

Walk not Talk

By Rabbi Marc D. Angel

A man who lives near our synagogue recently attended an evening service in order to say kaddish in memory of his father. Although we almost always have a minyan present, that night we had a problem. The weather was bad, some of our "regulars" were out of town--we only had eight men at services.

Our guest was agitated and angry. He had come to say kaddish, but we were not able to provide him this opportunity. He stomped angrily out of the synagogue, indignant that we did not have a minyan when he needed one.

Yes, it is a pity we missed minyan that night.

But who was this man who was so angry at us? He was a neighbor of the synagogue who has lived nearby for many years. Yet, he is not a member of the synagogue and has not contributed even one cent to the synagogue for all these years. He never attends the synagogue, except when he needs to say kaddish. Although he has done nothing to strengthen the synagogue or to bolster our minyan (except when he

needs to say kaddish), he expects the synagogue to be there to serve him at his convenience; he expects ten men to be at services whenever he deigns to show up.

He feels that he has a right to benefit from the synagogue, even though he does nothing to help the synagogue maintain itself. He was indignant that ten men didn't show up for him to say kaddish, even though he never shows up to help make minyan for others. He feels entitled to take, but doesn't feel responsible to give.

This week's Torah portion begins with the words: "If you walk in My statutes." The Torah might have said: if you observe My statutes, or if you keep My statutes." Why does it use the word "walk"?

Rabbi Hayyim Palache, a sage of 19th century Izmir, explained that when the Torah commands us to "walk" in God's ways, it means that we are to be active participants. We are not supposed to wait for opportunities to fulfill mitzvot, but we are urged to "walk", to actively seek ways of doing that which is right and good.

To "walk" in God's statutes means that we actively take part in reli-

gious life, that we happily and eagerly accept responsibility to do our share as part of the community. It means that we pay our way, and do our best, and participate as well as we can.

Some people somehow think that they are entitled to benefit from synagogues or other communal institutions, even though they do not participate in maintaining those institutions. Who exactly is supposed to pay the bills? Who exactly is supposed to attend daily services and make minyan every morning and evening? These people don't really care, as long as the responsibility doesn't devolve on their shoulders. Let others provide!

The Torah portion reminds us to "walk" in God's statutes, to participate actively, happily and responsibly in maintaining a vibrant Jewish religious life. Those who shirk the responsibility and privilege of "walking" in God's ways deprive themselves of the satisfaction and self-respect that come with ethical, righteous religious living.

Synagogues and communal institutions don't exist just through wishful thinking. Minyanim don't happen just from good intentions. If we each do not do our share, we have no right

Prayer Schedule

SHABBAT

PARASHAT BEHUKOTAI

Friday, May 20th, 2011

Shaharit 6:30 am

Minhah & Arbit 6:30 pm

Candle Lighting 7:33 pm

Saturday, May 21st, 2011

Shaharit 8:30 am

Tehillim 6:00 pm

Class w/R. Batzri 6:15 pm

Minhah & Arbit 6:45 pm

Motzei Shabbat 8:37 pm

WEEKDAYS

LAG BA'OMER

Sunday, May 22nd

Shaharit 7:30 am

Monday, May 23rd

Women's Tehillim 10:30 am

Monday-Friday

Shaharit 6:30 am

EREV SHABBAT

PARASHAT BAMIDBAR

Friday, May 27th, 2011

Shaharit 6:30 am

Minhah & Arbit 6:30 pm

Candle Lighting 7:37 pm

Submissions Deadline
Kol Mevasser Newsletter
Tuesdays at 6 pm
Thank You!

Torah Readings
Parasha 542-550
Haftara 551-553

to expect others to pick up the slack for us. Let us "walk" in God's statutes. It's an important key to personal happiness and communal strength. What is needed is "walk," not "talk." Shabbat Shalom

CONDOLENCES

to the family and friends of
Tooraj Khorshidi, z"l

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his brothers, Freydoon, Manoucher, and his sister, Heshmat, his family and friends. May Hashem comfort them together with all the mourners of Tzion.

NOTICE TO PARENTS

1. Children under 5 years old must be supervised by a parent when using our KIDS ZONE upstairs.
2. No child is allowed in the synagogue lobby without the constant supervision of a parent or guardian.
3. We are not responsible for unsupervised children walking out the front door.

In Memoriam

It is customary to light a memorial candle and to donate tzedakah. Family members are encouraged to attend prayer services in honor of loved ones.

Sunday / 18 Iyar

Rachel bat Tfacha
Seemah Sofaer bat Hanna

Monday / 19 Iyar

Habiba bat Lulu
Sulman Haroun*

Wednesday / 21 Iyar

Lulu Katoon bat Masooda
Michael David ben Yoseph Meir
MOrdechai ben Sasson Saddick

Thursday / 22 Iyar

Rachel bat Miriam*
Yehezkel ben Itzhak Yosef
Grace bat Toba

Friday / 23 Iyar

Moshe ben Clara
Salha bat Simcha*

Shabbat / 24 Iyar

Yehuda Faraj ben Yosef Bekhore*

To update, please call the office
at 310.474.0559.

Hillulat Rabbi Simon Bar Yochai
Lag B'omer, Sunday 5/22/2011

Dear Friends,

This coming Mozhei Shabbat after Hvdalah we light as many candles we wish in honor of
Zadik Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai and say the following:

Hebrew:

לכבוד רבי שמעון בר יוחאי ותלמידיו זכותו תגן עלינו ועל כל ישראל
אמן

English:

In honor of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai and his students
his merit will protect us and all Israel
Amen

Pray and give Zedaka

Why do we light many candles?
The reason is that Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai wrote the Zohar
and brought much light to our nation

Regards and Success
Orly Batzri



For Women Only: Tehillim Reading

& Torah Learning with Rabbanit Orly Batzri

Monday Mornings at 10:30 am in the Kahal Joseph Library

Shabbat Afternoon 1/2 hour before Mincha Prayer, approx 6 pm

Refuah Shlemah

Yonatan ben Alizah • Mazal Tov
bat Sulha Mitana • Matilda
Louisa • Yaheskel ben Regina •
Ayala bat Naomi • Khayah Noa
bat Sara • Haim ben Mordechai •
Pnina bat Esther • Yosi ben
Esther • Victor ben Latif • Ramah
Regina bat Farha • Aziza bat Sara
Judith bat Malka • Ofek ben Yochai
• Efrayim Zev ben Fayga • Sulha
Matana bat Mozelle • Gershon ben
David • Farangis Miriam bat
Touran • David ben Leah •
Avraham Haim ben Miryam •
Yaakov ben Freda • Rachel bat
Mazal Tov • Avraham ben Rab-
bie • Mazal Sigalit bat Rivkah •
Orit bat Tikvah • Yaakov ben
Aliyah • Chana Leah bat Reiza •
Victoria Cohen • Avraham
Moshe ben Miriam

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in honor of a special occasion
family member or friend.
Contact Sarah in our office at
310.474.0559. Thank you!