

Bais Yaacov Bnos Malka Newsletter

לעילוי נשמת יצחק עקיבא בן אהרן ז"ל

February 2024

Parshas Pekudai

פרשת פקודי

אדר ב תשפ"ד



Use Your Talents Wisely

The *parsha* begins, “אלה פקודי המשכן,” “These are the accountings of the *Mishkan*” (*Shemos* 38:21). The Torah goes on to give a list of exactly how much silver, and gold, and copper were contributed for the construction of the *Mishkan* and the *klei haMishkan*. Rav Moshe Feinstein *ztz"l* writes that we can learn an important lesson from these *pekudim*, these accountings. The message is that a person has to make a *cheshbon*, an accounting, of everything that *Hashem* has given him. This includes an accounting of the time that he has in his life – whether he uses it for Torah and *mitzvos* – and of the wealth that *Hashem* gave him – whether he uses it for supporting Torah and *tzedaka*.

Rav Moshe writes at length about the Torah perspective on wealth. Rav Moshe points out that even when a person has money, it is not really his. It is really *Hashem's* money; he is just the *apotropos*, the money's guardian. He has distribution rights in the money, but the money is not really his. Rav Moshe explained that this is the hashkafic message of the *mitzva* of *orla*. You plant a tree, and it takes a lot of hard work. You plow the land, you plant a seed, you keep the land healthy, you give the sapling nutrients, and then eventually a tree grows and fruits grow from the tree. But for the first three years, you cannot use the fruits. Not only can you not eat them, you can't use them at all. It's as if the fruits are locked away in a vault and you have no access to them. Why can't you at least give them to a non-Jewish neighbor? What is the message of *orla*?

Rav Moshe writes: “אבל לפי זה הוא תועלת גדול שיתרגל האדם בזה להחשיב אף מה שמונה בידו ובאוצרו כשרוף ועומד... ויבין מזה שכל מה “שיש בידו הוא של השי"ת ובידו לכלותם.” The three years of *orla* reminds us that our money is not really our own. Then, even after we're allowed to use the fruits in the fourth year and on, we recognize that those fruits are from *Hashem*. *Hashem* owns our wealth, and we have distribution rights of how to use our wealth based on what *Hashem* commands. Similarly, one lesson of *Parshas Pekudei* is that one has to use the wealth that *Hashem* has given him properly.

On a broader level, a person also has to make an accounting of his talents that *Hashem* has given him. Does he use his talents productively? Let's say a person is a good writer. Does he use that talent to help bring people closer to *avodas Hashem*? Maybe he can write exciting kosher novels that are appropriate for teenagers, a major need in the Torah world. If a person has a talent for accounting, does he volunteer some of his time to help local Torah organizations or *shuls* with their books? If someone has good organizational skills, then he can help run a *tzedaka* organization. Someone has to run Tomchei Shabbos – maybe it should be you! If someone has the right personality for *chinuch*, then he should consider going into *chinuch*. Helping others grow in *ruchniyus* is the greatest *chessed* that one can do. If someone is particularly good with people, then maybe he can become a guidance counselor or a psychologist. The Jewish world needs religious psychologists. Every person should consider how he can use his talents and God-given gifts to help *Klal Yisroel*.

A person has to be able to give an accounting of how he used all the gifts *Hashem* has given him. If someone was given an ability by *Hashem*, something special in his background or some unique talent, he has to use it for good things. He has to use it to help *Am Yisroel*. This is one important message of *Parshas Pekudei*.

Have a wonderful and peaceful Shabbos!

Chana Ginsburg



Rosh Chodesh Adar Bet began with song, dance, and loads of fun and activities!





Teacher for the Day in Kita Hey!
Mrs. Deutch taught the girls Yoga poses,
and Mrs. Hardy and Mrs. Strickoff took
over the other lessons. Morah Matti took
a back seat and listened very closely,
and then was just one of the girls!





Kita Daled jumped their hearts out on balloon filled 'trampolines'.



Kita Vav Challah Bake!





Edible
Book
Reports
in
English
Class!



Tiyul Choref at Chavah Shel Chava! The girls rode on the train to the animal barn, sent off homing pigeons with letters from the teachers, baked pitot, and petted and fed the animals!





Kita Alef Mesibat Siddur





Mazal Adar,
Dagim!
Arucha
Meshutefet
Kita Alef!



This week's Kevatz chessed project was Hakarot Hatov for Milu'imnik families. Thanks to generous donations from Bnos Malka parents, we were able to buy 32 Purim-themed cookie-decorating kits, which were REALLY appreciated by these families whose fathers are still serving in the army, some who have barely been home since October 7th. תודה רבה to the Kevatz girls for decorating the boxes and bags so beautifully, and also to the moms and girls who helped with delivery.

