



PARASHAT HASHAVUA

www.lateminyan.com

VAYISHLACH BY RAV SHMUEL BLOOM

11 KISLEV 5767 MOTZAEI SHABBAT: 17:15

MESSAGE FROM THE RAV

Dear Chevra

Shabbat shalom and welcome to our minyan!

“Can a man change his stars?” William Thatcher asks his father, in the movie ‘A Knights Tale’. William, a young peasant, strives for greatness against all odds. He is born into a society where one’s family name and nobility determine social status, and nothing you can do can change that! Yet, he strives against all odds to success.

The director and writer, Brian Helgeland, must have done his homework in this week’s parsha to come up with the script. The Gemara in Rosh Hashana 16b quotes: אמר רבי יצחק: “ארבעה דברים מקרעין גזר דינו של אדם, אלו הן: צדקה, שינוי מעשה, שינוי השם, ושינוי מקום”. Rabbi Yitzchak says: “Four things tear up the decree of a person: tzedaka, crying out to Hashem, changing ones name and changing ones actions.” In addition, many Acharonim quote: “דשינוי מקום – גורם שינוי מזל”. William goes about doing all of the above. In order to tear up the decrees placed upon him as a born peasant, he performs Robin Hood-like acts of charity, cries out that he will not accept the so-called decree placed on him because of his namesake, changes his name to ‘Sir Ulrich von Lichtenstein’ and studies and starts acting like the knight he desires to become! So too, already from the beginning of the movie, his father insists that he moves to a better home than what he could provide. Though, his deceitful name could only take him so far, and when revealed to be a peasant at the end of the movie, only his true past acts of nobility stand to get him knighted and earn him the title ‘Sir William Thatcher’. (Sorry to have wrecked the end of the movie for those of you who haven’t seen it).

Young Yaakov, chased by Esav and cheated by his father-in-law is sick of being trodden upon as his name-sake dictates. A now wealthy and successful businessman and father of 12, he ups and leaves Charan to make his way back home. Though, his courage in that action wasn’t enough to prove and earn his ‘nobility’. Hashem decided to challenge him on the highest of spiritual levels as well, to test and prove his newfound independence. He must battle his spiritual arch-nemesis and win in order to solidify his physical self-esteem with spiritual accomplishment. Yaakov displays amazing persistence in his battle against his brother’s angel – to such an extent that he earns a change of name to a name that had been waiting to be bestowed since the creation of the world – ישראל – the

one that has the direct connection to HaKadosh Baruch Hu. Yaakov pre-empted William Thatcher in his acts of charity – when he fed the flocks of his future wife Rachel at the well; and displayed his true and firm belief in Hashem and not in himself when crying out to G-d “הצילני נא מיד אחי” – “please save me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esav”. Finally, when the showdown takes place, it is the positive attitude of confidence and שלמות that Yaakov expresses that distracts Esav from even making an attempt to fight his younger brother. Esav’s dissatisfaction with life expressed in his “יש לי רב – I have a lot” (but am not content with what I have) cannot match up to Yaakov’s “יש לי כל – I have everything”. Pirkei Avot teaches that he who is happy with his lot is the truly wealthy one. As Jews we believe that Hashem has given us everything we need to achieve what we need to achieve in our lives – and that is true wealth and happiness. Yaakov earned his true name Yisrael based on firm אמונה and an attitude of שלמות.

In our personal, communal and national lives, we all face constant challenges. It’s supposed to be that way! As Jews, we always have to be taking the bull by the horns; living on the edge; and seizing the day! Our zest for life and confidence that “בעזרת ה’ we can overcome its challenges guides us daily. In the end we will win – only if we have that אמונה in Hashem that fills our decisions with קדושה. May we be blessed with the opportunity to do tzedaka; call out to Hashem with meaningful tefillot; live up to our namesake Yisrael through a direct connection to Hashem through studying Torah and acts of mitzvot; all here in the holiest place – ארץ ישראל!

Shabbat shalom
Rav Shmuel and Taly

THE **LLM**
IS **10**
YEARS OLD

MEALS FOR 8
IN TWO WEEKS
SHABBAT PARASHAT MIKETZ

WE’VE SET THE DATE
WE WANT TO SEE YOU- WE CAN’T WAIT !!
PLEASE REPLY- DON’T BE LATE!

WHEN: FRIDAY NIGHT 22ND DEC
RSVP: TUESDAY AFTERNOON, DEC 19TH 4:00PM.
LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO HOST OR BE HOSTED.

TO SEND AN EMAIL TO:
GALI@TALI.ORG.IL - EVENTS COMMITTEE



PARASHAT HASHAVUA

VAYISHLACH BY RAV SHMUEL BLOOM

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"SUCCESS IS GETTING WHAT YOU WANT.
HAPPINESS IS LIKING WHAT YOU GET."
H. JACKSON BROWN

TAKE A GAMBLE WITH US ON CHANUKA

DATE: WEDNESDAY 20 DEC

TIME: 8PM

**EARLY BOOKING & PAYING BY MONDAY,
DECEMBER 18TH: 30NIS PER PERSON,
PRICE AT THE DOOR: 50NIS PER PERSON,
ENTRY INCLUDING TOKENS FOR GAMES,
PART OF THE PROCEEDS WILL GO TO CHARITY.**

WHERE: STAY TUNED FOR FINAL LOCATION
(ANYONE CARE TO BET WHERE IT WILL BE?)

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED....

TO RESERVE A PLACE, PLEASE EMAIL:
GALI@TALI.ORG.IL **EVENTS COMMITTEE**



**CASH OR CHEQUE FOR "LLM"
SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO:
TAMMY WILSON, 7/7 BILU OR
DANIEL GREENSPAN, 6A BRODI
LAST DAY FOR EARLY BOOKING:
DEC. 18TH**

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR LAYENING-PLEASE CONTACT
YEHUDA ON 052-665-7077 YSHALPER@GMAIL.COM
WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO INVITE ANYONE – MEN OR WOMEN – TO GIVE
THE DVAR HALACHA IN SHUL. PLEASE SPEAK TO RAV SHMUEL OR TALY
TO ORGANISE WHEN YOU ARE GOING TO BE SPEAKING.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*IF ANYONE NEEDS A PLACE FOR LUNCH, OR IF ANYONE HAS A SPARE PLACE AT THEIR TABLE, PLEASE SPEAK TO RAV SHMUEL AND TALY BLOOM AFTER SHUL, AND WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ACCOMODATE EVERYONE.

*FOR COMMENTS ON THE PARSHA PAGE OR QUESTIONS FOR RAV BLOOM PLEASE E-MAIL:
RABBI@LATEMINYAN.COM

*IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT A DVAR TORAH TO THE PARSHA PAGE – IN HEBREW OR ENGLISH – PLEASE SEND IT TO RAV BLOOM BY MONDAY.

*IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR THIS WEEKLY PARSHA PAGE IN MEMORY OF A CLOSE ONE OR IN HONOUR OF AN UP-COMING SIMCHA, PLEASE CONTACT TAMMY WILSON AT: TAMMYWILSON@LATEMINYAN.COM

*IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A KIDDUSH IN HONOUR OF AN UP-COMING SIMCHA, PLEASE CONTACT GALI DORN AT: GALI@TALI.ORG.IL

**SHABBAT SHALOM FROM
THE LATE LATE MINYAN**

WE INVITE YOU TO ADD YOURSELF TO THE SHUL MAILING LIST YOUR DETAILS WILL APPEAR ON THE WEBSITE. VISIT
WWW.LATEMINYAN.COM.