

## Thought of the Week

"Take vengeance for the Children of Israel against the Midyanites..." (31:2)

Hashem instructs Moshe to avenge the harm inflicted upon Bnei Yisroel by the Midyanites whose actions caused twenty-four thousand Jews to perish in a plague. Although Hashem instructs Moshe to ensure Midyan's destruction, Moshe sends Pinchas to carry out the mission. The Midrash explains that Moshe had benefited from Midyan when fleeing Mitrayim; Yisro opened his home and offered him a place of refuge. Therefore, Moshe reasons that it would be a lack of "hakaras hatov" - "gratitude" for him to lead the attack; "bor sheshasisa mimeno al tizrok bo even" - "into a well from which you drank, you should not cast stones." Therefore, he concludes that Hashem could not have meant that he should lead the charge. What is the rationale which prevents a person from taking punitive measures against an individual who has wronged him, based solely upon a previously received benefit?

There is a significant difference between a response which is defined as punitive and one which is defined as vengeful. The course of action mandated depends upon the nature of the crime. Most crimes are motivated by the perpetrator's perceived benefit in committing the act. The unfortunate victim is only the vehicle for satisfying the needs of the perpetrator. In these cases punitive measures are called for. Vengeance is the appropriate response for an act which is an attack upon the victim's existence; the victim's very being is the focus of the attack. The root of the word "nekama" - "revenge" is "makom" - "place", for its purpose is to restore the violated party's place in existence. This is achieved by eradicating the perpetrator's own place in existence

If a person has benefited from another, gratitude does not preclude his taking punitive actions against him, for he is not attacking the very essence of the individual being punished and furthermore, the punishment is ultimately therapeutic to the receiver for it corrects the negative behavior or trait. If, however, the required course of action calls for vengeance, which is an attack against the actual existence of the person, having ...

[continued inside...]

## Young Israel of the Main Line

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Parshas Matos

פרשת מטות

Stone Chumash page 900; Haftarah, page 1192.

July 22-23, 2011

כ"א תמוז תשע"א



### Shabbos Schedule



Mincha and Kabbalas Shabbos:	7:00pm
Candle Lighting:	8:06pm
Parsha Chaburah by Ron Werrin:	7:55am
Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur:	8:15am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:29am
Rabbi's Drasha topic is The Three Weeks: Finite Steps, Infinite Value.	
Kiddush is sponsored by Dennis and Eve Rosen to commemorate the yahrzeit of Dennis' mother, Sarah bas Nissim.	
Sefer Ir HaKodesh V'Hamikdosh Shiur:	7:05pm
Mincha:	7:50pm
Shalosh Seudos is communally sponsored. Rabbi Steinberg will speak on the topic of Birth Pangs of Moshiach.	
Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.	
Maariv:	9:08pm

### **Weekday Davening Times**

Shacharis:	Sunday:	8:00am
	Monday and Thursday:	6:40am
	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday:	6:50am
Mincha/Maariv:	Sunday to Thursday:	8:05pm
Mincha Friday, and Kabbalas Shabbos:		7:00pm
Candle Lighting Friday:		8:00pm

### **Weekday Shiurim**

Daily Mussar Shiur:	15 minutes before Shacharis
Mishna Brura:	Mon and Wed after Maariv
Melachim Aleph Shiur:	Monday at 8pm
Halacha Shiur:	Tuesday at 8:30pm.
Nefesh HaChaim:	Will resume after the summer.

### **Chevra Mishnayos**

The Chevra Mishnayos is learning Seder Kodshim. See shul bulletin board to sign up or email eisenber@pol.net with your name and the masechta (and chapters) you intend to learn.

### **Women's Learning Experience – Summer Session**

Mon at 9:45am: Tehillim for Cholim.  
Mon at 10:15am: Rabbi Greenspan - Parsha haShavua.  
Tues at 9:30am: Rabbi Shmidman - Sefer Tehillim, at LMS.  
Tues at 8pm: Stacey Goldman - Chana, at 161 Highland Circle.  
Wed at 10am: Mrs. Biberfeld - Michtav M'Elياهو.  
Thu at 9:30am: Rabbi Steinberg - Geshet HaChaim.  
All classes at 8 Concord Circle, unless otherwise noted. Free babysitting is available, reservations must be made in advance. For information or babysitting, call Janis Fine 610-888-0477.

### **Save the Date – YIML Annual Barbeque**

The YIML Annual Barbeque will be Sunday, August 21. Time and location to be determined.

### **Thought of the Week, continued...**

previously received a benefit restricts an individual from taking such actions.

Moshe understands that since Hashem is instructing him "n'kom" - "to take vengeance against" Midyan, Hashem must intend for someone else to be actively involved. Hakaras hatov is the cornerstone of our relationship with Hashem and therefore, it behooves Moshe to seek a solution which both fulfills Hashem's wishes and does not undermine a Torah-mandated sensitivity.

Adapted from <http://www.torah.org/learning/rabbizweig/5771/matos.html> by Rabbi Zweig.



▪ Mazel Tov to Levi and Dahlia Ocken on the bris of their son, Hillel Mordechai.

### **Kivrei Tzadikim Trip For Women**

Visiting the Graves of the Gaonim and Tzadikim buried in Queens, NY. Rabbi Steinberg will speak about the illustrious personalities and the group will daven and recite Tehillim. Tentative Date: Sun, Sept 4th, departing at 9am. To help us plan, please send an e-mail to Janis Fine [jfine@comcast.net](mailto:jfine@comcast.net) if you think you would like to participate in this trip.

### **Special Shiur Mini-Series for the Three Weeks**

During the Three Weeks, Rabbi Steinberg will give a special shiur each Shabbos afternoon, 45 minutes before mincha, open for men and women.

Learning from Sefer Ir Hakodesh V'Hamikdash. By Rav Yechiel Michel Tukachinsky, author of Geshet HaChaim.

A Taste of the Historical, Halachic and Hashkafic meaning of Eretz Yisroel to the Jewish People.

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