

## **This Week In Torah *Miketz***

Notice Joseph's response to Pharaoh—brought out of the dungeon and into the presence of royalty, Joseph flexes a little bit of *anavah* [humility]. Instead of boasting of his capabilities that he could interpret Pharaoh's dreams, he states that God can and he is only a vessel. The text reads: "Thereupon Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was rushed from the dungeon. He had his hair cut and changed his clothes, and he appeared before Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, but no one can interpret it. Now I have heard it said of you that for you to hear a dream is to tell its meaning." Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, "Not I! God will see to Pharaoh's welfare."

Knowing who you are and understanding the gifts bestowed upon you and acknowledging them with humility—that is indeed rare! But let's see this text in a different light—they cleaned up Joseph, but he was the same Joseph. They brought him out of the depths to a position before Pharaoh, he was the same Joseph. Told what had to be done, the same Joseph showed his growth and maturity. He knew he was an instrument of God—the cocky little brat appeared with humility as well as wisdom. Joseph knew who he was. Joseph understood the gifts given to him. Joseph had the maturity on how to utilize them without drawing improper attention to himself.

In the Jewish spiritual realm—the heart, the mind and the soul reflect three different aspects of our being. Compassion is in the realm of the heart; the mind convenes intellect and rational thought; while the soul houses our conscious awareness of the presence of God that binds those other elements together. Perceiving challenges that face our world is rooted in mindfulness. Knowing what you can do is in the realm of the intellect. Being able to use them wisely is not only prudent, but soulful.

Let me share an example. My friend Carm Basile is the CEO of the Capital District Transportation Authority [CDTA]; he is the guy that runs the buses in our area. Charismatic? --for sure. Thoughtful? -- absolutely. Caring? -- no doubt. Compassionate? -- yup! Sitting with him at meetings, he can dissect complex issues and break them down into manageable components. But sitting next to him, one must notice the plethora of rubber bracelets on his arm—they represent causes close to his heart because they matter in the lives important to Carm. One can say he wears his heart on his sleeve,

but spiritually it marks the intersection of heart, mind, and soul. Ask him and he will humbly say that the bracelets are a reminder of what he must do each day. Heart, mind, and soul need to work in unison.

Standing before Pharoah, Joseph understood just that. Heart, mind, and soul working in unison to save humanity and to secure the promise of tomorrow. It requires work, patience, and endurance. Jospeh modeled that for us.