

## **D'var Torah by Rabbi M. Jaroslawicz for Parshas Pinchas 5775 (2015)**

This week's Parshas Pinchos is almost ALWAYS read during the three weeks between the Seventeenth of Tamuz and Tishah B'Av, the period of time referred to as "Bain Hamtzorim."

Parshas Pinchos discusses all of the Yomim Tovim of the year as well as all of the "Karbonos," the sacrifices that were brought in the Temple on those Holidays.

There are two schools of thought as to why this Parsha specifically is read Bain Hamtzorim.

First, we have the thinking of the S'fas Emes. He teaches us that, as we traverse through these weeks year after year, we tend to lose the sadness and sensitivities that we should be feeling. After all, it is so, so many years since the destruction of the Bais Hamikdosh. How are we truly supposed to relate to the pain of its loss? It is for this reason that we read about all of the Karbonos brought in the Bais Hamikdosh. Doing so is meant to invoke our memories of days past and to push us to apply more sensitivity towards the loss of the Holy Temple and strengthen our yearning for its return.

Then we have the thinking of the B'nai Yisoschor, which is diametrically opposed to the S'fas Emes.

The B'nai Yisoschor assumes that we do, indeed, still feel the pain. After all, how can it possibly be that a Jew should go through even one day of his life without missing the grand stature that we once possessed amongst nations when the Bais Hamikdosh stood erect in our holy city of Yerushalayim? If you add to that the increased pain and angst that we must be feeling during the actual three weeks that the destruction took place, it would be enough to drive a person into total depression.

It is for this reason that we read the Torah portion that includes the Holidays and the sacrifices in the Bais Hamikdosh, in order to comfort us into remembering that the third Bais Hamikdosh is just around the corner and that we will soon be living in the bliss of its glory once again.

Whichever way you choose to look at it, the ultimate lesson is for us to learn how to deal with our emotions and how to live with the loss of the things in life that were most dear to us. There is a time for sadness and a time for joy. There is a time to reflect on the past and a time to aim towards the future.

But maybe, and most important, is our need to learn how to appreciate what we have while we still have it. How often do we take our spouses or our friends for granted? And then, Chas V'shalom, it's too late to make amends. All of the "I should have's, I could have's" and "I would have's" fall on deaf ears. The time to appreciate what we have in our homes, in our Shul and in our neighborhood is NOW, not tomorrow or later. NOW!

When was the last time that you picked up a phone and called one of our members who may be sick at home, or in the hospital? When is the last time that you went to visit them? Do you know how much healing and comfort you bring to an individual just by giving them five minutes of your busy day? We shouldn't be thinking twice about this. It's a no brainer! Think about how "WE" would feel if, Chas V'Shalom, we were in the same situation and nobody came to visit us. Now is the time. Not tomorrow. Not later. NOW!

Izzy Stendig has been a loyal member and friend to many of us for many years. He is now living in an assisted living facility. Can you imagine how much he would love a phone call?

Joe Kaufer just went into the hospital. After all these years, does a founding member of DOS not deserve a visit from EACH and EVERY one of us? A phone call to his wife, Judy, to see how she is holding up? Inviting her to come to a Shabbos meal while her husband is in the hospital?

I mention these two as examples only. Unfortunately, there are many more who can use our caring or our presence to help boost their hope and their sense of being needed and missed.

During these "three weeks," we are expected to be more sensitive towards our fellow Jews and create a sense of Ahavas Chinom, unconditional love, for all of our brothers and sisters.

Should we not start from within our own?

Have a healthy Shabbos.