

From Our Rabbi

Good morning and welcome to today's Touch Points. On Friday night at Kabbalat Shabbat, I spoke about the statement attributed to Benjamin Franklin, "it takes many good deeds to build a reputation and only one bad one to lose it." Warren Buffet similarly said, "it takes 20 years to build a reputation and 5 minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you'll do things differently."

The saga of Greg Glassman, who founded CrossFit and who was until recently it's CEO, is an illustration of the truth and wisdom of the sentiments expressed by Franklin and Buffet. After a series of unfortunate and callous statements and tweets in response to the George Floyd killing, Greg Glassman, was forced to step down from his CEO position. His words elicited a tidal wave of criticism and advertisers, business partners and even some athletes associated with the mega-brand severed ties with the company.

The slightest word, the smallest gesture, can have immediate consequences. If only Greg Glassman had read this week's Torah portion! In this week's parsha, Shelach, we find the Israelites camped at the borders of Promised Land, about to enter and fulfill their destiny and their dream. We read the story of a fact finding expedition organized to survey the land and then report their findings to Moses and the entire nation. As we all know, the result of the report was devastating and totally demoralizing.

How did this happen? The delegation consisted of eminently qualified leaders chosen specifically for the mission. They reported wonderful things about the land. They brought back samples of unusually large fruits produced by the land for all to see. What went wrong?

Our Sages tell us that it was one little, tree letter word, efes - but, expressed in the majority report, that undermined everything. Yes, the land is fertile and beautiful...BUT...the people are fierce and physically imposing. We felt smaller than a grasshopper compared to them. We will not succeed in taking the land. Joshua and Calev were part of the expedition and they valiantly tried to buoy the people and raise their resolve and their faith. Alas, it was to no avail. The report undermined everything the Israelites had achieved to that point and derailed their entry into Israel for another 38 years.

As we begin to resume more "normal", face(mask) to face(mask) interactions with others, let us remember this important lesson. Let's always be aware of the power of every word and every gesture. If we think about that, we might just do things a little differently.

Rabbi Chaitovsky

Inspiration And Information

[We Must Engage The World](#), Ari Lamm

[Mac and Cheese, Ashkenazi Style](#), Leah Koenig

[Heifetz's Violin](#), Ruth Oratz

Continued...

Virtual BMH BJ

To enter a Zoom class, click on any link below and then use ID 285-350-9174 and enter password: BMHBJ

You can also call by phone: 720-707-2699 or 312-626-6799

Use call-in password: 498778



► **Minyan This Week**

Shacharit in the Sukkah - Sun 8:30 AM, Tues/Wed/Fri 6:45 AM, Thurs 6:30 AM,

Sign-up required. [Click HERE.](#)

[Mincha Maariv Pirkei Avot each weeknight at 6:30 PM](#)

► **Learning Opportunities and Classes**

Tuesday evening 7:30 PM with Rabbi Chaitovsky

[The Truth, The Whole Truth](#) there will be no class with Rabbi Chaitovsky this week due to the Re-Opening Task Force

Wednesday morning at 9:00 AM with Rabbi Chaitovsky

[Verse by Verse: The Book of Numbers \(Bamidbar\)](#)

Thursday morning at 11:00 AM, MDT (US and Canada) with Ellyn Hutt

[Ellyn's Parsha Class](#) for Women
Meeting ID: 922 119 870

Thursday evening with Cantor Goldstein 7:00 PM

[Prayer How To](#)

Special Event:

Mark your calendars for **Monday, June 29 at 7:00 PM** for a **pre July 4th Pop Up Concert with Cantor Goldstein and special guests**