

The Shul
at the Lubavitch Center
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April 21, 2018

Tazria – Metzorah

6 Iyar, 5778

Your Texting Works?!

I have a friend who I text from time to time. Mysteriously, he never, ever responds.

"Can you make it to our Sunday morning services? We really need you for the minyan."

No response.

"Can you join us for a Torah class on Tuesday night?"

No response.

"We need a pair of hands to set up for our Purim party, are you available?"

No response.

"Got an hour to help us get our sukka up?"

No response.

Now, it's fine if someone can't, or doesn't want to, help out. But most people at least text back to let me know. To just completely ignore me? Who does that?!

So I confronted him.

"I don't understand, Rabbi," he said. "There must be something wrong with my phone. I haven't received any of your texts!"

Hmm ... this guy has the brand new iPhone, with all the latest apps, and it works perfectly in every other way except getting my texts? So I continued texting him, and he maintained his silence.

Then, this past Friday afternoon, I was completely astounded (shocked! astonished! flabbergasted!) to receive a text message from this very same friend. Suddenly, his text messaging system is working flawlessly ... and at such a convenient time - right when he needed something. Ha. Mystery solved.

Such is the story of our lives. When G-d wants something from us, we are nowhere to be found. We have all kinds of excuses, and we convince ourselves that even the ludicrous ones sound plausible. But when we need G-d, all our excuses fall by the wayside and we are suddenly ready, willing and able to reach out.

It's like the young man who dreamed of heaven. An angel was showing him around a large workroom, staffed by angels.

First they stopped at the Receiving Station. Here, all prayers and petitions to G-d are received. There were rolls and rolls of paper, from all over the world. Dozens of angels scurried about, organizing and sorting.

Further along, they reached the Packaging and Delivery section. This is where the blessings are packaged and delivered to the people who asked for them. Like the previous area, this station was extremely busy. Dozens of angels worked feverishly to get the blessings back to Earth.

The last station was at the very back of the room. Unlike the first two, this one was practically deserted. A single angel sat there idly. "This is the Acknowledgement station," my guide explained. "Unfortunately, after people receive the blessings they seek, very few send back appreciation and acknowledgment."

Every day, with each good deed that we do, we work towards building the third and final Holy Temple. This is what we can do for G-d on a daily basis.

Let's remember to acknowledge and thank G-d for the beauty and goodness in our lives. Of course, we can turn to him when we are in need, too. But let's not wait until then. Let's start right now, with gratitude and appreciation.

(by Rabbi Uriel Vigler from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)

In the last months of his life Yaakov (Eugene) Fischer expressed a special interest in stimulating the dedication of plaques on the Shul board which is prominently located in the hall at the entrance to the Shul. I believe this would be a most appropriate way for us to honor him and support the Shul as well. Below is the list of items available. Please contact Rabbi Kaplan for more information.

1. Top (large) Plaques \$5,400
2. Medium Plaques \$3,600
3. Small Plaques \$1,000
4. Simcha leaf \$150

“On The Eighth Day, The Flesh Of His Foreskin Shall be Circumcised.” (12:3)

Our Sages say that when a baby cries during his brit milah, it is an auspicious time for prayers to be accepted. Why?

R' Shlomo Amar shlita (Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel) explains: We read about Bnei Yisrael who were enslaved in Egypt (Shmot 2:24), “G-d heard their moaning, and G-d remembered His covenant with Avraham, with Yitzchak, and with Yaakov.” Moaning is an expression of feelings without using words. When one’s pain is too great to express in words, he moans. This is why Hashem responded to Bnei Yisrael’s moaning; it showed that the pain of their enslavement had become unbearable.

R' Amar continues: There is another reason why Hashem responds to Bnei Yisrael’s moans. G-d made angels whose job is to keep out the prayers of unworthy individuals. However, angels cannot read a person’s thoughts. Thus, a moan, a wordless prayer which might be accompanied by thoughts of repentance, cannot be kept from reaching G-d’s Throne. This also is why the sound of the shofar is said to confuse the prosecuting angel. The sound of the shofar carries our thoughts to Heaven without words, so the angels whose job is to screen prayers cannot evaluate its worth. When the prosecutor sees that Hashem accepts this “prayer,” he becomes flustered and is unable to continue.

Likewise, R' Amar concludes, the wordless cry of a baby at the time he enters the Covenant between Hashem and the Jewish People cannot be prevented from reaching the Throne. With it, it can carry the prayers that those assembled for the brit milah offer at that time. (Haggadah Shel Pesach Mi' Yamim Yamimah p.123)

(by Rabbi Shlomo Katz from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)

Yahrzeits This Week:

Helen London	7 Iyar - Sat night/Sunday	for father	Dovid ben Meyer
Rabbi Fred Lewin	8 Iyar - Sun night/Monday	for brother	Yoel ben Shmuel
Marvin Itzkowitz	11 Iyar- Wed night/Thursday	for father	Chaim Dov ben Yoseph Tzvi

Davening and Shiurim Schedule

Friday, 4/20 — 5 Iyar

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat, 4/21 — 6 Iyar

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 10:49 a.m.
Berachot Gemora Shiur — 6:20 p.m.
Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 7:20 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 8:33 p.m.

Sunday, 4/22 — 7 Iyar

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:35 p.m.

Monday, 4/23— 8 Iyar

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:35 p.m.

Tuesday, 4/24— 9 Iyar

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:35 p.m.

Wednesday, 4/25 — 10 Iyar

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7.350 p.m.

Thursday, 4/26 — 11 Iyar

Shacharit — 6:50
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:35 p.m.

Friday, 4/27 — 12 Iyar

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Candles — 7:38 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.