

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parsha Tazria
April 12, 2024 / 4 Nissan 5784
Volume 29, Issue 27
Candlelighting: 7:46 pm

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

Friday, April 5

7:46pm Candlelighting
7:50pm Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, April 6

8:45am Shacharis
*Kiddush is sponsored by
Uri & Milana Gofman on
the engagement of their
daughter.*

7:10pm Laws of Pesach
7:40pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
8:56pm Maariv

Sunday, April 7

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

Monday, April 8

8:00pm The Ten Plagues (3 of 3)

Tuesday, April 9

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

Wednesday, April 10

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

Thursday, April 11

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: Tazria

After completing the discussion of prohibited foods that can contaminate the Jew, the Torah discusses other forms of spiritual impurity. One of these involves the person who develops a skin condition called *tzara'as*, (related to the word psoriasis). The Talmud explains that *tzara'as* is a physical manifestation of a spiritual deficiency, usually coming as a result of specific sins, such as *lashon hara* (negative speech about others), arrogance and stinginess. Different forms of *tzara'as*, i.e. on one's skin or hair or on a burn, denote different sins so a person could understand clearly where his faults lie.

The *tzara'as* must be diagnosed by the kohen. The person is then isolated outside of the camp, until he is again visited by the kohen. The isolation is more stringent than that of any other impurity. The reason for this is that by speaking gossip one creates a rift between others, and he is thus separated from other people. Only after the kohen determines that the person has been healed is he allowed to begin the purification process. This involves shaving his hair, sprinkling of water, sacrifices and immersions.

The Torah also discusses various types of *tzara'as* that do not even affect a person's skin, but rather his clothing and even his house.

The reason why the Torah devotes such great detail to the different types of *tzara'as*, their diagnoses and the purification processes involved, is to teach us a

lesson about the causes of *tzara'as* and its rectification. There is something unique about *lashon hora* that makes it more severe than many other sins. With just a few words or even a facial expression, a tremendous amount of damage can be inflicted upon another person, or people—financial emotional, and even physical. People may not realize the destructive power of the tongue; however, the whole fabric of society can be torn apart by the choice of a few ill words.

The Talmud comments that *lashon hara* is so commonplace, almost everyone transgresses it regularly. Accordingly, the Torah

goes into such great detail about the *metzora's* isolation from society and the process how he must do teshuva to regain entry back into the community.

Even though *tzara'as* no longer exists after the Temple was destroyed, the lessons about the severity of *lashon hara* must still be taken to heart.

Mazel Tov
*Uri & Milana Gofman
on the engagement of their
daughter*

Condolences
*the Irwin Shulman Family
upon his passing*

Sell! Buy!
*To sell chametz or to purchase
R. Nisenbaum's Haggadah
please call 216-659-1118*

Insights: Tazria

He pressed him to accept it but he refused (Haftarah Mel. 2 4:16) Elisha refused to accept money from Na'aman. Rav Chaim Kanievsky was not impressed by money whatsoever. A wealthy American once offered Rav Chaim two million dollars to be the sandek at his son's bris in America. Rav Chaim responded, "It's a shame to waste so much money! Make the bris in Israel and I will serve as sandek for free!" Another time, the administrator of a yeshiva brought some philanthropists to Rav Chaim for a bracha for success. Rav Chaim said, "They should merit to study Torah!" the administrator interjected, "Certainly, but they would also like a blessing for financial success so they could continue giving tzedakah." Rav Chaim waved his hand dismissively and said, "That is besides the point. The main beracha is that they should be able to study Torah!" To Rav Chaim money meant nothing. Only one thing interested him--Torah.

Did You Know?

The Torah prohibits a Jew from owning chametz (leavened products) during Pesach. It is customary to sell the ownership of one's chametz (leavened products), through a rabbi, to a gentile before Pesach to avoid this prohibition. The chametz should be placed in a locked closet or a marked-off area. It must be emphasized that the sale is legal both according to secular and religious law. The chametz in one's vessels are also sold, but not the vessels themselves. One also rents the location of the chametz to the non-Jew. It is proper to write one's name, address and location of any chametz on the rabbi's document, and also make a formal kinyan (legal act of transfer) with the rabbi. Some authorities require the seller to approximate the value of the chametz.

Thought for the Week: *A little tug can bring in a great ship. (A Candle By Day)*