

Parshas Tazria/
Metzora
5780

April 24th,
2020

have a Nageela Shabbos

Candle
Lighting:

Scottsdale 6:47
Henderson 7:04
Las Vegas 7:05
San Diego 7:07
Irvine 7:11
Los Angeles 7:14
Reno/ Tahoe 7:28

A Kid Friendly Weekly Publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences

Season 4
Episode 20

call for help

by Rabbi Dani Locker



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Isolated. Alone. Quarantined.

What am I describing?

No, silly, I'm talking about this week's Torah portion! In this week's reading, we describe what happens when someone comes down with the illness called 'tzaraas.' Although it looks like a skin disease, tzaraas is actually spiritual in nature, and is caused by acting inappropriately (mainly Lashon Hara, but other things as well). When a person came down with a case of tzaraas, they had to be isolated outside of the community. The ultimate social distancing. There was

then a long, complicated path to healing, including sacrifices, shaving and, well, stuff. Something else happened. There was an announcement made, saying that this person was 'impure' and had the disease.

Why did we announce this embarrassing fact?

One explanation given in the Talmud is so people would know to socially distance. Coming into contact with a person infected with tzaraas could cause the contagion to spread.

However, the Talmud also gives another explanation. It was announced that this person had tzaraas so that people could pray for his recovery.

We are used to keeping quiet about our problems. We don't like

calling attention to our needs, both because it doesn't feel good to admit we have problems, and also because we don't like asking others for help. It seems selfish. And perhaps we should avoid asking for help too often. Yet here the Talmud is stressing the importance of letting people know when trouble comes so that the community can help, can pray, can sympathize.

I think it boils down to how you feel about the rest of the Jewish people. If we really view everyone as family, then we're comfortable sharing our troubles so that they can be a part of the solution. Let's make sure we have our ears and eyes open to the troubles of others so that we can help them, physically, or with prayer, and let's not be shy about letting our brothers and sisters know if we need a helping hand, as well.

CAUTION
PRAYERS AHEAD
NEXT 5 MILES

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Nageela Shabbos to hundreds more people!

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Hi Rabbi,

What's the most important mitzvah in the Torah?

Thanks,

Itai Prior

The One



**stump the
rabbi**

Dear Prioritai,

Tricky, tricky question!

If the Jewish people would give up all of God's commandments, and would only keep one, which one would you think would be most important? I posed this question on Facebook, and here are some of the answers that were floated:



I am the lord your god and you should have no other gods before me. That's all Avraham has and it was good enough for him. Without that there's nothing. With that, everything else falls into place.

6d Like Reply



ry
Preservation of life

6d Love Reply 1



Chasing the mother bird away before taking the eggs 🕒

6d Wow Reply



H-shem Echod! But do it completely... people don't realize they make an AVODAH of everything. Avraham was a Jew without the Torah.... one GD, THAT is the essence of Judaism historically and in the contemporary.

4d Love Reply



vi'ahavta l'reach kamocho

6d Like Reply



Shabbos. At least there's good Gifilte fish, chicken soup, and Chulent! 😭 Sorry, after all this quarantine we get a little crazy! Besides I am hungry right now and about to say Kabbalas Shabbos.

6d Haha Reply



OK, so which one is ACTUALLY the greatest?

The Talmud (Avos) tells us that we must be as careful with a 'light' Mitzvah as with a 'heavy' mitzvah, for we don't know the true value of mitzvos. That means we should not try to measure the value of God's commandments. Let me explain.

Chadwick Braxton was ready to take his business to the next level. A multi- billionaire, Chadwick had worked his way up to become the CEO of his lollipop company, and was known for his great leadership skills, and for motivating his employees to think creatively.

One day, Chadwick called his top 5 executives into his office. "We need the next big idea, one tht will launch our company into the position as the top candy manufacturer in the world! I would like each of you to come up with a new product, and be ready for manufacture in one month. You will each receive large bonuses if you succeed, but I will be giving much larger bonuses for my favorite ideas!"

The executives looked excited. "Sir, please tell us what you're looking for in a new product, so we can make it according to your specifications! What is your favorite type of candy?"

"I can give you some broad guidelines, but I will not tell you my favorites."

"But why not, Sensei Braxton (Chadwick Braxton was not a sensei, and he knew nothing of martial arts, but he insisted, for some inexplicable reason, that his employees call him sensei)? If you tell us what you like, then we can make exactly what you like!"

Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question. Have a question? Please send it in to stump@nageelawest.org

Questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

"That's exactly it! If I tell you exactly what I like best, then you'll all make EXACTLY that. In reality, our company needs a variety of products, not just my favorite. We need chocolates and taffies, hard candies and toffees. We need Jelly beans and caramel, pulled sugar and gummies. Sodas and fruit drinks, jello and suckers. We need marshmallows and licorice, and maybe even gefilte fish (did I mention that poetry was NOT among Chadwick's great qualities?). We need them all. SO I WILL NOT TELL YOU MY FAVE, I will take that secret to my grave."

This is one explanation for why the Torah rarely tells us which mitzvot are more important. Because then we'd just focus on those to the exclusion of the others. We need them all. In order to lead our best lives, we need a variety of mitzvot. We need:

Kindness and charity,
Prayer and piety,
Torah study and holiday,
Tefillin and Tallis while we pray,

Eating matzah, making kiddush,
Not eating meat with fish,
Blowing shofar, not being sad,
Standing up for Mom and Dad,

Lighting candles for Chanukah,
Giving often to tzedaka,
Only eating kosher meat,
Feeding our pets before we eat,

Thanking God for all our food,
Trying our best to be real good
We need all the mitzvot, not just two or three,
To make ourselves truly godly

I hope I'm a slightly better poet than Sensei Chadwick Braxton.

This is only half the answer, though. Because even if we prefer not to put relative value to the commandments, sometimes we have to choose between one and another. Some examples:

I have \$20 and a poor person asked me for help. I also need to buy matzah for Passover.

Tzedakah vs. Matzah. Which comes first?

I am in the middle of a Torah class, and someone asks me to drive them to the airport. Torah vs. Kindness.... What do I do?

I'm volunteering at a soup kitchen, and my Dad texts me, asking me to pick up his prescription from the pharmacy. Kindness vs. Honoring parents. How should I respond?

I want to go to shul and pray with a minyan, but I've got a bad cold and the doctor told me to rest up. Minyan vs. good health. Which takes precedence.

I could give hundreds of examples. You see, most decisions in life aren't purely GOOD vs. EVIL. They're THIS GOOD vs. THAT GOOD. Next week we will explore the second half of this discussion, namely, which mitzvot take priority, and why.

Have a Nageela Shabbos,
the Rabbi.

APRIL 30TH - 5PM

JOIN OUR LIVE BROADCAST FOR THE
LATEST ON CAMP NAGEELA WEST
2020, WITH EXCITING NEWS!



**DEEP
THOUGHTS**

Skating is just
slipping in the
right direction

POLL:
RANKED 1-3, WHAT ARE
YOUR FAVORITE FEATURES OF
NAGEELA SHABBOS?

- LOL
- STUMP THE RABBI
- QUESTION OF THE WEEK
- DVAR TORAH
- QUICK FIX
- DEEP THOUGHTS
- HAPPY BIRTHDAY
- DID JEW KNOW
- NAGEELA COUNTDOWN
- MAZEL TOV
- PICKLE JEWS COMIC

VOTE ONLINE AT NAGEELALV.ORG

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

We haven't done this in a little while, so
Happy Birthday to family members who have
celebrated in the past few weeks:

Sara Sfadia
Ian Wise
David Karoudo
Michael Karoudo
Naomi Karoudo
Ezra Arovas
Alex Sefia
Anne Musser
Daniel Lerner

Natan Goldman
Calev Knopf
Matthew Lewis
Bertha Cohen
Dovid Niman
Daniel Anson
Marygrace Bower
BZ Locker

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WHO DA THUNK?!

An Interactive Online Game Show

NOW SHOWING EVERY THURSDAY

Watch the Rabbi Locker YouTube channel for our new Kinda Clear videos with a Kahoot challenge!

VIRTUAL HAVDALLAH CHILL

RABBI LOCKER

sat nite 8:45

<https://zoom.us/j/3174277225>
ZOOM ID: 317-427-7225

KINDA CLEAR

KOSHER BASICS WITH RABBI LOCKER

DID JEW KNOW?

Today begins the Jewish month of Iyar. There are some special days in Iyar: Pesach Sheini (14th of Iyar, this year May 8th) is a month after Passover, and was the 'make up' date for any Jews who missed bringing the Passover offering in the Holy Temple for a valid reason (if they missed it because they were lazy, there was no make up allowed).

Lag Baomer (18th of Iyar, this year May 12th) commemorates the end of a plague in which 24 thousand great scholars died. It is also celebrated in honor of the great Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, and his great contributions to the understanding of Kabbalah.

On April 30th, we will announce the adjustments that will be made for summer 2020 in light of the current health crisis.

5

9

8

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DAYS TO CAMP
NAGEELA WEST
GIRLS SESSION

|

DAYS TO CAMP
NAGEELA WEST
BOYS SESSION

Find out about our Grand Tour 2020 and see photos from GT2019 at nageelawest.org

mazel tov!

to Camp Nageela West counselor **MIMI KURTZ** (now Guttman) upon HER MARRIAGE yesterday!

TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST VETERAN natan GOLDMAN WHO CELEBRATED HIS (SOCIAL DISTANCING) BAR MITZVAH THIS WEEK!

TO DAVID AND MICHAEL KROUDO WHO ARE CELEBRATING THEIR (SOCIAL DISTANCING) BAR MITZVAHS THIS WEEK!



A wise man once said,
"If the shoe fits...
get another one just like
it."

OUCH! GROAN!
got a better joke?
Email it to dlocker@nageelawest.org



Nageela West breaks the mold of old school Jewish outreach by providing out-of-the-box social and educational programs for Jewish children across the west coast. Through afterschool activities, weekend retreats and our signature summer camp, we engage elementary and middle school children in a fun and meaningful experience. Our "questions encouraged" mindset makes Nageela a comfortable learning and growing environment for Jewish children of all backgrounds.