

United We Stand

05/21/16

Parshas Emor

13th of Iyar, 5776

Written by Yehuda Dov Reiss, student of Fasman Yeshiva High School

The Parsha Proofs

Vishamru Es Mishmarti- they shall guard my safekeeping (22:9).

In this week's Parsha, we learn about many of the sacrifices brought in the Beis-Hamikdash, as well as many of the laws pertaining to the Kohen and the service itself. Here, Rashi explains that this phrase is a warning to the Kohen not to eat Teruma while in a state of impurity of the body. In *Growth Through Torah*, by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin, he notes that even though eating Terumah is the fulfillment of a Mitzva for Kohanim, they need to be very careful not to do so in a way that would transform the potential good into a sin. Based on this, he writes, Rabbi Yerucham Levovitz said we see here an important principle: even when one is doing G-d's service, he must be careful no sin comes from it. Rabbi Pliskin writes that on a practical level, whenever we're involved in a good deed or worthwhile project, we need to be careful that the good we do is complete and doesn't include any transgressions. Tragically, often when people seek to do good, like favors and Chessed projects and even self-improvement efforts, they can end up doing sins along the way to ruin it, like by speaking Lashon Hara or getting arrogant or angry while involved in these holy pursuits. We must act with extreme caution not to fall into such a trap.

Vihikravtem Isheh Vigomer- you shall bring a fire-offering, etc. (23:8).

Here, Rashi explains that the Torah refers to the Mussaf offerings which are stated in detail in Parshas Pinchas. Rashi asks, then, why they need to be mentioned here. He answers that the Pasuk comes to teach us that the Mussaf offerings do not obstruct one another, and one should bring it in all circumstances. This means that if there are no bulls, bring the rams which are part of the offering, and if

there are neither bulls nor rams, bring the sheep which are part of the offering.

This teaches us a valuable determination about perseverance and the value of doing whatever we can. Sometimes, we fail to perform every Chessed and Mitzva and Torah opportunity, and sometimes we even slip up and do the wrong thing. Sometimes are Middos aren't perfect. Sometimes we slip and say Lashon Hara. Often after we do something wrong, we may feel tempted to give up in the future and not try so hard to grab at every opportunity to do good deeds and improve ourselves. We end up accomplishing a lot less than we could have if we just kept trying as hard as we could. What we learn here is that our actions aren't always dependent of each other. Even though we may have failed in one respect, doesn't mean we can't excel and fulfill G-d's words in respect to other things. We can gain self esteem from the areas we excel at and are improving in, while striving to do better at the areas we do poorly. Let us strive to never allow our faults and mistakes affect us negatively.

Deeper Meanings

Two years after Rabbi Eliezer Geldzahler, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Ohr Yisroel in Brooklyn, passed away, his daughter, Chana Malka, was driving on the Garden State Parkway when she stopped to get gas. A dwarf who worked there came to the car and started pumping gas and washing the car windows. He noticed a large picture of Rabbi Geldzahler on the back seat. He asked Chana Malka, "You know that man?" Surprised, Chana Malka responded that he was her father. "What do you mean *was*?" the dwarf asked in concern. She explained how he lost his life in a bus accident two years before. The dwarf began to cry. "You knew my father?" Chana Malka asked in amazement. "I've been waiting for him for two years. You see, every day I come to work, hot or cold, rain or shine.

Whenever people stop for gas, nobody ever looks at me. I look unusual and people are afraid of me. Even when they pay they avoid eye contact. However, when your father came for gas a few years ago, he looked me straight in the eye and said, 'you are an inspiration. You were born with a condition that many would consider a severe handicap, but instead of becoming a victim, you get up every morning, come to work, and earn an honest living. I'm the head of a large school in Brooklyn, and today I will tell all the boys about you, for you are a shining example.' Your father made me feel special. He made me feel tall." (seen in *In the Splendor of the Maggid* by Rabbi Paysach Krohn).

We see from this story the tremendous value of looking upon others that are different from us in a new light. Let us look to our fellow as a source of inspiration and amazement, and strive to only see the greatness in every individual and group.

Navi Notes

Unfortunately, the 13th Perek of Shmeul Beis is not a happy one. David's son, Amnon, tricks and rapes Tamar, despite all her pleading and resisting. He proceeds to become disgusted with her and throws her out. Her brother Abshalom comes to her rescue, and Tamar becomes isolated in Abshalom's house. King David hears about the incident, and he is appalled, but fails to take action. Meanwhile Abshalom deeply hates Amnon and plans for his demise. Abshalom and all the king's sons went to shear Abshalom's sheep, and Abshalom begs King David to let Amnon go with him, who finally agrees. On the trip, Abshalom has the other princes kill Amnon. The princes return to King

David while Abshalom flees. Eventually, David gets over Amnon's death and yearns for Avshalom.

As cited in *The Living Nach*, Daas Mikra notes that these events may have primarily occurred due to David, as his example with Batsheva was certainly not the best. In fact, this may have been why David felt helpless to take action when Amnon did what he did, but David's failure to take action may have led to Amnon's tragic death. We therefore see from here the far-reaching consequences of our actions, and how we need to put our personal faults and mistakes aside when it comes to doing what is right and necessary. While it was impossible to undo what had been done, David could have taken actions to prevent his children from following his example, as well as have taken actions when they did. Based on the results of that, we see how important it is not to repeat those mistakes. Let us all strive to always do what's morally correct and necessary, no matter the potential consequences (Please note that this article was not meant to be critical of David's actions but was only meant to teach us a valuable lesson).

Goal of the Week

Make a list of ten things you've improved on and analyze and think about them, as a critical step toward building internal self esteem.

Sponsorships

To sponsor: \$15/ week, \$50/ four weeks. Contact UnityParsha@gmail.com. Thank you.

This week's bulletin is dedicated for a Refuah Sheleima for Avraham Reuven Rafael Ben Raizel. Please have him in mind in your Tefillos.

Sponsored in honor of Aliza's birthday. Love, Elazar.

Shabbat Shalom!

Our Mission

Our Mission is to bring the third Beis- Hamikdash by bringing the only thing that will cause it: Unity. The Beis Hamikdash was destroyed due to Sinas- Chinam, blind hatred. Thus we must stop and reverse this deed, for nothing else can save us from Galut. Unity is key.