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PLEASANT RIDGE NEWSLETTER

בס"ד

תשע"א



A Kehilas Prozdor Publication

(c) 1990-2011 Leibie Sternberg	(Monsey/Sp	(Monsey/Spring Valley Z'manim)			פרשת: משפטים		
http://www.prozdor.com	Candles	Mincha	DafYomi	Shiur	Shachri	s סזק"ש	
Friday	4:50	5:00	8:00			9:40	
Shabbos		4:50	4:15		9:00	9:40	
Sunday		5:00	5:15		8:00	9:40	

IMPORTANCE OF

The Gemara (Derech Eretz, 3) states that when Klal Yisroel said נעשה ונשמע Hashem blessed them with peace. However, the Posuk says that when Moshe told *Bnei Yisroel* how they must prepare for *Matan Torah*, they responded with only the word - נעשה - we will do. It was only after Moshe built שתים עשרה מצבה for the שנים עשר שבטי ישראל - 12 monuments for the twelve tribes, that the Jews proclaimed נעשה ונשמע - we will do and we will learn. Although 12 monuments for 12 tribes seems very logical, the Mechilta states that Moshe built 12 monuments for each of the 12 tribes. The Belzer Rebbe זצ"ל explains that certain talents and/or abilities seem to be concentrated in specific tribes. Only a Kohen may do the עבודה, assisted only by the Leviim; a מלך מלך must come from the tribe of Yehudah; Zevulun will provide financial support; Shimon will provide teachers etc... Since each individual or tribe cannot independently fulfill the whole *Torah*, only as a partnership with the other tribes, will everything be done. Even so, Chazal (Menachos 110a) say: ... כל העוסק בתורה כאילו - one who learns about a *mitzvah* in the *Torah* is credited as if he had fulfilled it. Therefore, first the Bnei Yisroel said - we will do what we can. Then, when they saw Moshe build 12 מצבות for each of them, they understood that by learning about the other mitzvos, they would be credited with everything, so they now said נעשה ונשמע. We see the partnership concept as conceived at Matan Torah, by Hashem saying: כה תאמר לבית יעקב ותגיד לבני ישראל. The Midrash says that Hashem did not wish to make the same "mistake" as in Gan Eden, where Chava sinned because she wasn't spoken to directly. The Sefer מריש בבירה explains that before *Matan Torah*, women could divorce men, and they shared equally in בני נח. All בני נח, men and women, were independent of each other. By speaking directly to the women, Hashem made clear His intention that the women were still to be partners, and did not necessarily have to be obligated in everything themselves.

OUESTION OF THE WEEK:

Which brocho is one אצא if he thinks it in his mind/heart without actually saying it, under no special or unusual circumstances?

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK:

(When would one recite a ברכה מעין שלש after drinking a non-wine liquid?)
The Shulchan Aruch (אור"ח 202:4) states that although one normally would not say a brocho before drinking oil (as it is harmful) or when using it as a dip (as it is b), still, if one drinks it for medicinal reasons mixed with a sweetener, even if the amount of oil is less, one says על העץ.

DIN'S CORNER:

One may not ring doorbells, chimes or make any attentiongrabbing sound on *Shabbos*, even if not electrical, nor may one even use the regular door knocker, even though his intention is not to create a musical sound. If one wishes to sleep but cannot enter the house, since this is a significant אורך שבת, it is permitted to use knockers to attract attention, and this should be done preferably with a שינוי (*Biur Halacha* 338: ד"ה הואיל)

DID YOU KNOW THAT

The Mishna (Bikurim 1:2) derives from: ראשית בכורי אדמתך that Bikurim are only brought from that which grows on one's own land, which excludes sharecroppers, thieves etc.. who do not own the land. The Or HaChaim HaKadosh excludes, by the same token, first fruits that emerged during Shemitah, as they too do not belong to the landowner, but are deemed Hefker. As such he cannot say the words אשר נתת לי when presenting them to the Kohen. However, Rashi comments on the above Posuk, that Bikurim must be brought during Shemitah as well, and the MaHaral (Gur Aryeh) insists that this must have been a misprint (טעות סופר), as one does not own Shemitah crops. The Gemara (Bava Basra 81a) derives from a Posuk that Bikurim only applies to Eretz Yisroel, and Tosafos asks why a Posuk is necessary isn't Bikurim by definition an Eretz Yisroel mitzvah? He answers that ראשית בכורי אדמתך is followed by לא תבשל גדי בחלב אמו which forbids Basar B'Chalav, everywhere. Without a Posuk, Bikurim might be treated the same. And similarly, a Posuk would be necessary to apply Basar B'Chalav everywhere, so as not to derive from Bikurim that it should be restricted to Eretz Yisroel. However Tosafos cites the Rashba who views Bikurim as not dependent on the land of Eretz Yisroel. Therefore, if Bikurim is dependent on *Eretz Yisroel*, then it would not apply during Shemitah, when all the crops are Hefker. But if does not depend on Eretz Yisroel, then it could apply during Shemitah, in Chutz LaAretz where Shemitah definitely does not apply, and where the crops do belong to the landowner. Even if *Bikurim* applies only to Eretz Yisroel, there is a Machlokes over how crops become Hefker during Shemitah. Most Acharonim say it is automatic, while the *Mabit* (1:336) holds that it is not, and that every landowner has a *Chiyuv* to render all his crops *Hefker*. As such, even during Shemitah, until the owner would make his crops Hefker, they would still technically belong to him, qualifying as "אשר נתת לי" to be valid Bikurim during that time, as Rashi said.

A Lesson Can Be Learned From:

An elderly resident of an old-age home in Yerushalayim was known to be a שונא מתנות who never accepted a gift from another. One exception to this rule was his habit of constantly "mooching" cigarettes from people. One Hoshana Rabba, he received a visit from R' Yechiel Michel Tokachinsky, who wished him a "Gut Kvittel". The older man thanked him and replied that he had just been assured of entry to עולם הבא. He proceeded to explain. "Many years ago, I was a wealthy factory owner in Russia, where I was a fair but strict employer. One day, an employee came running in late, and rushed over to his spot on the assembly line. I sternly questioned why he was late and he explained that his wife had suddenly been taken ill, requiring him to run for the doctor. I said to him Your wife can get sick on your חשבון (account), not mine. Later, when the Bolsheviks took everything away from me, I had time to reflect on how cold and biting my words had been. I resolved to do a penance by becoming a cigarette Shnorer, feeling shame for my act whenever I stuck out my hand for a smoke. Today, I asked someone for a cigarette and he replied - Smoke on your own חשבון, not on mine. I feel that my אבירה has now been forgiven and I am ready for עבירה.'

P.S . Sholosh Seudos sponsored by the Sheli family.