

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

This week's Parsha, Shelach, begins with what seem to be contradictory statements between Hashem and Moshe.

The Passuk says, "Shelach Lecha," "send FOR YOU."

Rashi quotes a Midrash Rabbah on Tractate Sotah 36, which explains the word "FOR YOU" to mean, "Leda'atcha," based on YOUR (Moshe's) understanding. Hashem says to Moshe. "From my perspective, I do not need you to send spies. You, on your own volition, may go ahead and do as you wish."

Now, look at the very next Passuk: "And Moshe sent them, from Midbar Paran, 'AL PEE HASHEM,' ('according to the WORD OF G-D')."

I don't get it. We just finished saying that Hashem said to Moshe that He, Hashem, had NO NEED TO SEND THEM. So what does the Torah mean by saying, "by the word of Hashem?" Hashem made it very clear that Moshe was on his own?!

The Ma'ohr Va'Shemesh suggests that only two of the spies, Kalev and Yehoshua, were sent with Hashem's blessing. The other ten were optional, Moshe's choice. Send them or don't.

Sending two spies would have been enough to show the proper effort necessary to fulfill our obligation of "Hishtadlus," our required physical participation.

We see later in the Book of Joshua, that when Joshua sent two spies to spy on Jericho before waging war on them, nobody complained. Two were enough to conduct a clandestine operation and for the General to feel confident with their results. Normal procedure.

But in our Parsha, twelve spies were sent. Overkill! Each tribe was afraid that Kalev and Yehoshua would not properly represent their needs. Everybody needed to feel like they, themselves, had a hand in the pie. They didn't properly trust the two representatives chosen. They didn't trust the system.

This is when we get ourselves into trouble. There comes a point in time where a person has to be a team player and not think that only "HE/SHE" knows the proper thing to do. Trying to be in charge, to be the final decision maker and to trust only yourself or your immediate representative and no-one else to do the job -- ultimately leads to suffering and spending an unnecessary forty years in the desert.

DOS has, Baruch Hashem, been experiencing a tremendous growth spurt. Assorted individuals, retirement and pre-retirement age, have been checking us out, seeing what we are about, and making their plans for the future accordingly.

They all come away with the same feeling. DOS is a warm, welcoming group that offers a rabbi, Torah classes, daily Minyanim, assorted educational venues, secular events and potential friends. DOS offers room for individuals moving here from outside Florida to make our Shul their HOME and to make a difference in their new surroundings.

While everyone's needs must always be taken into consideration, not every row in the Shul needs to have a representative in charge. Future growth is based on co-operation, transition, occasional leadership progression and TRUST.

As I prepare to leave for the summer, I would like to part with a B'racha.

The hardest thing for a parent to do is to let go of their child's hand for the first time and allow that child to walk on their own. The most Nachas that we have is when the child is independent and looks back at us with respect and admiration for getting them to the point where they can continue to grow on their own.

My B'racha is that ALL of us should always concern ourselves with the welfare of the whole, put the needs and the wishes of the KLAL above our personal agendas, participate every way that we can, and remember that we are all one big DOS family.

Trust the system.

Good Shabbos, and have a GREAT summer.