



A LESSON FROM THE PARASHA

G-d vs. Us

Speak to the Children of Israel.
Let them take a portion for Me; from
every man whose heart motivates
him, you shall take My portion. (25:2)

MALBIM WRITES THAT WHEN HASHEM IN-
structed Moshe in the building of the
Mishkan (the Tabernacle), He related who
would be qualified to contribute the needed
materials. Hashem said, "Don't restrict this
amazing opportunity to the nobility and
wealthy citizens. This opportunity should be
available to ordinary people, as well."

We see that Hashem wanted there to be
an open invitation. Anyone who wanted to
contribute could provide materials.

This raises a question: What lies behind
Hashem's plan to invite everyone to come
forward? What did Hashem want to accom-
plish through this call to one and all?

RABBI ZALMY EPSTEIN



I believe one lesson we can derive is a
very special fact about our relationship with
Hashem.

Hashem wanted the Children of Israel
to build Him a dwelling place on earth, but
He was concerned that everyone, including
the ordinary person, should have the oppor-
tunity to be involved in building His home,
because Hashem understood the human
mind. He knew that by personally contrib-
uting to the holy structure, a person would
automatically feel more connected—not just
to the *Mishkan*, but to Him.

Once a person begins feeling a connec-
tion to Hashem, it will immediately be easier
to form a relationship with Hashem. And, as
Sefer Chovos haLvavos says, when it comes
to our relationship with Hashem, Hashem
wants the relationship more! 🕊

THE RABBI WAS ASKED

ADAPTED BY RABBI ZALMY EPSTEIN
FROM ME'AH SHE'ARIM
BY RABBI YITZCHOK ZILBERSTEIN

A fundraiser approached a big philan-
thropist and asked him for money. The
philanthropist had given his share of
tzedakah (charity) for the month already,
and he did not want to give more. The
fundraiser didn't give up, and he contin-
ued to pester the philanthropist.

The man didn't know how to get the
fundraiser off his back, so he came up
with a grand plan: He would give the
fundraiser an invalid check. So he did,
and the fundraiser went on his way.

Afterward, the philanthropist felt terrible
that he might have caused this fundraiser
to pay a fee for the bounced check.

❓ Did the philanthropist act properly
according to Jewish law?

— CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE —➔

TIDBITS OF CINCINNATI JEWISH HISTORY

RABBI MOSHE TZVI CRYSTAL

On 29 Sh'vat, 5700 (1940), Cincinnati Samuel Schmidt left on a mission to Europe,
on behalf of the Vaad Hatzalah. (See last week's "Tidbits.") While in New York, prior
to his trip, he began to feel uncomfortable with his own lack of observance, and wor-
ried that it might impede success in his endeavors. Although assured that his non-
observance would not be an issue, Schmidt undertook to observe Orthodox practice
while on the trip. Schmidt later related that, upon presenting himself to Rabbi Grodz-
inski, the rabbi asked him if he'd had a chance to *daven* (pray) yet that morning, to
which he proudly answered in the affirmative. Immediately afterward, though, Schmidt
confessed his lack of observance. Instead of chastising him, Rabbi Grodzinski took
Schmidt by the hand and asked if he could call him "Reb Shmuel." Feeling inadequate,
Schmidt demurred. But Rabbi Grodzinski explained that anyone who risked his life
to save others deserves such a title. During his time in Lithuania, Schmidt consulted
with Rabbi Grodzinski every day. He also met with many other Torah leaders, includ-
ing Rabbis Aharon Kotler, Elchonon Wasserman, and Zalman Sorotzkin. Schmidt was
awed and inspired by the purity of these men and their lives, resolving thereafter to
become a fully observant Jew. 🕊

COMING UP

- "Who Are We, and Where Are We Going?" KWL women's class, with Mrs. Lori Palatnik—next Shabbos, P. T'tzaveh (Feb. 24), at the Minster residence
- Pre-Purim Yarchei Kallah—next Sunday, February 25
- Purim learning programs—night & day

A PARASHA Q 4 U

RABBI DOVID SPETNER

How long was the longest single item
in the *Mishkan* (Tabernacle)?

Bring this question to the Shabbos table
and see who knows the answer! 🕊

Sponsorship & feedback:

parasha@cincynollel.org

sponsored by

Alter Frydman

as a source of merit for his father, Tuvia Tzvi ben Shmuel Dovid, of blessed memory

Cincinnati Torah

is distributed weekly
to local shuls
and the community
e-mail list.



THE RABBI WAS ASKED

CONTINUED

A There is a verse in T'hilim (Psalms 18:27) which says:

IM NAVAR TISBARAR, V'IM IKKESH TISPAT-TAL—WITH THE FAITHFUL, YOU ACT WITH CLARITY, AND WITH THE CROOKED, YOU ACT PERVERSELY.

This teaches us that when a person behaves in a way that is taking advantage of you, you are permitted to act the same way back to him.

The fundraiser harassed the philanthropist in a way that caused him to give money that he wasn't obligated to—he had already given what the Torah obligated him to give. In addition, he didn't really want to give any more money to the fundraiser. That being the case, the philanthropist did not respond in an unfair way.

It's obvious that this type of behavior should only be used if there is no other way to respond to the pressure. If the fundraiser would have acted in a normal way, and the philanthropist had wanted to trick him just to get off easily, then, of course, this would be not allowed. 🕒

GREAT ACTS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE

ELKY WAS AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD GIRL, WHOSE older brother suffered from a brain tumor. One evening, she overheard her parents crying.

"What can we do, Zalman?" she heard her mother sob. "Chaim needs an operation! I can't dream of any way to come up with the money... we need a miracle!"

Hearing that her brother needed a miracle, Elky resolutely emptied out the pouch where she had been saving her money, and took the whole \$1.79 down to the corner drug store. The store owner stood behind the counter, talking to a strange man. Noticing the little girl, the store owner asked what she needed.

"I need to buy a miracle for my brother." Seeing the surprise in the owner's eyes, she immediately added, "I brought all my money to pay for it—\$1.79!"

"I'm sorry, little one. We don't carry miracles. I don't know what to tell you."

"Why does your brother need a miracle?" the stranger interjected.

At the Kollel

DAILY

WEEKLY

MORE

🕒 "Dirshu" Gemara Shiur (Maseches Chulin)

Rabbi Yitzchok Preis.....

Sunday 7:15–8:15 AM

Monday–Friday 5:50–6:45 AM

🕒 🕒 Kollel Yisgaber K'ari (amud-a-day of Mishnah B'rurah)

Rabbi Chaim Heinemann.....

Monday–Friday 6:55–7:20 AM

🕒 🕒 Mishnah Kavuah online

two mishnayos and some mussar

Rabbi Ezra Stettin.....any time you like

🕒 Daf Yomi

Rabbi Meir Minster.....

Sunday–Thursday 8–8:45 PM

Shabbos (at CZE) 1:00 pre-mincha

🕒 🕒 Night Seder Chabura

in the Annex Library

(Maseches Avodah Zara)

led by Rabbi Tzvi Fishman

Sunday–Thursday 9–9:50 PM

followed by Ma'ariv at 9:50

KEY: 🕒 Beginners 🕒 Intermediate 🕒 Advanced 🕒 for men and women

Chavrusos are available for private and group learning—

speak to Rabbi Chaim Heinemann!

weekdays noon–1 PM • Sun.–Thurs. 8–9:45 PM

DAVENING TIMES CAN BE FOUND AT CINCYKOLLEL.ORG/MINYAN-SCHEDULE/

in the
beis midrash—

weeknights...



...and
sunday mornings

"He has something in his head that a doctor has to fix, and my parents can't find a doctor to fix it, so a miracle is the only thing my parents said could help him. That's why I want to buy a miracle."

"Well," the stranger said, "I don't know where to buy miracles, but I'm the kind of doctor your brother needs. Maybe I'll come to your house and see if I can help. Where do you live, little girl?"

Elky shared where she lived and ran home, but before she could tell her parents,

the man was already knocking at the door.

The man, as it turned out, happened to have been visiting his brother, the owner of the drug-store. He also happened to be a well-known brain surgeon. He agreed to perform whatever surgery was necessary to help Elky's brother Chaim, and Chaim was soon on his way to recovery.

When Chaim and Elky's parents tried to set up a payment plan to pay for the surgery, the doctor responded that it was already paid for. It had cost \$1.79. 🕒

Cincinnati Community Kollel

2241 Losantiville Avenue, Cincinnati OH 45237 • 513-631-1118 • kollel@shul.net • cincykollel.org

Please remember the Kollel with a gift in your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy.

