

16 Sivan 5774

14 June 2014

# KOL MEVASSER

## Doing What's Right

By: Rabbi Ralph Tawil, Judaic.org

We must have the faith in Hashem to do what's right even when it appears risky. Generally, we teach our children not to get involved in behavior that is too risky. We try to minimize the risk of any activity. Taking proper precautions is a good habit to adopt.

Yet, sometimes we have to act, even though there is calculated risk, because the benefit is so great. This especially applies when there is a mitsvah associated with the activity. When we know what we are doing is the right thing, even though it has some risk, if the action is very important we must take the risk and act. When we do this, we pray to Hashem and have faith in him that He will help us accomplish this "right" thing.

The parasha begins with Hashem's commandment to send 12 people to "tour" the land (notice that the word "spy" is not used; NJPS translates "scout"). Most of these first "tourists" return with a mixed opinion of the land. They say that, although, the land is very good, the people of the land are very strong. In their initial report, they do not give an opinion about whether Bne Yisrael should attempt to conquer the land. When they start to mention the strength of the land's inhabitants, Caleb ben Yefuneh, one of the 12 people that scouted the land pre-

sented a forceful opinion that Ben Yisrael should try to conquer the land. The other scouts disagreed. This disagreement continues later in the portion when the people bemoan their fate and Yehoshua and Caleb stand strong in their faithful position.

### Text: Numbers 13:30-31; 14:1-9

*Caleb hushed the people before Moses and said, "let us by all means go up, and we shall gain possession of it, for we shall surely overcome it."*

*But the men who had gone up with him said, "we cannot attack that people, for it is stronger than we."*

*The whole community broke into loud cries, and the people wept that night. All the Israelites railed against Moshe and Aharon. "If only we had died in the land of Egypt," the whole community shouted at them, "or if only we might die in the wilderness. Why is Hashem taking us to that land to fall by the sword? ...And they said to one another, let us head back for Egypt."*

*...And Yehoshua bin Nun and Caleb ben Yefune, of those who scouted the land, ripped their clothes. And exhorted the whole Israelite community: "The land that we traversed and scouted is an exceedingly good land. If Hashem is pleased with us, He will bring us into that land, a land that flows with milk and honey, and give it to us;*

## KJ Schedule

### Parashat Shelah

#### Erev Shabbat

**Friday, June 13th**

|                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Shaharit/Morning Prayer ..... | 6:30 am |
| Shir Hashirim.....            | 6:45 pm |
| Minhah/Arbith .....           | 7:00 pm |
| Shabbat Candlelighting .....  | 7:47 pm |

#### Shabbat Shelah

**Saturday, June 14th**

|                                     |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Shaharit/Morning Prayer .....       | 8:30 am |
| Minha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvit..... | 7:00 pm |
| Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah .....    | 8:51 pm |

#### Weekdays

**Sunday, June 15th**

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Shaharit ..... | 7:30 am |
|----------------|---------|

**Monday to Friday, June 16th to 20th**

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Shaharit ..... | 6:30 am |
|----------------|---------|

#### Erev Shabbat / Friday, June 20th

|                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Shaharit/Morning Prayer ..... | 6:30 am |
| Shir Hashirim.....            | 6:45 pm |
| Minhah/Arbith .....           | 7:00 pm |
| Shabbat Candlelighting .....  | 7:49 pm |

*only you must not rebel against Hashem. Have no fear, then, of the people of the country, for they are our prey: their protection has departed from them, but Hashem is with us. Have no fear of them.*

The people then tried to pelt them with stones, and Hashem saves them. Why were Bne Yisrael and the other spies afraid? Did they have anything to fear?

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## Donate Food to Ethan's Bar Mitzvah Project

Ethan Kurtz, who will celebrate, b''H, his Bar Mitzvah on June 21st 2014 at Kahal Joseph Congregation is inviting the community to participate in his Bar Mitzvah Chesed project. Ethan is collecting food for the SOVA food bank. Please bring non-perishable food items on the weekend of June 21st and drop them off in the SOVA collection bins in Kahal's lobby.

Thank You!

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True, the people of Canaan were very strong. Yet, Bne Yisrael should have overcome that fear to do what was right, especially when Hashem commanded them to enter the land.

Eventually, Hashem punished Israel by decreeing that they would have to roam in the wilderness for forty years. Why did Hashem punish Israel? Weren't they justified in their fears? Although, there was some risk involved, when Hashem is guiding you, you should have nothing to fear. This applies especially when the benefits are so great.

Are you ever afraid to do something that you know is right and important? Why? Consider these situations: Are you afraid to risk giving an answer for fear that it might be wrong? Are you afraid to ask a question because people might think that

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**Thank You**  
To everyone who organized  
and supported the evening of learning,  
Limud Lel Shavuot, last week  
at Kahal Joseph

**Torah & Haftarah Readings**  
Bamidbar / Numbers: Shelah 623-634  
Haftara Yehoshua / Joshua 635-637

you are ignorant? Are you afraid to visit Israel, (or Manhattan, for that matter) for fear that there will be a terrorist attack? Our fear must be overcome and we must learn to take some risk, because of the benefits that could accrue and because it is the right thing to do.

One way to overcome the fear and take the calculated risk, is to think of the "worst case" scenario. What would happen if you said the "wrong answer" in class. Another way is to have faith in Hashem that He will help you do what is right.

Many actions have risks attached to them. For example, there is a risk of being killed

## In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for June 14 to 21, 2014. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend services the preceding Shabbat.

**22 Sivan / Friday, June 20th**  
Rebecca Litvac *Rivka bat Esther*  
**23 Sivan / Shabbat, June 21st**  
Lily Judah *Lulu bat Toba*  
Salim Kamara *Salim ben Ezra*

## Refuah Shlemah

Rahel bat Marcel  
Mordechai Cohen / Mordechai ben Avraham  
Moselle Amron/Mazal Tov bat Salha Matana  
Tilda Levy / Tilda bat Miriam  
Joseph Sharaf / Yossef ben Jamila  
Maurice Ovadia / Moshe ben Noosha  
Pnina Herzbrun / Pnina bat Esther  
Michael Herzbrun / Michael Baruch ben Sarah

in a car accident when we drive, yet very few people refrain from driving, because the potential benefits are great in convenience and saved time.

Only when we risk failure, do we have the chance to succeed. What would you have done if you were there in the desert with the scouts? Bne Yisrael in the wilderness, were not able to take the "leap of faith" necessary to conquer the land. Only Caleb and Yehoshua demonstrate the right attitude of willingness to go forward, despite the odds, knowing that it was Hashem's will and that He would protect them. There was no going back, only forward. Shabbat Shalom