

SCHEDULE

שבת קודש

Mincha Erev Shabbos 7:29 PM

Shacharis-Followed by Kiddush and lunch 7:00 AM
... at your house

-Sof Zman Achila מ"א 10:27 גר"א 10:51

-Sof Zman Biur מ"א 11:46 גר"א 11:58

Must Be Rid of Chametz and
Recite Kol Chamira

Mincha- Followed by Shiur 7:25 PM

Maariv 8:31 PM

Candles 9:01 PM

Please
See
Pesach
Schedule

חול המועד

Shacharis (T-F) 6:30 & 8:10

Mincha / Maariv 7:40

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אהל משה



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Volume #39

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Freedom of Choice

As we approach the Seder night we are faced with many challenges. How well prepared will we be ? It is not simply about whether the matzo balls will be ready or not but how will we deal with the build up of tension, unfulfilled expectations, financial stress and overwhelming exhaustion that are all part and parcel of the pressures of such a great Yom Tov ? How we “choose” to respond is what true freedom and **יצאת מצרים** is all about.

The following poignant תפילה was composed in a concentration camp and teaches a profound lesson in what redemption truly is.

יום שבשמים, it is revealed and known before You that it is our will to fulfill Your will, to celebrate the **יום טוב** of **פסח** with the eating of **מצה** and the observance of the prohibition of **חמץ**, however, it is about the following matter that our hearts worry. Due to our subjugation we may be restricted from properly observing your commandments, and our lives are at risk. We are therefore prepared and ready to fulfill Your commandment of **וְחַי בָּהֶם וְלֹא שִׁמּוֹת בָּהֶם**; and you shall live by them and not die by them. We will therefore be careful to heed Your warning: **וְנִשְׁמָרְתֶּם מְאֹד לִנְפְשׁוֹתֵיכֶם**; beware for yourself and greatly beware for your soul. It is therefore our prayer that You should keep us alive, sustain us, and redeem us speedily, that we should be able to observe Your commandments, do Your will, and serve You wholeheartedly. **אמן**

This powerful תפילה teaches us many things, but the most important lesson derived is that a Jew always has the ability to express his greatest role, that of being a **בעל בחירה**, by making free willed choices even in the most seemingly impossible and trying situations.

We would be wise to ponder the situation of **אחינו בני ישראל** in **ארץ ישראל** especially our brothers and sisters in Sderot whose display of **אמונה** and **בטחון** in the face of daily horror and danger is simply awesome and inspiring, who reflect the greatness of our noble ancestors in their choice to live life to the fullest not allowing themselves to be defeated. It is so much easier to rationalize a lost sense of humanity and dignity when faced with disappointment as evidenced so often in the inhuman responses the **אומות העולם** display in the face of their difficulties.

In how we deal with the most mundane of situations lies the genuine manifestation of being **בני חורין**; free men. Even the eating of **חמץ** at certain times can eclipse the eating of the most **מהודר** of Matzos because it is the attitude that lies deep within our consciousness, our very **צלם אלוקים**, that radiates the beauty of true **עבודת השם** and fulfillment of **רצון השם**, that embodies the most magnificent expressions of freedom.

In the merit of our maintaining our equilibrium in dealing with the insignificant issues that are liable to crop up in the course of a **יום טוב** may we succeed in facing all of our serious tests of faith and character that we are presented with in life by **הקב"ה** in an effort to make us great and worthy of becoming true **בני חורין**.

בברכת חג כשר ושמח

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