

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Nitzavim-Vayailech
September 8, 2023 / 22 Elul 5783
Volume 28, Issue 46
Candlelighting: 7:30 pm

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Friday, September 8

7:30pm Candlelighting
7:35pm Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, September 9

8:45am Shacharis
6:30pm Pirke Avos
7:25pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos /
Maariv

Sunday, September 10

6:30am Selichos
followed by Shacharis
9:15am Parsha Class
(R. Nisenbaum)
10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos"
(R. Stoll)

Monday, September 11

8:00pm "How to Experience the
Joy of Yom Kippur"

Tuesday, September 12

8:00pm Pirkei d'Rebbi Elazar
(R. Stoll)

Wednesday, September 13

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

Thursday, September 14

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

Parsha: Nitzavim-Vayailech

Although these two portions are the shortest in the Torah, their message is an important one, especially before the High Holidays. After warning the Jewish people about the terrible consequences awaiting them if they transgress the Torah and mitzvahs, Moshe had the people make a new covenant with G-d. Although the laws of the Torah already bound them, they now accepted *arvus*, or responsibility, upon themselves for one another. A Jew is not only obligated to keep the mitzvahs himself, but he is also responsible for the observance of every other Jew too.

When a single Jew sins, there is a collective responsibility upon the whole community. Had others perhaps chastised the sinner, or even better, had they acted in a more appropriate manner themselves, thereby exerting a positive influence, the sinner may have never transgressed in the first place. This is what is meant by the popular phrase, "All Jews are responsible for each other."

Moshe foretold that after the nation would experience the punishment for their sins, they would be inspired to return to the ways of the Torah. G-d always accepts repentance, and He will then gather

the people from throughout the exile and return them to Israel with great blessing.

Moshe encouraged the people to repent and observe the Torah, assuring them that it was not too difficult to do so. The Torah is not in the heavens or across the seas making it impossible to attain spiritual heights. It is within the capability of every Jew to accomplish greatness if he or she just puts forth the effort.

In closing, Moshe reminded the people that the choice of keeping the Torah is nothing less than choosing between good and bad, life and death. If the Jewish people keep the mitzvahs properly, they will merit eternal life, and if they do not, the result will be destruction, not merely for the present but

also for the future.

This responsibility for the future is also seen in the mitzvah of *hakhel*, the gathering of the entire nation in Jerusalem every seven years. The Torah says that every man, woman, and child are to appear in Temple after Sukkos following the seventh year, where the king reads the Torah. Although an infant is incapable of understanding the proceedings, it is important that the parents set the stage properly for their child's future development.

Condolences

*To Ilya Kun upon the loss
of his mother*

High Holiday Seats

*Contact JLC to reserve your
high holiday seating*

High Holiday Schedule

*The full schedule from now
through Yom Kippur is available
separately*

Parsha Insights: Nitzavim-Vayailech

You should choose life in order that you live... (Deut 30:19) Rav Avrohom Mordechai, the son of the Gerrer Rebbe, Rav Yitzchak Meir, was very ill and the doctors despaired of his life. The Rebbe sat by his son's bed and whispered into his ear. "When you are so sick there are not many mitzvot you can do. However, there is one important you can still do, and that is to want to live in this world and not die, as it says, 'You shall choose life.' That is your mitzvah now, and I truly hope that you will not give up hope. G-d willing you will yet recover and have your own children." Indeed, the son, Rav Avrohom Mordechai lived for several years more and had a son the following year who grew to become the Sefas Emes.

Did You Know?

The *vidui* confession is recited ten times over Yom Kippur. One must stand throughout the *vidui*, and bend one's back slightly as a sign of humility. During the recital one may not lean on anything in such a way that if the object were to be removed the person would fall. If one did lean heavily on something there is a question whether he should repeat the *vidui*. When saying The *Ashamnu* part of the *vidui* it is customary to gently strike one's heart with the fist when mentioning each sin, as if to say that our heart's desires have caused us to sin. Similarly, during Al Chet, one strikes the heart when saying the word "shechatanu," "that we have sinned." Although the *vidui* is rather generic, if one knows that he/she has committed a specific sin, it should be mentioned softly, or at least thought of in one's mind.

Thought for the Week: Most fault-finders keep whatever they find. (A Candle By Day)