

Thought of the Week

The Torah prescribes that a Jewish servant who wishes to remain permanently in servitude – he loves his master's home and his family – is given a permanent mark, a hole in his ear, as an everlasting reminder of his choice. Rashi explains, based on the Talmud, that the ear that heard on Sinai that the Jewish people are God's servants and not to be servants to other humans is to be drilled with an awl as a stark reminder of his poor choice in life.

The Talmud taught us that a truly free person is someone whose guide in life is Torah. The choice of servitude over freedom is anti-Jewish and anti-Torah in its very makeup. In the ancient world and even in later times, slaves were branded so that all could see that they were the chattel of their owner.

The Torah's instruction to bore a hole in the ear of the Jewish servant was to remind everyone of just the opposite idea. That this slave belonged to no other human but rather was to be a servant of God – that was the message of the drilled ear. Freedom and independence mean that we bow to no one but to our Creator alone.

Having other masters in life is a rejection of the Jewish mission and Judaism's true understanding of life's purpose. Jews have often in our long history been made to serve in involuntary servitude and slavery. But voluntarily giving up one's freedom of action and behavior is abhorrent to Jewish ideals and tradition.

The ancient world, as well as much of the later worlds, was built upon the institution of slavery, forced labor and involuntary servitude. In our time governments that preached equality and nobility enslaved others simply because they suspected them of having different ideas.

The mocking slogan at the entrance to Auschwitz "Work makes one free" symbolized the ultimate form of slavery and murder. The Gulag was the place where millions succumbed doing useless work. The great White Sea Canal of Stalin was literally a canal that led to nowhere while myriads of people died in the process of building it, often only with their bare hands.

The Jewish people were coming forth from Egypt after centuries of slavery. One would have thought that having themselves experienced that type of servitude they would not wish to inflict it upon others. However Midrash teaches us that even in Egypt there were Jews who somehow owned other Jews as slaves. It would take millennia for Jews to be completely weaned from the practice of slavery.

Such is the dark side of human nature and behavior. But the process of drilling the ear of one who wishes to remain a permanent slave...

[continued inside...]

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Parshas Mishpatim

פרשת משפטים

Stone Chumash page 416; Haftarah, page 1156.

January 28-29, 2011

כ"ד שבט תשע"א



Shabbos Schedule



Mevorchim haChodesh

Rosh Chodesh Adar I is next Friday and Saturday

Candle lighting:	4:56pm
Mincha - Friday:	4:56pm
Parsha Chaburah by Simcha Pechter:	7:55am
Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur:	8:15am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:43am
Kiddush is community sponsored.	
Mincha:	4:50pm
Chabura given by R' Sruli Schwartz on the topic of The Anatomy of a Kinyan: Mind over Body.	
Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.	
Maariv:	6:01pm

To subscribe to the YIML email list, visit
<http://mail.chaseplanet.us/mailman/listinfo/yiml>

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis: Sunday:	8:00am
Monday and Thursday:	6:40am
Tuesday and Wednesday:	6:50am
Friday (Rosh Chodesh):	6:30am
Mincha/Maariv: Sunday:	5:05pm
Maariv: Monday through Thursday:	7:45pm
Mincha and Candle Lighting Friday:	5:05pm

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:	Thursday at 10:10pm

Check with Dr Daniel Eisenberg to confirm.

Chevra Mishnayos

The Chevra Mishnayos is learning Seder Moed. 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 - Winter Session

Mon at 10:15am: Tehillim for Cholim.
Mon at 10:45am: Rabbi Greenspan - Parsha haShavua.
Tues at 9:30am: Rabbi Shmidman - Sefer Tehillim, at LMS.
Tues at 8:00pm: Stacey Goldman - The Imahot, at the Werrin home, 161 Highland Circle, Bala.
Wed at 9:00am: Rachael Biberfeld - Michtav m'Eliyahu.
Thu at 9:30am: Rabbi Steinberg - Chazon Ish: Faith and Trust.
All classes at 8 Concord Circle, unless otherwise noted. For information or free babysitting, call Janis Fine 610-888-0477.

Questions? Comments! Sponsorships\$ weeklyupdate@yiml.org

Thought of the Week, continued...

reminds the Jewish society of the inherent wrong in the deprivation of people's freedom. Only God has the right to ask us to be His servants. And those who truly serve God have no interest in depriving others of their freedom. The message of freedom that was heard on Sinai should reverberate in all of our ears constantly.

Adapted from <http://www.rabbiwein.com/Weekly-Parsha/2011/01/510.html> by Rabbi Wein.



- Mazel Tov to Dovid and Meira Friedman and family on the birth of a baby boy! The Shalom Zachor will be, b'ezras Hashem, at the Friedman's home, 201 Meeting House Lane, this Friday night, beginning at 8pm.

Pirchei and Bnos

Bnos will meet from 3 to 4pm at LMS. Please pay yearly dues: \$36 per girl. Contact Meira Friedman at 610-617-9529.

Pirchei will not meet this Shabbos. Contact Rabbi Ari Silver at silverDollar@verizon.net.

New Cholim List Procedure

The cholim list will be purged every Rosh Chodesh, starting Friday, February 4th. Names can be submitted to yimlcholim@gmail.com or the gabbaim.

Community Announcements

There is an ad being placed in the ad journal for Torah Academy's dinner in memory of Risa Goldman, z"l. To contribute to the ad, please contact Mira Korn 610-617-9552. YIML is a proud affiliate of Koshersync.com, the Main Line's Orthodox Community Organization Calendar. Koshersync.com is a free service which serves to synchronize Orthodox events throughout Philadelphia's Main Line. Before planning a simcha or event make sure to check the website for possible conflicts.