



Toras Avigdor

Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

By: Pinchas Ben-Ami

פרשת כי תבא

Discovering the Happiness

Sponsored:

In honor of our son Shlomo

From Abba and Ima

For sponsorship opportunities please call: 347.755.8860

Discovering the Happiness

There was once a man, we'll call him Mr. Freilich, who bought a house. A house is very expensive, and he spent most his money buying that house and now he had very little money left over. And sometimes that was hard for the family — they often couldn't have a lot of the extra things that the neighbors had.

Whenever his children wanted something extra – little Moishy wanted a new bike, or Soraleh wanted a new knapsack – they would usually hear the same thing: “Sorry but Totty and Mommy can't afford it right now”.

This went on for two years. It wasn't easy for the Freilich family. And then finally one day something happened that changed everything! And that's the story we're going to hear right now.

Mr. Freilich really wanted to give his children what they wanted – he wanted them to be happy. So little by little he began saving up for a big Chol Hamoed Sukkos trip. For a full year, every week he would put five dollars into the secret Chol Hamoed envelope in his drawer. He was planning a big Sukkos surprise.

And so, on the first night of Sukkos, right before bentching, Mr. Freilich made a big announcement: “Listen up kinderlach; I have a surprise for you. On the first day of Chol Hamoed we are going to leave for a big Chol Hamoed trip. We're going to a huge amusement park and then we're going boating!” All the children were so excited they couldn't even sleep that night! **Finally** they would be happy!

And the truth is that it was a really fun trip! Everyone had a good time. But something happened on that trip that taught them what real happiness is – the whole family learned a very important lesson about being happy on that trip and it has nothing to do with rollercoasters and rowboating.

Because at the end of the day, when Moishy was getting off the roller coaster he tripped and fell down and he was in pain the whole



ride home. Every time the car went over a bump, it hurt like anything. And then Moishy's mother took him for x-rays and he found out that his leg was broken in two places! Now he had to be in a cast for more than a month!

Now, if any of you ever had to be in a leg cast for a month, *challah*, you'll know that it was during that month that you really began to realize what a happiness it is to be able to walk!

Having two working feet is like having a car – you can go here, go there, make turns, park yourself – it's

actually better than a car! Absolutely! Ask anybody who can't walk and they'll tell you that feet bring much more happiness than a fancy new car.

And that's what Moishy and his family found out during that month after Sukkos. It's actually what everyone who met Moishy that month found out. Because Moishy was smart enough to learn the lesson that Hashem was sending him.

He remembered sitting in the curb and wishing he had a bike like his friend Shmuly and a new white shirt like his neighbor Avrumi. And now he had learned that the whole time he was very rich – only that he hadn't paid attention to all of his wealth.

Having two legs means that you're a millionaire. And if you



have two eyes as well, then you're a billionaire! And that's only the beginning, because we also have kidneys and a liver and fingers and ears. It's endless! And that's the lesson that Moishy learned, and it's the lesson that he taught his friends too.

And this explains a passuk in our parsha. In this week's parsha, we learn the tochacha - the punishments we get for doing aveiros. And the passuk says that "All these things will happen to you when you don't serve Hashem **with joy.**"

Hashem does so much good for us that we should always be happy! And if we're ever imagining that we would finally be happy if only we had this or that, that means we're forgetting everything that Hashem does for us and we're not living happy lives the way Hashem expects from us. And sometimes, *chas v'shalom*, Hashem sends us reminders.

We are all very rich. If we can hear, talk, see and walk, we're millionaires! Some people are sick and they can't breathe without machines attached to them. Some people cannot eat alone, they need a special machine called a feeding tube. If we were saved from all of these situations, we should be dancing with joy!

Anybody who can't do one of those things would pay all the money he has in order to get those things back! And we have it all – and much more – for free. We don't have to pay for our legs; all Hashem asks of us is that we should think about what we have and thank Him.

And that's the important lesson of this week's parsha – it's the same lesson that Moishy learned during the rollercoaster ride, and the same lesson that his friends and family learned when they saw what happened to him: Learn to be happy with everything that you already have – all the gifts of Hashem – by thinking about them always and thanking Hashem for them always, and that way Hashem should never have to send on any of us reminders about how good these gifts are.

Have a Wonderful Shabbos!

© Copyright 2019, Toras Avigdor