



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"L

It is an honor to present this week's Torah Minute from our archives. The following was penned by our founder, Rabbi Kalman Winter ZT"L, in 2011

This week's Parsha, Bechukosai, begins (chapter 26, verse 3) "If in My statutes you will walk and observe my commandments and perform them." The commentaries are puzzled by the terminology "you will walk", in connection with the performance of the statutes of the Torah. The answer given by Rabbi Nochum Zev, the son of the Alter of Kelm (1824-1898), is that the Torah is giving us a yard stick, a tool by which we can accurately measure our true relationship with our Creator.

The expression "you will walk" has a dual connotation. It means one's daily pedestrian activity: the normative daily functions at home, work, leisure, etc. It also connotes a capacity of strength and courage. It conveys the ability to meet challenging individuals and circumstances and be able to overcome and move forward with fervor and commitment.

Hence, the Torah defines for us that the observance of G-d's law and the measure of one's relationship with G-d are not an intermittent activity. It is not observed once a week, once a month, or once a year. It is as consistent as the walking footsteps of an individual. It incorporates every facet of our daily activity. It is as the psalm that King David wrote, at the end of chapter 150: "Let every *breath* praise G-d" - "ה-י תהלל הנשמה כל."

Furthermore, we inevitably encounter individuals and situations that impede our spiritual journey forward. Whether it be family, friends, or society at large, life's every day challenges require strong footing to maintain our balance and objectives. Consequently, our Torah uses the terminology "in My statutes you will walk". Our commitment and relationship with G-d is measured by the nature of our stride. The consistency and strength of those steps forward will determine if we are indeed truly walking in His statutes. It is, as the adage says, not sufficient to "talk the talk", but rather to "walk the walk."

*Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Kalman Winter*

POINT TO PONDER

When you make a sale to your fellow... a man shall not aggrieve his fellow (25:14).

This refers to financial dishonesty (Rashi).

Since the verse used the word "ish," a man, this excludes a minor. If a minor would aggrieve his fellow, he would not transgress this command (Moshev Zekanim L'Baalei HaTosfos).

A minor is excluded from all commands of the Torah. His actions are not considered to be a transgression of the command of the Torah. Furthermore, we are discussing financially cheating someone while making a sale. A minor cannot sell anything (according to Torah Law). How could one entertain the thought that he should be bound by this rule?

PARSHA RIDDLE

What mitzvos in Parshas Emor and Parshas Behar are very similar?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle: What do Shavuos and the last day of Sukkos have in common?

Answer: They are both called Atzeres.

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

Halacha Insights from the Parsha

In *Parshas Behar*, the Torah states: "And when you make a sale to your fellow, or make a purchase from the hand of your fellow..." (Leviticus 25:14). *Chazal* interpret this as an adjuration to prefer one's fellow Jew when buying or selling (*Sifra*), and while the major classic *halachic* codes omit this injunction, the consensus of the *poskim* is that it is indeed a binding imperative, although there is a position that it is merely appropriate moral conduct.

One view limits this duty to where this is not costlier than the alternative (*Shut. To'afos Re'em orach chaim siman 22*), and another extends it to even a situation of major expense (*Shut. Chikrei Lev choshen mishpat siman 139*), but the predominant position distinguishes between 'small' and 'large' cost differentials (*Ahavas Chesed 1:5:7*). The precise distinction between 'small' and 'large' is, however, very unclear; some suggest a cutoff of twenty percent more (in the case of a purchase) than the base price, while others suggest that it is dependent upon one's financial status and the general context (see *Shut. Minchas Yitzchak 3:129:5*, *Shut. Shraga Ha'Meir 5:31:2*). A number of *poskim* extend the imperative to prefer Jews to the employment of Jewish labor (*Shut. Yaskil Avdi chelek 4 choshen mishpat siman 6*).

In addition to the general adjuration to patronize Jews, the *poskim* have noted an additional Biblical imperative to support a Jew's livelihood and prevent his financial collapse, derived from the verse: "And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him" (Leviticus 25:35 - *Ahavas Chesed 2:21:4*).

Presented by Rabbi Yitzhak Grossman, Rosh Chabura

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I lived and died in the 1700's
2. I show you the Path
3. I am known for my acronym
4. Italian
5. I died at the age of understanding

#2 WHO AM I?

1. Don't confuse me with Shavuos
2. Rest
3. I create holiness
4. I am for your money and fields

Last Issue's Answers:

#1 Shalosh regalim (Of me there are three, I am referenced by Bilaam's donkey, I make you walk, I am a good day)

#2 Tuma (I am prohibited for the Kohen, I force you away from holiness, I am transmitted, I could be a child, father or grandfather)

All children 13 and under who answer a "Who Am I?" correctly will be entered into a raffle to

Win a
Stomp
Rocket
Ultra



Next Raffle
Drawing
June 2nd!

Congratulations to

Simcha Katz

and to all those who answered correctly this week!

Visit <http://www.gwckollel.org> to submit your answers. Answer as many as you can because each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chances of winning.

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

Join Rabbi Schwartz's Unraveling the Navi class as they begin the book of Shoftim this Sunday!

Unraveling the Navi is an in-depth exploration of the themes and lessons to be learned from the Prophets. Find a class that matches your area of interest at the Sunday Kollel Brunch & Learn! Bagel brunch at 9:30 AM, followed by an array of diverse classes from 10:00 - 10:45, Sunday mornings at Young Israel Shomrai Emunah, 1132 Arcola Avenue. Mens Programming.