

10 Lessons from REY's Sabbatical

Source Sheet by Rabbi Andrew Markowitz

1.) An Attitude of Gratitude

Berakhot 54b:12-17

Rav Yehuda said in the name of Rav:

Four people need to offer thanksgiving: Those who travel across the sea, who cross the wilderness, who were sick and recovered, and were imprisoned and released...

ברכות נ"ד ב:י"ב-י"ז

אמר ר' יהודה אמר רב:

ארבעה צריכין להודות: יורדי הים הולכי
מדברות ומישיה חולה ונתרפא ומישיה
חבוע בבית האסורים ויצא ...

2.) Stepping Out of the Comfort Zone

Genesis 12:1

יְקוּם said to Abram, "Go forth from your native land and from your father's house to the land that I will show you.

בראשית י"ב:א'

נִיאָמֵר יְקוּם אֶל־אַבְרָהָם לְדַלְקֵת מִצְרָאָה
וּמִקְלֹתָה וּמִבֵּית אֲבִיךָ אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אָרַאָה:

3.) See a Need, Fill a Need

Pirkei Avot 2:5

(5) He (Hillel) used to say... In a place where there needs to be a person, strive to fill that need and be that person.

משנה אבות ב':ה'

(ה) הוּא קָהִיה אָמֵר... וְבָמָקוּם שָׁאַיְן אָנָשִׁים,
הַשְׁפֵּל לְהִקְוֹת אִישׁ:

4.) The importance of action versus words

Pirkei Avot 1:15

Shammai says, "Make your Torah [study] fixed, say little and do much, and receive every person with a pleasant countenance."

משנה אבות א':ט"ז

שְׁמָאי אָמֵר, עֲשֵׂה תּוֹרַתְךָ קָבֻעָה. אָמֵר מַעַט
וְעֲשֵׂה כָּרְבָּה, וְהַנוּ מַקְבֵּל אֶת כָּל הָאָדָם
בְּסֶבֶר פְּנִים יְפּוֹת:

5.) Faith in hard moments

Deuteronomy 31:6-7

(6) Be strong and resolute, be not in fear or in dread of them; for the LORD your God marches with you: He will not fail you or forsake you. (7) Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel: "Be strong and resolute, for it is **you who shall go with** this people..."

דברים ל"א:ו"-ז'

(ו) חֲזָק וְאִמְצֵץ אֶל־תִּירָאֵךְ וְאֶל־פְּעַרְצֵיךְ
מִפְנִימֵיכֶם קַי | יְקוּם אֶל־קַיְתָּה הַוָּא הַהְלָךְ
עַמְּךָ לֹא יַרְפֵּח וְלֹא יַעֲזֵב: (פ) (ז)
וַיִּקְרַב אֶל־מִשְׁמָה לְיְהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים לְעֵינֵי
כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל תַּחֲקֵר וְאִמְצֵץ קַי אַפְּתָה תְּבֻזָּא
אֶת־הָעָם ...

6.) Thoughts unsaid aren't helpful

Midrash Tanhuma, Mishpatim 2

מִלְכָה נֶלְתָה תֹּרֶה, בַּמְשֻׁפֵּט שַׁהוּא עֹשֶׂה,
מִצְמִיד אֶת הָאָרֶץ... אֲםִים מִשְׁיִם אֲקָם
עֲצָמוֹ כְּתָרוֹמָה הָזֶה שֶׁמוֹשָׁלֶכֶת בְּזִוְיוֹת
הַבָּיִת וְאָמָר: מָה לִי בְּטוֹרֶחֶת כָּבֹור? מָה
לִי בְּדִינְיכֶם? מָה לִי לְשִׁמְעוֹן קָוָלֶם?
שְׁלֹום עַלְיכָה נֶפֶשִׁי! קָרֵי זֶה מַחְרִיב אֶת
הַעוֹלָם.

If a person of learning participates in public affairs and serves as judge or arbiter, he gives stability to the land... But if he sits in his home and says to himself, "What have the affairs of society to do with me?... Why should I trouble myself with the people's voices of protest? Let my soul dwell in peace!"—if he does this, he overthrows the world. [translation by Hazon]

7.) Importance of the Team

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks

"Both God and Moses wanted Joshua to know that true leadership cannot be a one-sided affair, be it the pursuit of consensus or command-and-control. It must be a deft balance of both....In short, leadership is not simple. It is complex because it involves people and people are complex. You have to listen, and you have to lead. You have to strive for consensus but ultimately, if there is none, you must take the risk of deciding...." -

8.) Humility and Bravado

Reb Simcha Bunem

It was said of Reb Simcha Bunem that he carried two slips of paper, one in each pocket. On one he wrote: *Bishvili nivra ha-olam*—"for my sake the world was created." On the other he wrote: *V'anokhi afar v'efer*"—"I am but dust and ashes." He would take out each slip of paper as necessary, as a reminder to himself.

9.) The role... all of our roles

Pirkei Avot 1:6

(6) Yehoshua ben Perachia says: Make for yourself a teacher, acquire a friend, and give every person the benefit of the doubt.

משנה אבות א':ו'

(ו) יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן פְּרַחִיה וְגַמְאֵי הַאֲرָבְּלִי קְבָלוּ מַהְם.
יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן פְּרַחִיה אָמַר, עֲשֵׂה לְךָ רַב, וִקְנֵה לְךָ
חוֹבָר, וְהַוְיֵן דָּו אֶת כָּל הָאָדָם לְכַפֵּר זִכְוֹת:

10.) Ending at the beginning

Siddur Ashkenaz, Weekday, Shacharit, Preparatory Prayers, Modeh Ani

(1) I give thanks to You living and everlasting King/Spirit for You have restored my soul with mercy. Great is Your faithfulness.

סידור אשכנז, ימי חול, תפילה
שחרית, הכהנה לתפילה, מודה אני
(א) מודה אני לפניה מלך טה וקיים
ששְׁתִּזְרַעַת בַּנְשָׁמְתִי בְּחִימָלה, רבָה
אמונתך: