

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Eikev
August 23, 2024 / 19 Av 5784
Volume 29, Issue 45
Candlelighting: 7:57 pm

Waxman Torah Center · 2195 S. Green Road · University Heights, OH 44121 · (216) 691-3837 · www.clevelandjlc.com

Friday, August 23

6:40pm Early Mincha / Maariv
7:57pm Candlelighting

Shabbos, August 24

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush is available for sponsorship
7:15pm Pirke Avos
7:50pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
9:04pm Maariv

Sunday, August 25

9:15am Parsha Class
(R. Nisenbaum)
10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos"
(R. Stoll)

Monday, August 26

~~8:00pm~~ Will resume Sept 2
(R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, August 27

8:00pm Tanna d'vei Eliyahu
(R. Stoll)

Wednesday, August 28

8:00pm Nach Still Speaks –
Tehillim (R. Stoll)

Thursday, August 29

10:15pm Parsha Class
(R. Nisenbaum)

Torah Podcast

Listen to Rabbi Nisenbaum's "Torah Podcast" at Spotify, Apple Podcasts, iHeartRadio, and more, or download at www.maverickpodcasting.com

New episodes twice a week!

Weekday Minyanim

7:00am Shacharis (M-F)
8:00am Shacharis (Sun)
10:00pm Maariv (Sun-Th)

Class Connection

R. Nisenbaum:

425-436-6200 #352171

"The Torah Podcast" weekly
at all podcast locations

R. Stoll:

Zoom: 876-619-3551
Audio: 669-900-9128

Parshas: Eikev

Continuing his monologue, Moshe promises the nation that if they would faithfully keep all of the mitzvahs they would receive all the physical and material blessings. Their crops would be plentiful, their flocks and herds would be fertile, and they would be protected from disease and from enemies. These physical rewards are contingent upon the nation's observance. The reward for an individual's observance is not promised in physical terms, as that would offset man's free will. Individual reward is reserved for the Afterlife.

Moshe reminds the people how G-d had destroyed the Egyptians and all of the other powerful leaders who had stood up against the Jewish people. He also reminds them how G-d had taken care of their every need in the desert for the past forty years. He promises them that G-d would also assist them in conquering the Promised Land easily, as long as they would keep the mitzvot properly. Moshe describes the many virtues of the Promised Land. The land of Israel is rich with beautiful fruits and other natural resources. It is a land that merits G-d's personal attention that responds to the behavior of its inhabitants.

Moshe also informs the nation that despite their past sins, G-d's love for them remains strong. Even now, after their sins, all G-d really demands of His

people is that they fear and love Him by keeping His commandments. Once a person has the proper awe and reverence of G-d, mitzvah observance follows naturally. A person who understands that G-d does not show favor to those who are undeserving of it, nor does He accept bribes or offerings from an unrepentant sinner, will keep all of the mitzvahs— not just the ones that he feels are important. The Talmud actually understands Moshe's words as meaning that only the fear of G-d is in

the hands of man, i.e. the free will to do good or evil. Everything else in the world, i.e. circumstances of health, financial situation, physical characteristics, etc. is in the hands of G-d.

It is important for a person to realize how little control he really has over most things in life. This can be quite a humbling experience for the person who likes to feel that he is pretty much in control of his destiny.

This understanding is also a prerequisite for prayer, which is also alluded to in this portion. The essence of prayer is the recognition of how much man is really dependent upon G-d. This is why the Rabbis refer to prayer as "service of the heart" and not merely of the mouth, because it is not merely request but an admission of man's vulnerability and total dependence upon G-d.

Mazel Tov

Rabbi & Mrs. Moshe Stoll upon the marriage of their granddaughter

Insights: Eikev

He does not take bribes... (Deut 10:17) In a letter the Chafetz Chaim penned to his American brethren, he wrote, "... American Jewry has merited to support Torah in both Eretz Yisrael and in Europe. Through this you have acquired for yourselves a vast amount of Torah and mitzvot. Hundreds of thousands of pages of Talmud and halachic responsa are to your credit, with tremendous awards awaiting you. However, what will you do when the prosecuting angels point to your desecration of Shabbos? All your merits and tzedakah cannot help you against the sin of desecrating Shabbos. Even a person who has studied much Torah and become a great scholar, if he denies the Divine Origin of Torah, will not receive any reward whatsoever. The Al-mighty does not take a bribe of mitzvot to cancel out sins. Only complete repentance can protect a person from punishment..."

Did You Know?

One should preferably remove the dirty plates and silverware from the table before reciting the bentching (Grace after Meal). If there are metal knives on the table they should be covered during bentching. The reason for this is because the table resembles the altar, which atones and thus extends man's life. The metal knife resembles weaponry that shortens man's life. On Shabbos or Yom Tov it is not necessary to cover the knives. It is also proper to leave a little bread on the table. Two reasons are offered; 1) To thank G-d for an abundance of food, and 2) as a vehicle to increase blessing, since blessing must take effect on something tangible.

Thought for the Week: Surprise is born of inexperience. (A Candle By Day)