

LECTURE

Cedar - Green Community Kollel Women's Division
"Dreaming Big... Taking Small Steps" ... For Our Homes

Mrs. Reena Sokol ♦ Mrs. Shoshana Taub

Tuesday, February 17

8:00 pm

Home of Mrs. Sylvia Pollack 2510 Blossom Lane

In memory of Mrs. Rose Pollack a'h ♦ לזכות רפואה שלמה בן-בן אלקא

SPONSOR

DR. & MRS. YITZCHOK KLETTER
IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER

בן ציון בן חיים שמואל-ל ע"ה

ON HIS 7TH YARTZEIT א' אדר

AND IN MEMORY OF HIS

GRANDMOTHER חוה בת חיים ע"ה

ON HER 41st YARTZEIT כ"ו שבט

PARSHA INSIGHT

And these are the ordinances. If you will buy a Jewish slave... (21:1-2)

After having recorded Matan Torah, the Torah chooses to write the halochos of slavery first. Why didn't the Torah first write halochos regarding a person's daily life such as Shabbos, kashrus, davening or Talmud Torah, rather than slavery whose laws apply in a randomly?

And his master shall bore through his ear with an awl... (21:6)

Raban Yochanan ben Zakkai expounded on the above posuk, "Why does the slave who wishes to stay with his master beyond six years have his ear pierced? Why specifically the ear? His ear heard on Har Sinai, "For Me Bnai Yisroel are slaves..." (Behar 25:55) and now he went and acquired a new master for himself. Therefore, the ear must be pierced."

The ear of the servant is pierced because he acquired a master for himself other than Hashem. Why wasn't his ear pierced when he was initially sold into slavery? Why is it pierced only after he wants to retain his slave status for additional time?

To answer this question, the Torah's perspective on slavery has to be explained. A Jewish slave, in the view of the Torah, is merely an hourly worker who works twenty four hours a day. The Torah rules that the master must forgo his personal comfort on behalf of his slave, who is a fellow Jew.

The reason for the Torah's attitude is because a Jew can never be a slave. A person is committed to Hashem and must maintain his commitment solely to Him. Therefore, Hashem set a limit on the slavery - six years. Being a twenty four hour worker for six years does not contradict one's subservience to Hashem.

However, when a slave wishes to extend his tenure and commit himself for more than Hashem has prescribed, it shows that he wishes to accept a new master, other than Hashem. Since this moment defines his change of allegiance, his ear is pierced at this time.

With this premise, the Mayan Hashovua answers why the Torah discusses the laws of slavery first after Matan Torah. The Torah wants a Jew to know that Hashem views him as a lofty person, who is above slavery. Although he may work, he may not become a slave because this would be contrary to his commitment to Hashem as his only master. Following Matan Torah, this concept is most paramount for a person to know.

HALOCHO

On the seventh day you shall desist, so that... and the sojourner may be refreshed. (23:12)

The sojourner refers to a ger toshov - one who accepts upon himself to observe the seven Noahide laws. (Yevomos 48b)

For he has accepted upon himself not to serve avoda zora... therefore, he is obligated to observe Shabbos, for one who desecrates Shabbos is tantamount to idolatry. (Rashi)

Why is a ger toshov any different than a non-Jew who is prohibited from idolatry and not obligated to observe Shabbos? (Tosfos)

A non-Jew and a ger toshov are both obligated in the same mitzvos. What is the difference between them?

The Ponovezer Rov (Kuntros Divrei HaRav) answers that a non-Jew is obligated to observe the seven Noahide laws that were commanded to Noach. However, when a ger toshov accepts mitzvos, he is accepting the mitzvos that were commanded to Moshe on Har Sinai (Rambam Pirush HaMishnayos Chulin 100b).

Only the prohibition of idolatry that was commanded at Har Sinai carries with it a similarity to Shabbos observance. Therefore, a non-Jew's prohibition to worship idols, for which he is obligated because of the command given to Noach, does not have a similarity to Shabbos. With no connection to Shabbos, a non-Jew therefore is not obligated to observe Shabbos. However, a ger toshov's prohibition to worship idols is due to the mitzvos that were given to Moshe on Har Sinai. This prohibition to worship idols has a similarity to Shabbos, therefore he is obligated to observe Shabbos.

A GLIMPSE OF GREATNESS

People of holiness shall you be to me, you shall not eat the flesh of an animal that was torn in the field... (22:30)

The King of Spain once invited his advisor, Rav Don Yitzchok Abarbenel, to eat with him. The Abarbenel told the King, "I would be more than happy to eat with the king, but it would have to be in my house because I cannot eat food from the King's palace."

The King answered, "We will cook kosher meat for you."

The Abarbenel answered, "If it is cooked in your pots, it is also not permissible."

The King responded, "Bring your food from home."

The Abarbenel told the King, "I also need to bring someone to watch that the food does not get switched with your food, as is required by halocho (Chulin 95a)."

The king agreed that the Abarbenel should bring his homemade food to the Palace. The King decided to test the Abarbenel. The King ordered a one legged swivel table, and told his kitchen staff to make the identical food that the Abarbenel would bring.

The day came and the Abarbenel came with his food and mashgiach. As the King and the Abarbenel were talking, the Abarbenel did not take his eye off his food, to ensure that it did not assume the status of "meat that has been out of one's eyesight."

The King suddenly motioned to something outside his window - a very unique bird. As the Abarbenel looked outside, the King swiveled the table, with now the non-kosher food being in front of the Abarbenel and the Abarbenel's food in front of the King.

Realizing that he had taken his eyes off of his food, the Abarbenel did not eat the food. Noticing that the Abarbenel was not eating, the King asked him, "Why don't you eat?" The Abarbenel explained the issue.

The King was amazed at the halachos of the Torah that address every scenario. He was additionally inspired by the Abarbenel's commitment to them, which prevented him from sinning.

WHO AM I?

1. I work for you
2. I am your master
3. I came for theft
4. If I stay too long I may become holey

Last week's clues: See what is heard, Hear what is seen, Under the mountain, Death and Reviving.

Answer: Matan Torah

Congratulations to: Ronen & Tal Lowenthal, Sorah and Naftoli Stoll.

1. Angelic secret
2. My utterance saved the world
3. Impulsive?
4. Now I was forced

Last week's clues: No cuts, No steps, I am for longevity, I do not make CDs. **Answer:** Mizbeyach / Altar

Congratulations to: Yerachmiel Diamond, Ronen & Tal Lowenthal, Sorah, Shifra and Naftoli Stoll.

DILEMMA

If she (the Jewish maidservant) is displeasing in the eyes of her master, who should have designated her for himself, he shall assist in her pidyon (redemption)... (21:8)

If he (the Jewish slave) has not been geulah (redeemed) ... (Behar 25:54)

Why does the Torah refer to the redemption of a maidservant as pidyon, while calling the redemption of a slave geulah?

TORAH RIDDLE

What should one learn if he wants to become wise?

Last week's riddle: Which mitzvos are remunerated for in this world? **Answer:** Kibud av v'aim and shiluach hakain are rewarded with longevity in this world.

Congratulations to: Yerachmiel Diamond, Tal Lowenthal, Sorah, Shifra, Naftoli & Yocheved M. Stoll,

Please submit answers to
OnegShabbos@BeachwoodKollel.com

PIRCHEI

3:30 - Grades: 7-8:

Rabbi A. Charlop 14500 Summerfield

4:45 - Zichron Chaim - Yavne 2475 S. Green

Grade 3 - 4: Dock Grade 5 - 6: Classroom

AVOS UBONIM

Motzoei Shabbos Pirchei Learning

(bring your fathers)

Zichron Chaim

2203 South Green Rd.

Grades 3 - 8

7:45 - 8:45

KOLLEL BULLETIN

MAZEL TOV

- ♦ Rabbi and Mrs. Faivel Katz on the Bar Mitzva of Shloimy Rabbi and Mrs. Y. Z. Katz
- ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Nochum Tessler on the birth of a boy and girl Mr. and Mrs. Zev Kushner

BNOS

2:30 - 3:30

Kindergarten: Rashi Klahr 14390 E. Carroll

Grade 1 - 2: Tzippy Chafetz 2585 Lafayette

Grade 3 - 4: Leeba Goldstein 2456 Milton

5:30-6:30 - Shalosh Seudos

Grade 5 - 6: Gitty Denciger 2436 Claver

OnegShabbos@BeachwoodKollel.com

www.BeachwoodKollel.com

216-382-5314