

A Taste of Torah

G-dly Vessels

By Rabbi Moshe Heyman

My grandfather, R' Michoel Shick zt"l, once came home from a doctor's appointment looking distraught. As he was not one to be easily upset, my aunt asked him what was bothering him. He replied that he seemed to have misplaced his Parker pen. My aunt said, "That's an easy fix, we can get another one." My grandfather replied, "That is true, but I have had this one for 25 years."

The Parsha tells that Yaakov went back across a river in order to retrieve small vessels that he had forgotten. The Gemara in Chulin (91a) says that we see from Yaakov that Tzaddikim hold their money more dear than their own body. The Gemara explains that whatever they have earned, they hold dear because it did not come from an illegal source. Yet, it is still hard to understand why a tzaddik would hold money dear, as it seems to be something that would distract him from his service of G-d.

If we can understand the concept from a tzaddik's perspective, we might have an answer. True, the pursuit of money can often play a role in distracting us from service of G-d. But we must remember that the money we receive from Hashem, or even the small possessions we own, need to be viewed as gifts from Hashem. If Hashem gave it to us, it means Hashem felt we needed it. How can we not give it the same care that we would give to any gift of Hashem. If Yaakov would not have gone back for those small vessels, the statement he would have been making is, "Hashem gave me something, and I do not need it." Can we say that to Hashem? Someone who sees everything from Hashem as a gift will cherish and take care of each object no matter what the size.

May we all appreciate the many gifts of Hashem and take care of them, big or small.

Ask the Rabbi

Out to Lunch

From: Raphael

Dear Rabbi,

I recently got a new job that requires that I entertain for lunch, dinner or "happy hour" at the company's expense. Along with this privilege, I also am required to take prospective clients out to lunch (once again company's treat) in order to "wine and dine." My problem is that I keep kosher (i.e., I only eat in certified restaurants and buy only kosher

supervised products as well). Obviously, there arises a great conflict between my religious convictions and the norms of the American corporate world.

My question is: Are there good ways to possibly still keep kosher in non-kosher eating establishments? Are there any good resources for suggestions, etc.?

Dear Barry,

It's preferable not to enter a non-kosher restaurant, even if you don't

Stories For The Soul

Fight to the End

Late one night on his journey, Yaakov encountered the angel of Esav. Yaakov wrestled with the angel until dawn, fighting for his life. The struggle was intense and exhausting, sapping Yaakov of all his strength. In the end, Yaakov prevailed.

G-d gives us trials and tribulations up to the limit of our ability, but not further. After all, the angel could have been twice as strong and easily defeated Yaakov, or twice as weak so that Yaakov could have easily won the fight in minutes. Instead, G-d calibrated the angel's strength exactly so that Yaakov would have the struggle of his life, yet still be able to survive and thrive.

On December 5, 1941 (Kislev 15, 5702), Rav Dovid Leibowitz zt"l passed away after a terrible illness. He was a relatively young man, building up a small yeshiva in Brooklyn with a grand vision of spreading Torah across America. The burden of his dream fell on his 26 year old son, Rav Henschel Leibowitz, who took over the helm of the Chofetz Chaim Yeshiva. He had served for twenty years when he reached a crossroads. The yeshiva never quite got off the ground - twenty years of sacrifice with barely anything to show for it. This was incredibly frustrating and depressing. Rav Leibowitz had so much to give, yet precious few talmidim (students) were coming to receive it. He wanted to call it quits. He considered going into a different area of Rabbinics which didn't have the same issues, pressures, and problems. After much soul searching, he reached deep

Kollel Happenings

FATHERS-AND-SONS PROGRAM SUN., NOV. 21 AT EDOS

The next Fathers-and-Sons learning program will be held on Nov. 21 at EDOS. Breakfast begins at 9 a.m. with learning following. For information, contact Rabbi Yehuda Amsel at 303-820-2855 or email rya@denverkollel.org



CHERRY CREEK MUNCH AND LEARN, MON., NOV. 22

The next Cherry Creek Munch and Learn for men, led by Rabbi Yehuda Amsel, will be held on Mon., Nov. 22, at 12:30 p.m. at Colorado Capital Bank, 55 Madison Ave. The class focuses on Pirkei Avos. For information, contact Rabbi Amsel at 303-820-2855 or at rya@denverkollel.org



LEGAL HOLIDAY LEARNING THURS., NOV. 25

The next legal holiday learning program will take place on Thansgiving, Thurs., Nov. 25 at two locations. The Zera Avraham program is for men only and will start with Shacharis at 8 followed by breakfast and a class from 9-10. \$125 sponsorship is still available. For information, call 303-820-2855 or email rye@denverkollel.org. At Aish, men and women are invited to davening at 8:15 followed by breakfast and a debate at 9:15. For information, call 303-820-2855 or email rmh@denverkollel.org

Interpersonal Issues Refusing to Pay a Debt Part I

One who owes another money - be it due to a loan, merchandise sold, or services provided - and refuses to pay is guilty of *oshek*, a form of theft. Such a person transgresses a Scriptural prohibition. Refusing to repay a loan also involves transgressing a positive commandment to repay a loan.

The above is true whether one refuses to pay the debt, denies it, or deceives the creditor into believing that there is no debt.

Adapted with permission from "The Halachos of Other People's Money" by Rabbi Pinchas Bodner (Feldheim Publishers)

Ask the Rabbi

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eat anything. Your being there gives onlookers the impression that the restaurant is kosher. Alternatively, it may cause others to question your observance or that of other Orthodox Jews. They may not realize that you are not eating, or that you have brought your own food.

But, if you must attend a non-kosher restaurant, you can manage by eating only fresh, uncooked and uncut fruits and vegetables and kosher drinks. Or bring your own food. But if you do this, you would probably have to clear it with the restaurant beforehand.

Come to think of it, there are kosher caterers, like the ones who supply kosher food on airplanes, who can ship kosher meals almost anywhere overnight. Such pre-cooked meals are also available in kosher markets and even in the kosher section of regular markets. These meals are sealed in a double layer of tin foil and therefore they can be heated in a

non-kosher oven. With a little planning ahead, you may be able to arrange with some local restaurants to serve these to you, sealed and with disposable utensils.

In addition, if you choose any of these options, I would suggest that you let your guests know beforehand that you keep kosher. I have found that the best way to approach this issue is by being straightforward. Nowadays, people are usually very respectful of someone who adheres faithfully to their religious principles. But, if you don't explain yourself, folks will probably wonder why your eating habits are so odd!

An excellent book which contains a section on the topic of non-kosher restaurants is "After the Return" by Rabbi Mordechai Becher and Rabbi Moshe Newman, Feldheim Publishers.

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Stories for the Soul

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within himself and recalled that his father Rav Dovid had told him that leading the yeshiva was within his grasp and was the greatest thing that he could do. Rav Leibowitz strategized and revamped the methods by which he led the yeshiva. The yeshiva began to turn around.

Since then, the yeshiva has served

thousands of talmidim. Talmidim of Rav Henoch Leibowitz have established branches and affiliates all over the world and continue to do so.

Our challenges are custom made for us. We need only use our custom-made abilities to meet them.

Adapted with permission from ShulWeek by Rabbi Boruch Lederman