

The Shul
at the Lubavitch Center
6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21209
410-486-2666
www.chabadshul.org



May 20, 2017

Behar–Bechukotai — Shabbat M'vorchim

24 Iyar, 5777

Such A Little Thing

It's like a particle of dust in your eye, or a speck of coal in a diamond. Sometimes even the tiniest thing make big problems.

Which is why, when you think about it, it's not at all surprising that the ego can wreak havoc. Of course, you and I know that it's not our egos making the problems. We only have little egos, just big enough to encourage us to be goal oriented, take pride in our work, not be a doormat for the other guy. But the other guy - our neighbor, spouse, boss, co-worker - he/she has a real ego problem!

This Shabbat, it is customary to read chapter five of Ethics of the Fathers. There we read (5:18/5:21): "Whoever causes the public to have merit, no sin will come through him; but one who causes the public to sin will not be granted the opportunity to repent. Moses was himself meritorious and caused the public to attain merit Jeraboam ben Nevat himself sinned and caused the public to sin, therefore the sins of the public are attributed to him."

Our Sages taught: "G-d disqualifies no one, but welcomes all; the gates of repentance are open at all times; whoever wants to enter may enter."

Yet, so great a travesty is it when one leads others to sin that a person who leads others to sin is never given the opportunity to repent. There was, however, one exception - Jeraboam ben Nevat mentioned above.

Upon King Solomon's death, his officer Jeraboam successfully led a revolt against the king's son and successor.

Eventually, to distance his kingdom - comprised of 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel - from the other two tribes, as well as from Jerusalem and the Holy Temple, Jeraboam set up altars and encouraged idol worship.

G-d chose to give Jeraboam the chance to rectify his sins. But this unique opportunity was not all that G-d was offering. "Repent," G-d urged Jeraboam. "And then I, and you and ben Yishai [King David] will walk together in the Garden of Eden." (Talmud, Sanhedrin) G-d was offering Jeraboam that He would bring Moshiach if the wicked king would only repent!

And here's where the ego comes in. For, while Jeraboam should have been overwhelmed with gratitude to G-d for giving him this unprecedented opportunity to repent, though he had led millions of Jews astray, he asked one very simple but very egotistical question. "Who will go first? I or ben Yishai?"

Hadn't Jeraboam just been told by G-d that he would go first? Hadn't he, for that matter, just been given a singular opportunity to repent? And, in addition, to walk together with G-d and King David in the Garden of Eden?

From Jeraboam's query we see that he didn't have a problem with repenting per se, nor with belief in G-d versus idols. His problem was his ego. Jeraboam was demanding assurance. "Who will go first? I or ben Yishai?"

So G-d told Jeraboam, "Ben Yishai will go first."

And Jeraboam replied, "Then I will not repent."

Jeraboam had it all! He had the unheard-of opportunity to repent. He had the opportunity to bring his entire generation to repentance. He had the opportunity to walk together with G-d and King David in the Garden of Eden.

But he could not put aside his ego long enough to accept G-d's offer.

Jeraboam was the proverbial "other guy" who has the ego problem. But, of course, you and I would have never let our egos get in the way. So we shouldn't allow our egos to get in the way of accepting G-d's magnanimous offers that He presents to us each day. If we don't, then very soon we will all be walking together with G-d and King David in the Garden of Eden!

(from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)

We extend a special **Thank You**
to our special sponsor **Mr. & Mrs. Akiva Gross**
and the other generous sponsors of the hugely successful Lag B'Omer Event:

**Anonymous, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Elbaum, Mr. & Mrs. Nechemia Gertner,
Mr. & Mrs. Shooie Grunwald, Mr. & Mrs. Ariel Goodman, Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Itzkowitz,
Mr. & Mrs. Chaim Kahn, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Kaplon, Mr. Steven Kaplon,
Mr. & Mrs. Larry London, Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Margolies, Mr. & Mrs. Shmuel Siegel
and Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Wilson.**

We also want to thank those who gave of their time and energy
to help make this event enjoyable for everyone:

**The Berry family, The Buchwalter family, Nechemia Gertner, Ben Gutman,
Avrohom Itzkowitz, Mike Kane, ET & Temima Kaplowitz, Ilana Rubin, Avigail Rubin,
Rina Silver, Aliza Taragin, Eli & Sarala Tarshish and Josh Volosov.**

And we especially thank **Shmuel Tarshish** for coordinating the event
and working tirelessly before, during and after to make it the tremendous success it was.

Mr. And Mrs. Simcha Mowery

are sponsoring Kiddush after davening this Shabbat
**in honor of thier daughter Raquel's wedding
to Moshe Halpert.**

Mazel Tov also to Moshe's parents, **Mr. Shimon and Mrs. Evelyn Halpert.**



We extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to **Mr. Avaraham Rosenblum**
on the loss of his father, **Boris Rosenblum.**

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

SHUL DIRECTORY

Rabbi: Shmuel Kaplan . rabbikaplan@chabadmd.com
Treasurer: Michael Frank . . . shul.chabad@gmail.com
Membership: Jay Bernstein . . . bernstein1@msn.com
Kiddush: Reuven Frank rfrank82@gmail.com
Bulletin: Howard Kaplon hkaplon@towson.edu
Website: Shoshana Zakar sue.zakar@gmail.com

Gabbaim:
Yehudah Buchwalter . . . judahbuchwalter@verizon.net
Allan Genut agenut@gmail.com
Ephraim Siff
Mikvah Mei Menachem 410-415-5113
Aleph Learning Institute 410-486-2666 Option 2

Davening and Shiurim Schedule

Friday, 5/19 – 23 Iyar
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat, 5/20 – 24 Iyar
Shacharit – 9:00 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:25 a.m.
Berachot Gemara Shiur — 6:45 p.m.
Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 7:45 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 9:01 p.m.

Sunday, 5/21 – 25 Iyar
Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:05 p.m.

Monday, 5/22 – 26 Iyar
Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:05 p.m.

Tuesday, 5/23– 27 Iyar
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:05 p.m.

Wednesday, 5/24 – 28 Iyar
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:05 p.m.

Thursday, 5/25 – 29 Iyar
Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:05 p.m.

Friday – Rosh Chodesh Sivan, 5/26 – 1 Sivan
Shacharit — 6:40 a.m.
Candles — 8:05 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.