

SCHEDULE

שבת קדש

Mincha Erev Shabbos 5:30 PM

Friday Night Learning (w/ Chulent) 7:30 PM

Shacharis— Followed by Kiddush 8:30 AM

Sof Zman K"ס גר"א 9:35 מ"א 8:59

Mincha- Followed by Shalosh Seudos 5:30 PM

Guest Speaker: Rabbi Teichman

Maariv 6:40 PM

Sunday

Shacharis 8:30 AM

- Followed by Shiur

New Topics from יורה דעה, חולין

Mincha / Maariv 5:40 PM

Weekday Minyanim & Shiurim

Monday—Friday

Shacharis

Monday, Thursday 6:40 AM, 8:10 AM

Tues, Wed. ראש חודש 6:30 AM, 8:10 AM

Friday 6:45 AM, 8:10 AM

Dirshu Halacha Program 7:30 AM

Mincha 12:45 PM

Open Beis Hamedrash 7:00 PM

Rabbeinu Yonah Shaar Rishon 9:30 PM

Nightly Maariv (Mon-Thur) 9:45 PM

Thursday Night Shiur by Rabbi Teichman
After Maariv

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Shalosh Seudos

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What's he gonna do, its his fathers Shul, he has no choice.

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Rabbi Zvi Teichman

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Volume #80

RABBI'S TWO CENTS:

געלט איז גארנישט !: The Illusion of Money

Despite the popular sentiment that “money is the root of all evil”, this week, פרשת שקלים, we encounter the very first מצוה that requires the use of “money”, the מחצית השקל of מצוה.

It has been observed that the words of לשון הקודש are rooted in substance. It is for this reason that the Hebrew language for “word” is “דבר”, which also means “matter” or “thing”. In תורה there are no illusions, only essence. The words for doubt and nature; ספק and טבע, are not to be found anywhere in the תורה because doubt and nature are perceptions and limitations of our own minds. In a world of pure unadulterated truth, the realm of תורה, there is no uncertainty nor anything but evidence of Hashem’s presence. Adventure, romance and entertainment are concepts foreign to a life of purpose as defined by the תורה, and find no counterpart in the language of G-d. (Based on the writings of Rav Akiva Tatz)

“Money” too, seems not to find a complement in לשון הקודש ! כסף; silver and זהב; gold, are descriptive of the material it is formed from but not related to the idea of “money”. The common usage of the term ממון is missing from תנ״ך and only first found in the משנה. The word מטבע for coin, is nowhere to be found throughout תורה שבכתב! Why is this vital and common concept missing from our lexicon?

The גמרא tells us that when יעקב אבינו encamped and placed his stake in שכם, the first city he encountered in ארץ ישראל upon his return from חרן, he established a “מטבע”; currency, “money”!

HaRav Kook זצ״ל in his commentary posits a fascinating theory. In the absence of coinage the method of commerce is limited to bartering. In a barter system only when both providers share common needs will a connection take place, limiting the scope of one’s associates. With money one can tie in to a vast greater number of people. This “connectivity” was designed to broaden his influence in creating a “greater society” appreciative of each other’s needs and value, in fulfillment of the goal of “יעולם חסד יבנה”; He built a world of kindness.

There is no expression in לשון הקודש “to have”, merely “יש לי”; there “is” to me. We are not here to “have”, for that does not relate to “me” and “my” essence. We are here to relate to that which exists for me to utilize purposefully in enhancing and contributing to a world of kindness and belonging.

The giving of the מחצית השקל, money, was used in counting בני ישראל. This counting represented their individual value and unique role in contributing to the greatness of ישראל. It was precisely through the giving of a specific limited value of “money”, poor and wealthy equally, that emphasizes this point. It is not the “having” but the giving that defines the character of man.

Money itself is an illusion and merely to be used as a tool of expression for the “מטבע של אש”; the “fire of enthusiasm” that defines the giving.

The word מטבע is rooted in טבע; to embed, referring to the image fixed into the coin. Our “image of passion” is what gives us the power and influence in creating a healthy society of concern, care and awareness of others.

HaRav Elchonon Wasserman זצ״ל wrote in an essay reflecting on the collapse of the world’s financial markets in 1929, that it wasn’t the lack of sufficient money that was the problem, but rather the hoarding of wealth in the hands of a few. Their lack of trust of their fellow man was a consequence of their lack of faith in the Creator. They clung mistakenly to what they “had”, forgetting their true responsibility. Only one who has a healthy and real sense of self rooted in a meaningful relationship with Hashem, can proceed to use one’s wealth effectively in the service of Hashem.

The key to שמחה; happiness, lies in this awareness of the vital role each one of us plays in the masterplan. Happiness never stems from possessions but rather from a happiness with oneself!

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Thank You!

For volunteering your time for the Shul.

-Yaakov Cooperman-

Weekday refreshments Coordinator

In his new position Yaakov will be picking up the Danishes for the Sunday Shiur and monitoring the coffee and beverage service during the week.

-Jeremy Schnittman-

Kiddush & Shalosh Seudos booking Agent

With at least 2 dozen sponsorships of his own, we knew Jeremy was just the man for the job, please direct inquiries related to sponsorship to Jeremy either in person or by email at Kiddush@OhelMosheBlatimore.com.

Wanna join “The Team” let us know,
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And of course, thank you to all who pitch-in, in many ways and always.

Rabbi Teichman, Unplugged

Join us weekly for 30 minutes of uninhibited Hashkafa & Mussar with Rabbi Teichman.

Thursday Nights after the 9:45 Maariv.

Topics cover a variety of subjects from Shalom Bayis, to Chinuch, to matters of Parnassa and more!

You don't want to miss this...

- For Men -

