.com \*\*  
\*\*prior the publication deadline of 10:00 am on Friday morning.\*\***

**Mazel Tov to Meir Yaacov and Bat Sheva Halberstadt on the recent vort of their daughter Leah to Dovid Axelrod. We apologize but due to a miscommunication the announcement for the vort was not sent out in time.**

**The kids' program will take place this week beginning at 9:30 am at Bnos Bais Yaakov.**

**The Pirkei Avos Shiur will take place in between Mincha & Maariv.  
Seudas Shlishis is cancelled until the basement renovation is complete.**

**We are updating the cholim list for Chodesh Elul.  
If you would like to submit a name to the cholim list please email  
gabbai@agudahsouth.com.**

### Weekday Schedule

<b>Shacharis</b>	<b>Mincha</b>
Sunday: 8:00 am	7:50 pm
Mon. & Thurs.: 7:00 am & 7:55 am	<b>Maariv</b>
Tues., Wed. & Fri.: 7:00 am & 8:00 am	8:10 pm
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.)

All those wish to submit names to the cholim list can email gabbai@agudahsouth.com or contact one the gabbaim.

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

## **Join our Kehillah today!**

To find out more about memberships, associate memberships, & other sponsorship opportunities please email mailings@agudahsouth.com.

## **Shul Update**

Please note that the although we have moved back into the shul, the basement is still under renovation. The downstairs will be under construction for another 2 -3 weeks, however there will be access to the washrooms. We apologize for any inconvenience.

*The Board*