
Toras Avigdor

Junior

Adapted from
the teachings of
Rav Avigdor
Miller z"l

By: Pinchas
Ben-Ami

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פרשת בהעלותך

Creating the Chesed Mobile

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Creating the Chesed Mobile

In this week's parsha, we learn about Pesach Sheini. But what's strange is that the Torah doesn't tell us about this mitzvah the way it does for most of the other 613 mitzvos. Instead, the Torah starts with a story:

There were certain people who couldn't bring the korban Pesach. They were tamei, and someone who is tamei can't bring a korban Pesach. So they came to Moshe Rabeinu and they complained. They said, "לָמָּה נִגְרַעַ" — Why should we be left out?"

So Moshe brought their complaint to Hashem, and Hashem said, "You won't be left out. Here is the mitzvah of Pesach Sheini, so that those who missed out on their first chance to bring a korban Pesach will get another chance."

But let's stop and think about the question they asked: "Why should we be left out?"

The truth is, there's a very good reason they were left out. They were tamei, and Hashem said tamei people can't bring the korban Pesach — that's all there is to it. End of story. So what type of question were they asking?

And the answer is that the Torah is teaching us a lesson. When you can't do a mitzvah, don't just shrug your shoulders and say, "Well, it's not my fault I can't do it," and that's all. That's not how we treat mitzvos.

Let's say your father came home late from shul on motza'ei

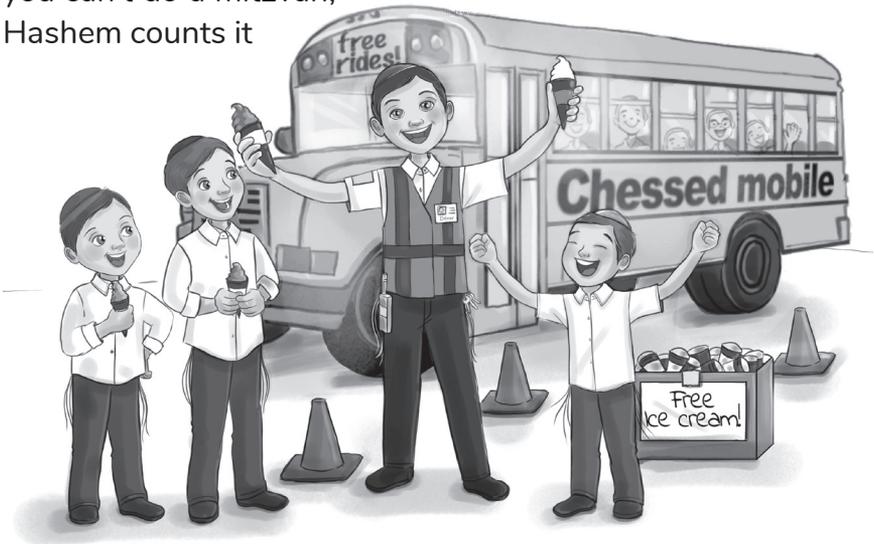
Shabbos and you fell asleep before Havdalah. You wouldn't say, "Oh, well, I'll get the mitzvah of Havdalah next week."

No! If you miss a chance for a mitzvah, you have to feel bad about it and complain! You have to say, "Why should I be left out?!" A mitzvah is not something that you just do when it happens to come up, and when it doesn't, you just forget about it. A mitzvah is very valuable, and it's something you should always be trying to get.

Let's say you were walking to school on a very hot day. And as you're walking and sweating, you're wishing your father would drive by and offer you a ride in your air-conditioned minivan. Or you're wishing that you had a cold can of soda, or even better, a nice big ice cream.

As much as you'd be wishing for that ice cream, that's how much you should be wishing to do mitzvos.

And the Gemara tells us that when you're disappointed that you can't do a mitzvah, Hashem counts it



as if you did the mitzvah. And that means that even though there are hundreds of mitzvos we can't do, if we think about doing them, and feel really bad we can't do them, Hashem says, "I'm counting it as if you just did that mitzvah."

So suppose you really want that ice cream, and your feet hurt you from walking in the heat. But across the street you see your friend walking. And it's hot for him, too. So instead of just wishing you could have an ice cream, you wish you could give him an ice cream, too.

Do you know what you just did? You just got a mitzvah — the mitzvah of chessed, v'ahavta l'reiacha kamocho. Even though you didn't actually give your neighbor anything at all, just by wishing for an ice cream and wishing you could share it, you earned a great mitzvah

Can you drive a bus? Well, even if you can't, if you really wish you could help people out and give them rides, Hashem counts it as if you're actually doing it.

Even though you don't have the money to buy a bus, and your mother wouldn't let you drive one anyway, but if you really wish that you could be driving an air-conditioned bus, giving other children rides to camp on boiling hot days, then in Hashem's eyes you just became the inventor of the Chessed Mobile — you're driving a big bus around town, giving out free rides to everyone. And while you're at it, you can give out free ice cream, too!

Because if someone truly wants to do a mitzvah, Hashem considers it as if he has done it.

Have a Wonderful Shabbos!

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