



Toras Avigdor

Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

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פְּרִשֶׁת מִקֶּץ - חֲנוּכָה

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Trust in Him

Sunday Afternoon, Erev Chanukah 5780.

It was finally over for the famous robber, Yavan the Yevani. The prison guard shook his fist at him as he locked the door shut: “We finally got you! Get used to this little prison cell because it’s going to be your home for the next few years.”

But Yavan had other plans. He had already slipped a key off the guard’s key chain and he waited patiently until the middle of the night. At one o’clock in the morning, he stuck his hand between the bars, quietly turned the key and escaped to freedom!

As soon as the guard realized what had happened, he quickly called Police Chief Yossi who climbed into his police helicopter, lifted off and began the search.

“Yossi? Yossi?!” said Shira. “I’ve been talking to you for the last five minutes and it looks like you’ve haven’t heard a word I said!”

Yossi blinked at his sister. Uh oh! He was daydreaming again. But he couldn’t help it. All he could think about was the Police Helicopter Playmobil set that he saw in the window of the toy store on his way to yeshivah. He daydreamed about it all day long – even when his sister was speaking to him.

Motzei Shabbos Chanukah, At Bubby and Zeidy’s house.

Zeidy: “Yossi, come here please. We can’t have a Chanukah party without a d’var Torah, and your totty said you have a good story you might want to share with us. If you give it a try I have some extra Chanukah gelt for you.

Yossi: Chanukah gelt?! Just for saying a story?! Sounds great!

Yossi stood up in the middle of the living room and began to tell his story.

“For the past two months all I could think about was the Police Helicopter Playmobil that I really wanted. So I made a really good plan so that Zeidy and Bubby would know what I wanted.

When my English teacher made us write Freilichen Chanukah cards for our grandparents, I made sure to write in big letters on the bottom of my card: "DEAR BUBBY. I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH. I ALSO LOVE PLAYMOBIL. PLEASE BUY ME THE POLICE HELICOPTER PLAYMOBIL SET FOR CHANUKAH! I LOVE YOU!" LOVE YOSSI (YOUR GRANDSON WHO LOVES PLAYMOBIL)".

And then, just to make sure, I also asked our neighbor, Mr. Spira, who learns with Zeidy every day, to do me a humongous favor. I asked him to tell Zeidy that he sees how much I love playing with Playmobil and that the new Police Playmobil set would be the best present for me.

Once I did those two things, I knew that I was set! I could rely on the mailman to get the letter to Bubby and Mr. Spira to get the message to Zeidy. I was very proud of myself for planning things out so well.

But then when I went to visit Zeidy and Bubby last week something very funny happened. I wasn't trying to eavesdrop – I would never do such a thing – but I heard Bubby telling Zeidy that they still didn't know what to get for me.



I couldn't understand! How could they not know?! What about the mailman and Mr. Spira? Why didn't my plan work?

Well, you know how it is, sometimes you try everything and it doesn't work and then you realize that there's one more thing that you forgot to try. And really it's the most important thing! I forgot to ask Hashem to make it all work out. I relied on people instead of Hashem!

So I didn't even wait for Ma'ariv. As soon as I walked out of Zeidy's house I said to Hashem, "Hashem please! I give up on the mailman and I give up on Mr. Spira. I'm relying on You. Please get the message to my Bubby and Zeidy!"

And what do you know?! Look what I'm holding! The Police Helicopter Playmobil set! This is how I learned a lesson that whatever I do, I should never forget that the most important thing is to ask Hashem for help because He's the only one who really makes things work out.

Zeidy: Yossi, that was a great story and a beautiful lesson! Thank you. I will just add to that one little thing because this idea fits perfectly with what I once heard from Rav Miller on this week's parsha.

He says that Yosef Hatzadik did the same thing as our tzaddik Yossele! He asked the *sar hamashkim* to remember him and to try to speak some good words to Pharaoh about him so that he could finally get out of prison. But it says that "the *sar hamashkim* didn't remember Yosef, and he forgot about him." It sounds funny, doesn't it? He didn't remember Yosef, and also he forgot about him! The *medrash* says that it's coming to teach us that even when the *sar hamashkim* remembered to tell Pharaoh, Hashem made him forget! Why? Because Hashem wanted Yosef to give up on people and rely completely on Hashem!

And Yossi, you didn't know, but that's what Hashem did to you too. Bubby didn't get your card until Erev Shabbos because it "accidentally" got lost in the mail. And Mr. Spira forgot to tell me your message. He remembered Erev Shabbos and that's when he told me.

It looks like Hashem made it happen that way. As soon as you realized that it's really Hashem who runs the show, that's when He made Mr. Spira remember, and that's when He made the mail finally come.

He was teaching you the same lesson that He taught Yosef Hatzadik, that even though you have to be a responsible person who does whatever he can to get things done, but you must always keep in mind that without Hashem's help nothing will work out.

Have a Wonderful Shabbos and a Freilichen Chanuka !

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