

Love Your Neighbor

*Condensed from the article
by Rabbi Yehonasan Gefen, aish.com*

"Do not take revenge; do not bear a grudge; love your neighbor like yourself." (1)

The mitzvah of 'love your neighbor like yourself' is described by Rabbi Akiva as being a great principle in the Torah.(2) Similarly, when a prospective convert asked Hillel to sum up the Torah 'on one foot' he answered him with this mitzvah, adding that the rest of the Torah is an explanation of it.(3)

The Ben Ish Chai writes that, given its centrality to the Torah, a very significant part of this mitzvah is overlooked by many people. He writes that while many people recognize how it requires a person to help others in terms of their physical well-being, people are less aware that it also obliges them to help others with their spiritual health.

He explains: "When one helps his friend in a physical sense, he expresses his care for his friend's body, however . . . [t]he main aspect of a person is his Godly aspect . . . love for one's fellow's spiritual side is far more important than love of his physical being." (4) The Ben Ish Chai teaches that in order to most effectively fulfill the mitzvah to love one's neighbor we cannot limit our kindness to. . . [helping his or her physical well being], rather we must strive to help his or her spirituality to an even greater degree.

In this vein, there are three main types of giving: Giving of one's money; giving of one's body and giving of one's wisdom. "One must be especially giving with [one's] Torah wisdom; to teach all [people] knowledge and to draw their hearts to heaven. This is the greatest of all the types of giving." (5) Similarly Pirkei Avot states; "there is no kindness in the world that compares to the one who gives merit to the many." (6)

There are a number of ways of helping others in the spiritual realm. The Ben Ish Chai mentioned the greatness of rebuking others. However, in this generation, it is very difficult to rebuke in the correct way and therefore there is the risk that rebuking can do more harm than good. A less threatening way of helping others spiritually is by sharing one's Torah with them; Indeed there are many Rabbinical sources that indicate that teaching Torah is a fundamental part of each person's purpose in life.

The Gemara says that one who learns and does not teach is like a myrtle tree in the desert. The Maharal explains that the myrtle is the most pleasant smelling tree and it is in the world for people to benefit from its pleasant smell. A myrtle that is in the desert does not fulfill its purpose because no one can benefit from it. So too, Torah is there to be taught over to others and one who does not do so cannot fulfill his purpose in life.

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KJ Schedule Parashat Kedoshim

Erev Shabbat / Friday, April 25th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim.....	6:45 pm
Shabbat Candlelighting	7:14 pm
Minhah/Arbith	7:00 pm

Shabbat Kedoshim / Saturday, April 26th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	8:30 am
Minha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvit.....	6:40 pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah	8:07 pm

Sunday, April 27th

Shaharit	7:30 am
Talmud Torah.....	10:00 am
David Kelly KJ Youth Choir	11:30 am

Yom HaShoah / Monday, April 28th, 2014

Shaharit	6:30 am
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Erev Rosh Hodesh Iyar / Tuesday, April 29th

Shaharit	6:30 am
Women's Tehillim Group Rosh Hodesh.....	TBA
Mommy & Me	10:45 am

Rosh Hodesh Iyar, Day 1 / Wednesday, April 30

Shaharit	6:15 am
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Rosh Hodesh Iyar, Day 2 / Thursday, May 1

Shaharit	6:15 am
Women's Tehillim Group Rosh Hodesh.....	TBA
Film Screening w/Carole Basri	7:00 pm

Erev Shabbat / Friday, May 2nd

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim.....	6:45 pm
Shabbat Candlelighting	7:19 pm
Minhah/Arbith	7:00 pm

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Similarly, the Mishna in Pirkei Avot states: "If you have learnt much Torah, 'al tachzik tova' to yourself, [do not keep this goodness to yourself], because that is why you were created." (7) The simple understanding of this Mishna is that a person should not be proud of his achievements in Talmud Torah because learning Torah is our purpose in life. However, many commentaries suggest a different explanation: "if a person has learnt much Torah he should not keep its goodness for himself, rather he should teach it to others. Why? Because his purpose in creation is to learn and teach." (8)

There are many ways in which we can share our Torah study with others. We can strive to develop *chavrutot* (study partners) and establish regular times for learning Torah together. The written medium is another effective way of teaching. In our every day writing, such as e-mails or notes to others, we can include a lesson from the weekly Torah portion in our communications, even when discussing some other topic. It is also important to note that teaching Torah need not be limited to formal settings. There are countless opportunities to share Torah wisdom with others in one's daily interactions in life, whether it be with colleagues at work, with the taxi driver, or with friends.

We learn from the lesson of the Ben Ish Chai that in order to properly fulfill the fundamental mitzvah of 'Love they neighbor' we must try to help others in spiritual matters as well as physical matters. We must each take responsibility to learn and understand something of the Torah. And then we must pass it on. Shabbat Shalom

Shabbat Chulent

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Refuah Shlemah

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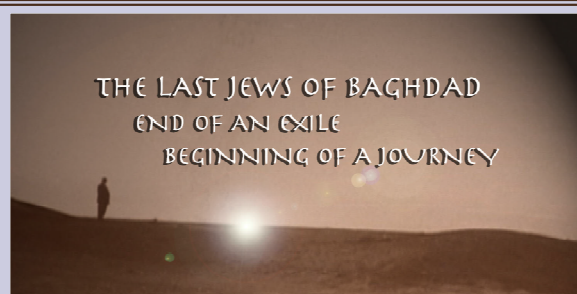
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Joseph Sharaf / Yossef ben Jamila

Maurice Ovadia / Moshe ben Noosha

Pnina Herzbrun / Pnina bat Esther

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Thursday, May 1st at 7:00 pm
at Kahal Joseph

Filmmaker Carole Basri will attend

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Torah & Haftarah Readings

Vayikra / Leviticus: Kedoshim 497 to 508

Haftara Yehezkel / Ezekiel 511 to 512

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for April 26 to May 3, 2014. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend services the preceding Shabbat.

26 Nisan / Shabbat, April 26th

Denise Meghnagi *Denise Misa bat Julia Houmayoun John Nahai*

27 Nisan / Sunday, April 27th

Aharon Levy *Aharon Isaac Levy*

30 Nisan / Wednesday, April 30th

Yehezkel Jacob *Yehezkel ben Avraham Hayim Wendy Joseph Sara bat Avraham*

1 Iyar / Thursday, May 1st

Marcus Abraham *Mordechai Haim ben Moshe Hai Eliahou ben Meir Nazarian*

2 Iyar / Friday, May 2nd

Monique Mounie Abitboul *Mounie bat Miriam Moshe Shiri Moshi ben Rahma*

3 Iyar / Shabbat, May 3rd

Hanina Cohen *Hanina bat Chahla Nedat Joshua Farahi Yehoshua ben Yehezkel Sassoon Benjamin Gemal Sasson ben Binyamin*



David Kelly YOUTH CHOIR

Rabbi Batzri, Director

Welcome Back

Next Meeting Sunday, April 27@11:30 am

Save the Date!

**A Special Shabbat Celebrating
Israel's Independence**

Saturday, May 10th
at KJ during morning services

