Parshas Ki Seitzi

9 Elul | August 29, 2020

Candle Lighting 9/4 7:14p
Haftarah Yeshayahu 54:1-10
Torah Reading Devarim 21:10 - 25:19
Havdalah 8:24p
Havdalah 8:24p
Candle Lighting 7:25p
Havdalah 8:24p

THE SUBLIME SUBCONSCIOUS
RABBI SHMUEL SILBER

“When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to take it; it shall be [left] for the stranger, the orphan, and the widow, so that the Lord, your God, will bless you in all that you do.” (Devarim 25:19)

The harvest season was a joyous one for the farmer. Months of hard labor, weeks of uncertainty had finally yielded a beautiful bounty. It is in this very moment of harvest that God commands the farmer that if he inadvertently leaves behind some harvested grain, he must leave it for the poor. If the farmer complies, he is promised beautiful blessing from God. This became known as the mitzvah of shichicha (forgetfulness).

Rashi comments: God will bless you - Although [the forgotten sheaf came into his hand without intention [of the owner]. How much more so [will one be blessed] if he did it deliberately! Hence, you must say that if someone dropped a sela, and a poor man found it and was sustained by it, then he [who lost the coin] will be blessed on its account. — [Sifrei 24:149]

Rashi was bothered by the idea that blessing would come on account of an unintentional act. After all, the farmer did not intend to give anything to the pauper. He would have preferred to prevent the sheaf from falling and being left behind. Yet, despite this “inadvertent mitzvah”, he receives blessing and reward from God. Why should the farmer be rewarded for this inadvertent act? A mitzvah is meaningful when it stems from a desire to serve God, infuse light into the world, and create purposeful change. The farmer forgot a sheaf of wheat. Why should this be counted as a mitzvah for which one receives reward?

The Ibn Ezra (Avraham ben Meir Ibn Ezra, 1089 - 1167) explains that nothing happens by accident. When the farmer leaves behind a sheaf of wheat, it stems from a subconscious desire to be charitable and provide for the poor. On a conscious level, the farmer wants to take in every last stalk, while on a subconscious level, he wants to share with his impoverished brothers and sisters. The mitzvah of shichicha shows us that on a subconscious level we want to do good. There are times in life when we are not conscious of what we want to do or who we want to become. Holiness is part of our core and the very fabric of our persona. This personalistic holiness presents itself in so many ways, including the things we forget in the field.

This idea is profound as it highlights a fundamental belief – at our core, we are holy and good. We do not believe that man is inherently evil and must overcome his innate darkness in order to become holy. We believe that man is inherently good, kind, charitable, and holy. God rewards for our inadvertent mitzvos as they highlight the holy subconscious we each possess.

As we progress through the month Elul and take stock of what we have and have not done, we sometimes feel depressed over our mistakes and missteps. We think that our mistakes have compromised our inner purity and have rendered us broken and at times, irreparable. The mitzvah of shichicha reminds me that no matter what I have done or how many mistakes I have made, holiness is part of my core. At times, my personal holiness may not be apparent on the conscious, visible level, but it is always present beneath the surface, just waiting to come out and illuminate the world.
MEMBER NEWS

MAZAL TOV

Tali & Michelle Strum on the bar mitzvah of their son, Tamir
Leah Sol on the marriage of her daughter, Alana
Larry & Barbara Marder on the bris of their grandson (great-grandson of Milt & Eleanor Marder), Yitzchak Yonatan
Bernie & Sonia Kozlovsky on the birth of a grandson to Yoey & Penina Schacht
Aron Raskas on the birth of a granddaughter, Anaelle Rachel, born to Yossi & Gila Raskas in Yerushalayim

BIRTHDAYS


SPONSORSHIPS

WEEK OF LEARNING: Jack Bennett in memory of Lieutenant Colonel Yossi Korakin who died leading his unit in Lebanon
Barry & Rena Dubin in honor of their daughter, Sophie and all the Suburban graduates going to Eretz Yisrael to continue their learning
Yehudah & Bracha Buchwalter in memory of Frotee Buchwalter, Faiga Leah, Leiba bas Chaim haCohen z’l

SHABBOS DRAsha: Brian & Shoshi Ponczak in memory of Brian’s mother, Frieda, Fraya bas Moshe z’l

DAF YOMI: David & Jessica Silverman in memory of Gavi Brown’s grandfather, Dr. Harvey Brown z’l
Gregg & Rena Trestman in memory of Gregg’s mother, Dora Reva bas Heshel z’l
Dr. Moshe Gavant on behalf of the whole Daf Yomi Chaburah in appreciation of Yehuda Neuberger for his diligence in teaching the Daf while Rabbi Silber was away

Tali & Michelle Strum in honor of the bar mitzvah of their son, Tamir
Rabbi Barry and Gabi Gelman in honor of the bar mitzvah of their son, Amichai Shalom

DAVENING B’YICHIDUS GUIDELINES

COMPiled BY SOTC GABBaim

General

Those davening without a minyan do not recite the tefillos of Kaddish, Borchu or Kedusha and include the verse of Kel Melech Ne’eman before reciting Shema.

Friday Mincha

Recite the same Mincha as recited in Shul.

Kabbalas Shabbos

Recite the same davening as recited in Shul
No melachas (prohibited work) may be performed after lecha Dodi.

Friday night Maariv

Recite the same Maariv as recited in shul.
If possible, recite the prayer of Vayechulu following the Amidah along with one other person.
Those davening without a minyan omit Magen Avos following the Amidah.
Recite Le’dovid Hashem Ori after Aleinu.
Repeat the three paragraphs of Shema after nightfall (8:24pm).

Shabbos Morning

Recite the same Birchos Hashachar, Psukei D’Zimra and Shachris as recited in shul
Those davening without a minyan do not recite any tefillos for taking out the Torah before nightfall (8:24pm). The Torah portion of Ki Teitzei and the Haftarah from Yeshaya 54:1 – 10.
Recite Yekum Purkan. Those davening without a minyan only recite the first paragraph of Yekum Purkan. Recite Av Harachamim, Ashrei and the Mussaf Amidah. Complete the davening as usual. Those who are not davening with a minyan omit Anim Zemiros.
Recite Le’dovid Hashem Ori after Aleinu.
It is customary to study a Perek of Pirkei Avos every Shabbos afternoon until Rosh Hashana. This week, we study Perek Rishon and Sheini (Chapters 1 and 2).

Shabbos Mincha

Recite Ashrei and Uva Le’tzion, the Amidah, Tzidkascha and recite Aleinu.

Seudas Shlishis

Seudas Shlishis should begin before Shkia (7:41pm).

Maariv – Motzai Shabbos

Maariv begins at 8:24pm.
The same davening as recited in shul, which includes the supplemental tefillah of Atah Chanantanu within the bracha of Atah Chonen in the Amidah. After completing the Amidah, we recite Vayehi Noam, Ve’atah kadosh and Vayiten Lecha, followed by Aleinu and Le’dovid Hashem Ori.
The last night to recite Kiddush levana is Wednesday night until 8:16pm.

KIDDUSH SPONSORS

Tali & Michelle Strum in honor of the bar mitzvah of their son, Tamir

DONATIONS

Harold Levin in memory of his mother, Dena Fraide bas Hershel Leib Ha’Levi z’l
Bernard & Tova Fellner in memory of Tova’s father, David Weiner, Dovid Leib ben Moshe z’l
Chuck & Patty Leve in honor of Rabbi Richter and Avron Elbaum
Milton & Eleanor Marder in honor of the birth and bris of their great grandson, Yitzchak Yonatan, son of Alex & Elana Marder and in gratitude for the many kindnesses of the shul during this time
Lillian Mayer in honor of the marriage of Leah Sol’s daughter

DAF YOMI SIYUM AND LEARNING

Special thank you to the sponsors of the daf yomi siyum and the daf yomi shiur beginning the 18th of Av through the first perek of Eruvin: Jeffrey & Sherri Venick and Steven & Holly Venick in memory of their beloved father, Herman Venick.
Mrs. Eliezer Ben Yishai be’erav, May his neshama have an Aliyah.