

The Real Value of Mitzvos

"This shall be the reward when you hearken to these ordinances..." (Devarim 7:12)

Rashi: If, even the lighter commands which a person usually treads on with his heels (i.e. which a person is inclined to treat lightly), he will hearken to.

Chazal tell us that the *mitzvos* referred to are the ones which people trample upon because they seem trivial. Yet, Chazal teach us that we get an abundance of reward specifically for these "trivial" *mitzvos*. This needs explanation.

I would like to share with you an incident that happened to me many years ago. I stopped at a bus stop and gave someone a ride, yet ended up getting an earful from him! Not that he was upset at me, rather at all the other drivers who didn't stop to give him a ride. He said to me, "I can't understand it! To give a ride is so easy and is such a great *mitzvah*! Why don't people do it?" I responded to him, "There is something wrong with your math! It can't be that what you are saying is true." I then explained to him that if it is easy to do, then there probably isn't much of a reward. But if it is hard to do, then there probably is a big reward. "You are complaining because it seems to you that it is so simple for someone to stop and give a ride, and there is a great reward. However, the driver who is focused on getting somewhere, just to stop for a few seconds is a real test of helping someone else out versus interrupting his plans. This is why there is a great reward, because it isn't 'so simple'." *Mitzvos* which seem so simple to do, in reality may be quite difficult. The above verse teaches us that precisely for this reason, there is an abundance of reward given for these "trivial" *mitzvos*, as the challenges are great. I believe that this is the simple explanation of what Chazal said.

However, I saw an even simpler explanation that I would also like to share. If one were to ask, "Is a million dollars a lot of money?" we would all say, "Of course!" But if you ask someone in the Fortune 500, "Is a million dollars a lot



Lifecycles

Mazel Tov to Gil and Malka Garalnick who are inviting the entire kehilla to a Kiddush this Shabbos in honor of Gil's Chasan Bereishis and the 18th (יח) anniversary of their Aliyah to Eretz Yisroel!



Mazel Tov to Ari and Rochel Waldman on the birth of a grandson to their children Tzviki and Reut Waldman.



Mazel Tov to Shimon and Bathsheva Fraiss on the birth of a grandson, born to their children Israel Meir & Tamar Tova Stanton.



Times Are Changing

Shabbos Mincha will be **17:50** THIS WEEK and not 18:00! The starting time of the last Shabbos Mincha will now change each week and continue changing throughout the winter. Avos uBanim will begin 60 minutes before Mincha, and Pirkei Avos will begin 24 minutes after Mincha.

CANCELLED: The 09:00 Shacharis minyon is cancelled. Look for it to return for Chol Hamoed Sukkos.

Shabbos Schedule Parshas Eikev לוח שבת פרשת עקב

Erev Shabbos		ערב שבת
Mincha 1	13:30	מנחה א'
"Early Mincha"	17:32	מנחה "מוקדמת"
Plag Hamincha	17:52	פלג המנחה
Candle Lighting	18:37/18:57	הדלקת נרות
Mincha 3	18:59	מנחה ג'
Sunset	19:17	שקיעה
Shabbos Day		יום השבת
Brachos	08:15	ברכות
Shochein Ad	08:45	שוכן עד
Latest Shema – M. A.	08:39	סוף זמן ק"ש למג"א
Latest Shema – G'ra	09:27	סוף זמן ק"ש לגר"א
Mincha 1	13:30	מנחה א'
Mincha 2	17:50	מנחה ב'
Pirkei Avos Shiur	18:14	פרקי אבות
Sunset	19:15	שקיעה
Ma'ariv 1	19:52	מעריב א'
Ma'ariv 2	20:15	מעריב ב'

(Continued from page 1)

of money?" they would answer, "Of course it isn't!" So, it seems that when we ask if something is a lot of money or not, we are asking a subjective question and not an objective one. But at the end of the day, is a million dollars objectively a lot of money or not? My answer is that it is, and I have two proofs: The first is that even today, a million dollars can sustain a person for many years, and therefore it can objectively be considered a lot of money. For the second proof, I would like to share with you a story that happened in Brooklyn a few years ago. A man walked into shul and told his Rabbi, "Today is the worst day of my life!" The Rabbi asked him what happened, and he responded, "I lost \$30 million today!" The Rabbi then asked him, "Do you have any money left?" and he said, "Of course! But do you know how much money \$30 million is?!" So here we see that even in the world of subjective assessment, we know that people appreciate the real worth of money, even if they have a lot more of it.

Let's get back to our subject, the value of Torah and *mitzvos*. Some people have the misconception that small *mitzvos* are worthless, even though the objective value of these small *mitzvos* is priceless. In fact, the story is told of the sister of the Vilna Gaon, who crossed the street to get *zedakah* money on behalf of someone else. Her partner didn't cross the street. In a dream, she saw that this small act raised her to a totally different level of reward than her partner. Every part of every *mitzvah*, no matter how small, brings an abundance of reward.

Aside from the value of each *mitzvah* in its own right, and the challenge of performing it, one should remember that there is great value in performing *mitzvos* consistently. Many people are now on vacation, which may lead some to being a little lax in performing the *mitzvos* that they do the rest of the year. *Mitzvos* that are done consistently and with cognizant awareness get their own special reward. May we appreciate the opportunities of doing *mitzvos* and celebrate the value that these *mitzvos* add to our lives.

PIRKEI AVOS

WITH RAV AVROHOM BARUCH

ZACHARIASH

This week starting around 18:14.

Don't Be Left Out!

When you have a simcha (or R"L a sad event), it is *so easy* to have it included in the next newsletter! Just send an email to lev@ahavasshalom.org! **Deadline is 11:00 Thursday.**

mazel
Tov

Reminder: Sending an instant message, an email, or speaking to anyone else will probably result in your announcement not making it to the newsletter!

Yeshivas Bein Hazmanim

ישיבת בין הזמנים

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Sponsor one of 17 days of
learning of our Yeshivas
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Support a day of Kol Torah
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אבות ובנים

Shabbos Afternoon:
16:50-17:50
Ages 3-7 learn ½ hour
7+ 1 hour.

**NOTE
NEW TIME**

Treats for all boys!



YOU can also Sponsor AuB!
Treats: 50 ₪ Chocolates: 150 ₪

Q&A: Visiting your Heart Attack Victim

Q Lenny (the "louse") was really being horrible to Rabbi Cohen, spreading lies and other false information about him. Rabbi Cohen tried to stay calm, but the stress of fending off all these false reports became too much for him, and he suffered a minor heart attack. Lenny (the "louse") felt very badly and wanted to do the "right" thing and visit Rabbi Cohen in the hospital to apologize. According to the A.H., should Lenny visit?

- 1) No. When Rabbi Cohen sees Lenny from his hospital bed, he will feel that Lenny is "gloating."
- 2) Yes, but Lenny should contact Rabbi Cohen first to get permission to visit.
- 3) Yes. Lenny may visit during regular visiting hours without first getting permission from Rabbi Cohen.

A 2. The A.H. holds that Lenny may visit, but only if he gets direct permission from Rabbi Cohen first. By doing so, Rabbi Cohen will realize that Lenny is being sincere, and hopefully will repair the relationship between the two of them. It should be noted that the S.A. holds that Lenny should **not** visit, as when Rabbi Cohen sees Lenny (the "louse"), he will feel that Lenny is gloating over his downfall, which will cause even more animosity between Rabbi Cohen and Lenny.

YD 335:2; A.H. 6



Q Lenny (the "louse") got permission to visit Rabbi Cohen in the hospital. It was a bit tense, but Lenny apologized and Rabbi

Cohen accepted the apology. Lenny told the Rabbi a joke, which cheered him up, and after a minute of silence, Lenny said, "Bye Rabbi! See you in synagogue," and took leave of the Rabbi. Has Lenny fulfilled the mitzvah of "visiting the sick"?



A No. The S.A. is clear that to fulfill the mitzvah of "visiting the sick," the visitor must **pray** to Hashem for the recovery of the ill person. Since Lenny made no attempt to pray, he has not fulfilled the Mitzvah properly. Praying is such an essential part of the mitzvah that even if the visitor **only** prayed and did not otherwise interact with the patient, he would still fulfill the mitzvah!

YD 335:4



GMACH SMACHOT

IF YOU SUFFER A LOSS CONTACT THE
GMACH TO BORROW ITEMS
NECESSARY FOR A SHIVA HOME,
ahavasshalom.org/smachot
Or call 054-566-5083 OR 050-203-0584

Shiurim with the Rav



The Rav will be giving 1 shiur this coming week:

SUNDAY 21:15: ~~Mishnayot~~ – CANCELLED!

TUESDAY 20:15: **HILCHOS CHOL HAMOED**

All shiurim are given in shul and via ZOOM at this link:
cutt.ly/AhavasShalomZoom

Past shiurim are archived at ahavasshalom.org/yt-videos

Netziv Hayom

Sponsor *Netziv Hayom* in memory of your loved ones or in honor of a special occasion, and all the learning and davening that take place in our shul during that day will be to your merit. Just 120₪ per sponsorship, which is announced via a notice on the "Netziv Hayom" board in the shul, as well as an announcement in this newsletter. To sponsor a day please contact Mrs. Zakoo Netziv@ahavasshalom.org.



19 Av sponsored by the Friedman-Dolinsky Family

לע"נ **טויבא רבקה בת מנחם מנדל** ע"ה

Mi Shebeirach for Cholim

Reminder: If you would like the Gabbai to read the name of a *choleh* on Shabbos during the *Mi SheBeirach*, you must submit it via Email to Mrs. Zakoo by Thursday!



Send your list of *Hebrew Names* using *Hebrew Letters* to Mrs. Zakoo at office@ahavasshalom.org. The list is erased each Rosh Chodesh, so you'll need to resubmit the names after a month if they are still relevant.

Thank you for following this procedure which enables us to have the Shabbos service run more smoothly!

המשך מעמוד 4

אחר, אבל שותפתה לא חצתה את הרחוב. בחלום היא ראתה שהמעשה הקטן הזה הרים אותה לרמת שכר שונה לחלוטין מזו של שותפתה. כל חלק של כל מצווה, קטן ככל שיהיה, מביא שפע של שכר.

מלבד ערכה של כל מצווה בפני עצמה, והאתגר שבקיומן, כדאי לזכור שיש תועלת רבה בקיום מצוות באופן עקבי. אנשים רבים נמצאים כעת בחופשה, מה שעלול לגרום לחלק להיות פחות מקפידים בקיום המצוות שהם עושים בשאר ימות השנה. מצוות הנעשות בעקביות ובמודעות זוכות לשכר מיוחד. שנזכה להוסיף את ההזדמנויות של עשיית מצוות, ולהכיר את הערך שמוסיפות מצוות אלו לחיינו.

הערך האמיתי של מצוות

והיה עקב תשמעון את המשפטים האלה ושמרתם (דברים ז:יב)
רשי: אם המצוות קלות שצאדם דש בעקביו תשמעון.

חז"ל מלמדים אותנו שהמצוות הנזכרות הן המצוות שאנשים דשים בעקבותיהם בגלל שהן נראות קלות ערך, ובכל זאת, במיוחד עבור המצוות ה"קלות" הללו, אנו מקבלים שפע של שכר. זה דורש הסבר.

לפני שנים רבות עצרתי בתחנת אוטובוס ונתתי למישהו טרמפ, ובסופו של דבר קיבלתי ממנו דברי מוסר! לא שהוא התעצבן עליי, אלא על כל הנהגים האחרים שלא עצרו לתת לו טרמפ. הוא אמר לי, "אני לא יכול להבין! לתת טרמפ זה כל כך קל וזו מצווה כל כך גדולה! למה אנשים לא עושים את זה?" עניתי לו, "יש משהו לא בסדר בחישובים שלך! אם זה קל לעשות, אז כנראה אין הרבה שכר. אבל אם זה קשה לעשות, אז כנראה יש שכר גדול. אתה מתלונן כי נראה לך שזה כל כך קל למישהו לעצור ולתת טרמפ. על זה אני אומר שעבור הנהג שממחר להגיע לאנשהו, רק לעצור לכמה שניות זה מבחן אמיתי. לעזור למישהו אחר לעומת דחיית התוכניות שלהם." זו הסיבה שיש שכר גדול, כי זה לא "כל כך פשוט".

מצוות שנראות כל כך פשוטות לעשות, במציאות עשויות להיות די קשות. הפסוק הנ"ל מלמד אותנו שדווקא מסיבה זו, יש שפע של שכר שניתן עבור מצוות "קלות" אלו, שכן הניסיון קשה. לדעתי זהו ההסבר הפשוט של דברי חז"ל.

עם זאת, ראיתי הסבר יותר פשוט שאני רוצה לשתף. אם היו שואלים, "האם מיליון דולר זה הרבה כסף?" כולנו היינו עונים, "כמובן!" אבל אם שואלים אדם עשיר מאוד, "האם מיליון דולר זה הרבה כסף?" היה עונה, "לא כל כך" אז, נראה שלהערכת מה נחשב הרבה כסף, התשובה סובייקטיבית. אבל בסופו של יום, האם מיליון דולר הם באמת הרבה כסף, התשובה שלי היא שכן, ויש לי שתי הוכחות. הראשון הוא שגם היום אפשר לחיות ממיליון דולר במשך שנים רבות, ולכן זה בהחלט יכול להיחשב הרבה כסף. הוכחה השנייה, מגיעה מסיפור שקרה בברוקלין לפני כמה שנים. אדם נכנס לבית הכנסת ואמר לרב שלו: "היום הוא הכי גרוע בחיי!" הרב שאל אותו מה קרה, והוא ענה: "היום הפסדתי 30 מיליון דולר!" אחר כמה שניות שאל אותו הרב: "האם נשאר לך כסף?" והוא אמר, "כמובן! אבל אתה מבין כמה כסף זה 30 מיליון דולר?" אז כאן אנו רואים שאנשים מעריכים את הערך האמיתי של הכסף, גם אם הם עשירים מופלגים.

נחזור לנושא שלנו, ערך התורה והמצוות. יש אנשים שיש להם תפיסה מוטעית שמצוות קטנות הן חסרות ערך, אבל באמת הערך האובייקטיבי של המצוות הקטנות האלה לא יכולא בפז. למעשה מסופר על אחותו של הגאון מווילנה, שחצתה את הרחוב כדי לבקש דמי צדקה בשם מישהו

המשך בעמוד 3

Early Bird Special!

PAY for your Yomim Noraim seats by Midnight Sep 7 and receive a 10% discount!

Member Prices Per Seat:

	FULL	Early Bird
First Seat	250 ₪	225 ₪
Add'l seats for spouse and dependent children	150 ₪	135 ₪
Add'l seats for extended family and out-of-town guests	200 ₪	180 ₪

Associate Member Prices Per Seat:

First Seat	350 ₪	315 ₪
Additional seats	250 ₪	225 ₪

Non-Member Prices Per Seat:

Each Seat*	500 ₪	X
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To receive the member price:

- You must be a full member (not an associate member).
- Outstanding financial obligations must be paid in full.
- You must have a standing order to pay via "horaat keva" or credit card, or must pay dues (190 ₪ per month.) for September, October, and November 2024 in full.

Hardship cases will be handled with sensitivity and discretion.

Credit cards: Nedarim Plus ahavasshalom.org/nedarim

PayPal ahavasshalom.org/ynseats

Please contact Brad Rubenstein 054-237-0028 or

brad@ahavasshalom.org to arrange seats and payments.

*Non-members can begin purchasing seats on Motza'ei Shabbos 07-Sep-24.

**To receive the Early Bird Price
PAY for your seats before 07-Sep-24**

Note: All above regular conditions and options also apply to the early bird discount. Seats reserved before 07-Sep-2024 do not get the discount without an accompanying full payment.



Weekday times until Parshas Re'eh	י' (Fri)	ה' (Thu)	ד' (Wed)	ג' (Tue)	ב' (Mon)	א' (Sun)	יום שחרית מנחה מערב	זמנים לימי חול עד פרישת ראה
	06:20, 07:15, 08:15 13:30, 17:25, 18:50 *Hall	06:20, 07:15, 08:10 13:15, 15:15 20:15, 21:00	06:20, 07:15, 08:10 13:15, 15:15 20:15, 21:00	06:20, 07:15, 08:10 13:15, 15:15 20:15, 21:00	06:20, 07:15, 08:10 13:15, 15:15 20:15, 21:00	06:20, 07:15, 08:10 13:15, 15:15 20:15, 21:00		

HaRav Avrohom Baruch Zachariash, Sh'lita, Rav
Su-Fr 08:30-09:15 and Su-Th 19:15-20
Cellphone: 052-763-5938
Binyomin Rubenstein, Chairman
binyomin@ahavasshalom.org 054-237-0028

Administrative Secretary: Miriam Zakoo
Su & Tu 11:00-13:00 and Th 10:00-12:00
J 058-3263914 office@ahavasshalom.org
Shul Address: 33 Nachal Lachish
Ramat Beit Shemesh, Israel

Main Ahavas Shalom lists:
Email List: ahavasshalom.org/list
WhatsApp: [ahavasshalom.org/WhatsApp](https://www.ahavasshalom.org/WhatsApp)
Email Rav: ahavasshalom.org/email-rav

Newsletter Design: Lev Seltzer lev@ahavasshalom.org
Newsletter Contact: Send your lifecycle events, news, comments, etc. to lev@ahavasshalom.org. Remember: If we don't know about your event, we can't publish it!