



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

More Powerful Than Sticks and Stones

Presented by Rabbi Zacharia Schwartz

"And Moshe spoke to the heads of the tribes of the Jewish people saying, 'This is the matter that Hashem has commanded. When a man will make a vow...he shall not desecrate his word, he shall do all that has left his mouth.'" (30:2-3)

In the beginning of *Parshas Matos*, the *Torah* teaches us the *Mitzvah* of adhering to one's vows and oaths. Rabbi Moshe Feinstein notes that the *Torah* typically introduces a new *Mitzvah* by speaking about *Hashem's* instructions to *Moshe*; here, however, the *Torah* conspicuously begins with *Moshe's* instructions to the Jewish people instead. Rabbi Feinstein explains that the *Torah* is teaching us that the *Mitzvah* of keeping one's word is so intuitive and obvious that such a law should have been enacted even had *Hashem* not taught *Moshe* this *Mitzvah*. The power of speech, says Rabbi Feinstein, is so fundamental to our humanity that it almost goes without saying that one must treat it with the utmost respect and not corrupt it in any way.

This lesson, although expressed in the context of oaths and vows, is much broader than that limited application. We must be careful with *all* aspects of our speech. Whether it is keeping our word or the language we use, the power of speech has the ability to build or destroy— it's completely up to us. Let us take advantage of this lesson to inspire us to do our very best to use our incredible power of speech to build and nurture our relationship with *Hashem*, as well as with our family, neighbors, friends, and everyone around us.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

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TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

You shall give the land as an inheritance by lot to your families... (33, 54)

This that we write in a contract 'I grant him four amos (cubits) from my property' even though a person does not own property, is because every Jew has the right to property in the Land of Israel, since property cannot be stolen from a person. (Tosafos Bava Basra 44b)

A gentile acquires land through conquering the territory through battle. (Gittin 38a)

Since the original division of the Land of Israel, gentiles have conquered the land through war, taking over the ownership each Jew has in the Land. How can we still write 'I grant him four amos from my property' if someone doesn't own any land?

Parsha Riddle

Where in Tanach did a vow cause a woman to have a child?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

How old was Pinchas when he died?

Answer:

1) 400 2) Pinchas is Eliyahu Hanavi who was taken from the world while still alive.

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In parashas Matos (31:22-23), Hashem commands: "Only the gold and the silver, the copper, the iron, the tin, and the lead – everything that comes into the fire – you shall pass through the fire and it will be purified; but it must be purified with the water of sprinkling; and everything that would not come in the fire, you shall pass through the water." The Talmud (see Avodah Zarah 75b) understands this as comprising two distinct commands: insofar as the vessels had been used by the Midianites for non-Kosher food, they must be rendered kosher via fire or water, depending on their typical mode of use, and independent of any such use, they must be immersed in a mikvah.

According to most authorities, this latter obligation of tevilas keilim is Biblical, although some consider it merely rabbinic. (see Sdei Chemed klalim ma'areches Tes klal 2.) The Talmud explains that as per the Biblical language, the obligation applies primarily to metal vessels, but also to glass vessels, since they are similar to metal ones in that when they are broken, they can be remade by melting them down and refashioning them. According to most authorities, the extension of the obligation to glass is rabbinic. (Pri Chadash YD siman 120 os 4)

Regarding utensils made of metals not enumerated in our verse, such as aluminum, R. Yaakov Kamensky held that the obligation to immerse them is uncertain, so they should be immersed without a blessing; R. Moshe Feinstein held that they have the same status as glass, and are subject to a rabbinic obligation of immersion (Shut. Igros Moshe YD 3:22); and R. Dov Lior maintains that they are subject to a Biblical obligation of immersion. (<https://www.yeshiva.org.il/ask/76438>) (This debate concerns durable aluminum utensils; disposable ones present additional questions.)

Some authorities require the immersion of plastic utensils (without a blessing), on the grounds that since they can be melted down and refashioned, it is at least plausible that they have the same status as glass utensils. (Shut. Minchas Yitzchak 3:76) Others disagree, arguing that the rabbinic edict was limited to glass. Within the latter camp, some maintain that it is nevertheless meritorious to immerse plastic vessels (Shut. Yabia Omer 4:YD:8), while others disagree. (Shut. Chelkas Yaakov YD 45)

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I am not "wow!"
2. I bind you even if you're not a book.
3. Removeable.
4. I am for objects.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I was for Yaakov.
2. I was for Yaakov's livestock.
3. I was for the journeys.
4. I am a Yom-tov.

Last Week's Answers

#1 **Shalosh Regalim** (Good day, Workless, Karbanos, Triple.)

#2 **Pinchas** (My father was a Kohen, I was not, I was given peace, I was zealous.)

All children 13 and under who answer a "Who Am I?" correctly will be entered into a raffle to **WIN a Claw Machine Arcade Game**



Visit gwckollel.org to submit your answers.

Answer as many as you can. Each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chances of winning!

The raffle has been postponed until after the shuls are reopened. We are still accepting entries to the raffle.

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

The Kollel's summer intermission will begin on Sunday, July 26.

For this week...

Join our Virtual Beis Medrash!

Daily classes for men and women on Zoom.

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