Toras Avigdor Junior

How to be a Good Truck Driver

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This week's parsha starts with the words אִם בְּחֻקֹּתַי תֵּלֵכוּ, which means that we have to "walk in the mitzvos." How do you walk in mitzvos? So Rashi says it means that you have to always be moving, always trying to get better, one step at a time.

It takes work to get better. It's much easier to sit on the couch and relax. But Hashem didn't make you just so that you should sit on a couch. Every Jewish child can become great. Each one of you can become a tzaddik or a tzaddeikes — but it takes work!

A lot of children think that as long as they're not doing aveiros, then they're already great. And it's true - if you're a Yid then you are great! So if you never did any aveiros in your whole life then you must be a tzaddik, right? Wrong!

To be a tzaddik you also have to do good things; you have to be busy doing as many mitzvos as you can. אִם בְּחֻקֹּתַי תֵּלֵכוּ means that you have to always be doing good things and improving — not doing aveiros is not enough.

Let's explain this with a mashal:

Reuven was a very careful driver and he liked to drive on highways, so he became a truck driver. His neighbor Shimon had a big coat store and he asked Reuven to drive from New York to Los Angeles to pick up a truckload of coats and bring them back to his store in New York.

That's a very long trip — about 3,000 miles! — and Reuven was excited about his new job. He got into his

truck and drove off to Los Angeles to pick up the coats. About a week later he called Shimon and told him that he was arriving back in New York safe and sound.

Shimon was very happy that Reuven had done his job so quickly. “How’d it go?” Shimon asked.

“I didn’t get any tickets the whole trip.” Reuven told Shimon.

“Excellent,” said Shimon, “Let’s start unloading the coats.”

You know what Reuven said? He told Shimon, “Oh, no! I’m sorry — I forgot to pick up the coats!”

The nimshal is that Hashem sent us on a trip into this world to accomplish things; that’s our job. And it’s very important that we shouldn’t get into any accidents and that we shouldn’t get any tickets — that means we shouldn’t do any aveiros. But that’s only the beginning. More important than that is to pick up the coats — that means to do all types of mitzvos. That’s the real work in this world.

It’s very important not to talk lashon hara or to say words that aren’t nice — very important! But the real work is: Are you doing mitzvos with your mouth? Did you thank your mother for the delicious supper she made you? Did you smile and say good morning to the new kid in class?

That’s what Hashem means when He says, “You should walk in My mitzvos.” Always make sure that you’re moving forward and doing good things! That’s how you’ll become a real tzaddik and do your job perfectly in this world. And trust me — you can do it!

Have a wonderful Shabbos!