



MAOR DAVID BOCA RATON CAMPUS

Rabbi Yosef Korkos

In memory of Maran HaGaon HaRav Ovadia Yosef, ztz"l

SHABBAT VAYIKRA 5774/ MARCH 7-8, 2014

HUMILITY IS THE KEY

Gleanings from Rabbeinu Bachaye and the Midrash

This Parsha is talking all about sacrifices. When the order came from HaKadosh Barukh Hu for Am Yisrael to make sacrifices, all the other nations of the world grew very angry. They came in front of Bilaam HaRasha and asked him why Hashem commanded the Parshat HaKorbanot to Bnei Yisrael and not to them. Bilaam answered them that Am Yisrael received the Torah and they did not. The nations responded that they were given the Seven Mitzvot from Noach, so why aren't they included. Related to this, the Midrash Pasikta relays the following story:

The Malakhim asked Knowledge, "If someone commits a sin, what punishment does he deserve?"

Knowledge responds, "They should face the death penalty, as the Pasuk say, 'Chata'im Tirdof Ra'ah/Evil chases the sinners.'"

The Malakhim then ask Prophecy the same question. Prophecy responds, "HaNefesh Akhotet Yitamut/The soul that sins will die."

The Malakhim then go to the Torah and ask the same question. The Torah responds, "If he brings Korbanot, he will be forgiven."

The Malakhim then ask HaKadosh Barukh Hu. He responds to them, "Ya'ase Teshuvah V'yitkhaper Lo/If you make Teshuvah, it will be forgiven for you."

So really, the Korbanot don't belong to the other nations. Only the Torah prescribes Korbanot for the sinner. For the nations that didn't receive the Torah, they can't take an answer from the Torah since they didn't receive it. For the Jewish People, the main important thing is from HaKadosh Barukh Hu. It doesn't matter if you bring a Korban or not. If you don't have a direct relationship with Hashem, you can't even fulfill His answer by making Teshuvah. HaKadosh Barukh Hu doesn't even want the Korbanot we make. We see today that we don't have Beit HaMikdash and Hashem refuses to accept Korbanot. The only thing we have left is to connect with Hashem and to keep in mind every day to make Teshuvah.

Rabbeinu Bachaye brings in his introduction to this Parsha a Pasuk from Mishlei (22:4): The effect of humility is Yirat Shamayim, wealth, honor, and life. We know that the character of humility brings many benefits. A human

SHABBAT TIMES FOR BOCA RATON

Candle Lighting: 6:07PM

Shabbat starts: 6:25PM

Dinner: 7:45PM

Shachrit: 9AM

Z'man Shema: 9:34AM

Hatzot: 12:31PM

Lunch: 12:15PM

Mincha: After Lunch

Various Shiurim with

Dessert: Following Mincha

(Parsha, Zohar, Yalkut

Yosef, and more)

Kids Tehillim: 5:00PM

Seudah Shlishit: 6:15PM

Shkiya: 6:26PM

Motzei Shabbat: 7:00PM

Rabbeinu Tam: 7:38PM

Arvit/Havdala: 7:15PM

Parshat Vayikra:

Vayikra 1:1 – 5:26

Haftarah:

Yishayahu 43:21 –

44:23

being that has wealth and has pride will not appreciate what he has. But even half of what he has will be enough for him if he is a humble man. As we learn in Pirkei Avot (4:1): Who is wealthy? He who is happy with his lot. Shlomo HaMelekh also says (Mishlei 29:23): A humble man will obtain honor. Shlomo also says (Mishlei 18:12): Before destruction comes pride; before honor comes humility.

Someone who is humble never suffers. No matter what he has or doesn't have, no matter what life throws at him, he's happy. We see the Midrash says that Wisdom is the crown on a person's head, but it doesn't approach the heel of someone who is humble. As it says in Tehillim (111:10): The beginning of wisdom is fear of Hashem. The Rambam always says that with everything, one should not veer too much to the right or left and should stay in the middle. But with pride, the Rambam took a completely different approach. He said that one has to stay as far away from pride as possible. He brings Moshe Rabbeinu as an example. The Midrash teaches us that Moshe was the richest man, the wisest man, the greatest prophet, the highest in Kedusah; but the Torah only says one thing about him: He was the most humble person to ever walk the earth.

The lesson we learn from here is that we should never take any advice from any rabbi, any counselor, any person who has a little bit of pride in them. The Aleph in Vayikra is written smaller than all the letters in this Parsha. This is the first time Hashem speaks to Moshe and calls him by name from the Ohel Moed. And Moshe in his humility writes the Aleph with a small letter to downplay his importance in this episode. Torah and pride cannot exist together. We cannot learn Torah, get closer to HaKadosh Barukh Hu, or make Teshuvah if we have pride in ourselves. We have to be humble, make the Aleph a little smaller, and then we can receive the blessings of wealth, honor, and life.

Halakhot of the Week (Halakhot of Purim)

- The next mitzvah of Purim is Mishloach Manot. Because Mishloach is singular and Manot is plural, the Halakha is that two food items must be given to a friend as a gift for the Purim Seudah. The purpose of Mishloach Manot is to increase camaraderie and friendship between people.
- The items should be two separate foods. Wine can also be counted as one of the items, but it is best to fulfill the mitzvah with two foods and not with beverages.

NEWS

- A big Todah Rabah to Yaakov for sponsoring the Kiddush a couple weeks ago in honor of his birthday. Ad Me'ah V'Esrin!!
- Todah Rabah to Yosef Ohayon and family for supporting the matzah bakery. Tizku Lemiztvot.
- Motzei Shabbat is Adar 7 and we will be having a Pizza Party in honor of the Hilulah of Moshe Rabbeinu.
- We will be having Shachrit for Purim at 8AM on Sunday, March 16. Please come as we will be reading the Megillah. Following Shachrit we will have refreshments and a Siyum Masechet for Masechet Megillah.
- As a friendly reminder: Daylight Saving's Time starts this week. Set your clocks forward an hour Saturday night before going to bed.
- Todah Rabah and Mazal Tov to all the women who came to our Rosh Chodesh Women's Club. Todah Rabah to Rabbanit Orli and Rivkah for cooking and making such a wonderful program.