



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

The Ten Commandments serve as the foundational mitzvos of the Torah and include among them the critical directives of belief in G-d, keeping the Shabbos, and the prohibition against murder. The last commandment of "Do not Covet" does not seem to fit the above criteria. Although important, it hardly seems to be a cornerstone of faith.

Perhaps we could better understand this with an answer the Ibn Ezra gives to another question posed regarding this commandment. It is understood that the Torah could insist that we don't steal or murder - for it is certainly in our control not to commit those acts. How could the Torah, however, proscribe someone from coveting? It's a feeling that is beyond one's control!

The Ibn Ezra shares with us a brilliant insight. When we acknowledge that it is G-d that apportions His bounty to us, and each person is allotted a share that is particular to him according to G-d's plan, we should have no inclination to desire that which belongs to another. It is only when we believe that possessions are acquired haphazardly that we could think jealously of our friend's good fortune. Certainly, a healthy perspective on G-d's mastery of world affairs is within our control.

For this reason, the commandment not to covet is a foundation of our faith. It is predicated on the cardinal belief that what we have in this world is not random and capricious. Rather, our wealth is determined by G-d who directly guides the world with His Divine wisdom and allots to each and every person according to his unique and particular needs.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!
Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

And I prayed to Hashem (3:23).

Rav Simlai expounded: Why did Moshe desire to enter Eretz Yisrael? Did he need to eat its fruit? Did he need to be satiated from its food? Rather Moshe wanted to fulfill the many mitzvos that can only be fulfilled in Eretz Yisrael (Sotah 14a).

Rav Simloai should have said “Did he want to eat its fruit? Did he want to be satiated...” Why did he use the word need?

PARSHA RIDDLE

What day of the year is Tu B’Av compared to?

Please see next week’s issue for the answer.

Last issue’s riddle:

On which day was the Bais Hamikdash destroyed?

Answer: 10th of Av

TIMELESS WISDOM

For you are a holy people... (7:6)

The Divrei Yechezkel, the Shinever Rebbe, was very careful with his speech. He always tried to say the truth. One time he needed to write a letter to a certain Rov. The biggest dilemma was how to write the titles for the Rov. To send it without any titles could be disgraceful, but on the other hand deciding what titles to write was difficult.

He thought to himself, “How do I know his spiritual standing? Do I know if he is a Tzadik to title him HaTzadik? When the Isha HaShunamis refers to Elisha HaNovi, as a “holy man”, the Gemara questions how she knew that. How could I write “The Holy Rov” if I don’t know that he is holy?”

Meanwhile the Shinever Rebbe’s son came in and placated his father. “The Torah refers to Jews as holy people. Furthermore, the Navi Yeshaya (60:21) refers to all of Klal Yisrael as Tzadikkim. You could title this Rov as the Holy Tzadik, and you have nothing to worry about.”

How careful one must be to always say the truth.

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

#1 WHO AM I ?

1. I am not an app, but am on tablets.
2. I appear twice.
3. I was commanded once.
4. I was given twice.

#2 WHO AM I ?

1. Of me there are four.
2. We ask different types of questions.
3. We need different types of answers.
4. We are discussed at the seder.

LAST ISSUE’S ANSWERS

#1 Excess Money (“Vayishman” refers to me; I cause rebellion; Di Zahav; I was used for the Ba’al.)

#2 Og (I am a giant; I am the refugee; I am not a cake; I am from the fallen ones.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Esther Stiber

Please see next week’s issue for the answers to this week’s questions.

All children 13 and under who answer a “Who Am I?” correctly will be entered into a raffle to



Please visit www.gwckollel.org to submit your answers.

The next raffle will be held on September 30!

Answer as many as you can because each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chance of winning!

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www.gwckollel.org/audio.php

Stay tuned as more Kollel classes

and lectures are added!

**SAVE THE DATE!
THE GWCK GALA DINNER
WILL BE SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 16!**