Just a Story...

The Tzaddik and The Thief

by Rabbi Mendel Weinbach zt"l

[Source: Ohr Somayach Institutions www.ohr.edu . Printed with permission]

It was late at night when the famous Jerusalem *tzaddik* Rabbi Aryeh Levin heard a knock on the door. When he opened the door he heard from two men standing there that a thief was right now in the process of stealing the contents of a store in the Machane Yehuda Market. Since they themselves were afraid of starting up with such an outlaw, they came to enlist the aid of Rabbi Levin. This great man, who was renowned for his ability to influence people in a gentle manner, quickly got dressed and rushed to the scene of the crime. When he arrived he saw that the thief had already succeeded in completely removing everything from the store's shelves and was preparing to take it all away.

"How dare you steal," the rabbi challenged the thief, "when the Torah prohibits doing so!" The thief was so moved by the combination of gentleness and force in which this was said that he asked the rabbi what he should do now with all the goods he had removed from the store. The answer was that he must return them to the shelves and that the rabbi would help him do so. When their work was completed Rabbi Levin made a special *mi sheberach* prayer for the thief who had so gallantly fulfilled the Torah command to return stolen property.

Hints & Answers* **HALACHA CHALLENGE:** According to HaRav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach *zt"l* one still fulfills the halacha of having *makom kavua* for tefilla even though he *davens* Shacharis in one shul during the week and in another shul on Shabbos. [source: *Halichos Shlomo*, Tefilla chapter 5, Devar Halacha #2] Electronic **RHYMES:** "above" **RIDDLE:** The *minhag* in such situation is to label the *milchik* utensils. The reason is as follows: Suppose the custom had been to mark the meat plates. Let's say someone forgot to do it and served his guest a dish with meat sauce (in meat plates), but it was not obvious that the sauce was fleishig. A guest, who noticed that the host has plates of the same pattern for both meat and dairy, did not assume that the host forgot to do label the meat plates. So when he was served that dish in a non-labeled plate, he assumed that it was dairy or parve food. When he came home, he ate dairy food, without waiting the required time between meat and dairy. That's why, to avoid such situations, the custom has become to label dairy plates. | *Menucha answers are not intended to be used as final decisions in halacha, but rather as catalysts for discussions and further study.

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בס"ד

Menucha

לע"נ ר' ברוך חיים בן סלמון ז"ל

The Shabbos table companion

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חיי שרה

Halacha Challenge

Can Makom Kavua be Different for Shabbos



Levi lives in Bet Shemesh. On weekdays he *davens* Shacharis in Masas Mordechai shul. But on Shabbos, he loves *davening* at the Aish Kodesh.

When he and his friend Chaim were on their way to Aish Kodesh on Shabbos, Levi stopped, turned to Chaim and said: "In last week's parsha, we learned from Avraham Avinu that one should *daven* in *makom kavua*. So maybe I should go and *daven* in Masas Mordechai now, because that's where I daven during the week."

"Hmm, I hear what you are saying," said Chaim, "But we always daven in Aish Kodesh on Shabbos. So maybe that's your *makom kavua* for Shabbos."

Question: Should Levi go to Masas Mordechai or Aish Kodesh?

(The "Hints & Answers" section is on page 4)

Dedicated anonymously for yeshuos and refuos to all Klal Yisroel

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Parsha Pearls



וַיָּמָת אַבְרָהָם בְּשֵׂיבָה טוֹבָה זָקֵן וְשָׂבַע...

*And Avraham died at a good old age, old and **deeply satisfied**…*

How incredible - to part this world deeply satisfied with the life one has lived! That's how Avraham Avinu left this world. What is Avraham Avinu's secret?! What's that secret that we all can learn from and be in love with our lives? The answer is, Avraham Avinu found his missions in life and lived each day fulfilling them. Find your missions in life - the things that you were uniquely created to do, fulfill those missions with passion, and be deeply satisfied with each day lived and then eventually, with your entire life.*

*When Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski, zt"l was asked in an interview, "What is true happiness?" He replied: "Knowing what I was created for and trying to fulfill it."

Ask at Your Shabbos Table



Ask around your Shabbos table: We know that each one of the daily prayers (Shacharis, Mincha, Ma'ariv) has its unique power. Which prayer has the power to be answered immediately?

Answer: Mincha. Chazal tell us that the prayer that Yitzchok Avinu went out to pray in the field (in this week's parsha), was tefillas Mincha. The *Kli Yakar* points out that from that episode in the parsha we see that Mincha is very a powerful prayer. He comments that in that tefilla, Yitzchok Avinu asked Hashem to help him find his *zivug*. Right afterwards, the Torah says "He (Yitzchok) lifted his eyes (after he completed his tefilla); and behold, camels were coming." Riding on one of those camels was Rivka – Yitzchok's *zivug*. We see from here that Hashem answered Yitzchok Avinu's Mincha prayer immediately! Since *ma'ase avos siman l'bonim*, this relates to us also: Mincha has the power to be answered immediately!

Rhymes for Kids

When Eliezer was looking for a wife for Yitzchok he was determined to find only a woman that is a *ba'alas chesed*. We know this from Rashi's commentary to Bereishis 24:14, where commenting on Eliezer's words *"her have You designated"*, Rashi writes: "*She is worthy of Yitzchok, for she will perform acts of kindness, and she is fit to enter the family of Avraham*."

When *chesed* I do with much simcha and love,
Much *nachas* I bring to my Father _____

Riddle

אִתָּהּ הִכְחִתָּ: רְאוּיָה הִיא לוֹ שֶׁתִּהֵא גּוֹמֶלֶת חֲסָדִים (פירוש רש"י בראשית כד:יד)

The Cohen family wanted to host lots of guests on Shabbos parshas Chayei Sarah. But they did not have enough tea spoons for the ice cream. So Mr. Cohen went to the store and bought a package of 20 tea spoons. When he returned home, Mrs. Cohen said to him: "We only need 10 of these spoons for the *seuda*. I'd love to keep the other 10 spoons for the michik's side of the kitchen. But, the problem is that they all look the same! So let's label 10 of these spoons."

Which spoons should be labeled?