JANUARY 27, 2024

This week's Insights is dedicated l'zecher nishmas Tovia ben Yitzchak z'l. Sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Howard Glowinsky. "May his Neshama have an Aliya!" **VOLUME 14, ISSUE 16**

17 SHEVAT

Based on the Torah of our Rosh HaYeshiva HaRav Yochanan Zweig

PARSHAS BESHALACH

The Greatest Type of Mitzvah

And Moshe took the bones of Yosef with him; for he (Yosef) had solemnly sworn the Jewish people; God will surely remember you; and you shall carry up my bones from here with you (13:19).

verse to laud Moshe; "see how personal precious mitzvos were to Moshe, accumulating wealth. Moshe, on the even as the Jewish people were other hand, was focused on fulfilling busying themselves with looting the a community need because Yosef Egyptians he was busying himself had made the Jewish people swear with performing a mitzvah as the that they would take his remains verse says; 'The wise heart will when they left Egypt. collect a mitzvah'" (Mishlei 10:8).

Avraham Avinu complain that Hashem didn't fulfill our child is in that school. his promise of "and after they will leave with great wealth" (See Rashi 11:2). Since Bnei Yisroel were also fulfilling a mitzvah, why was Moshe singled out for his wisdom in collecting mitzvos?

his spiritual needs as well. While it is was

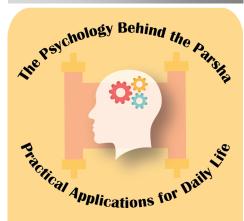
The Talmud (Sotah 13a) uses this wealth, it was still focused on a that need

Most of us who get involved in This can be difficult to understand; community affairs like building a while it is true that the Jewish mikvah or volunteering at a special people were focused on getting needs school or serving on a shul what they could from the Egyptians, board do so because we have a they too were performing a mitzvah. vested interest. In other words, we In fact, Hashem pleaded with them get involved because our family to take items from the Egyptians so needs a nicer mikvah, or we want to wouldn't better organize our shul, or because

While it is a big mitzvah to get involved in community affairs it is seldom without some self-interest. In fact, when our children leave the school or our family no longer uses the mikvah we usually leave those In general, people are focused on board and leadership positions. The their individual needs like food, reason Moshe is given special shelter, etc. A person on a more recognition is because he forsook all elevated level will perhaps focus on the personal mitzvos. Instead, he busying himself true that the Jewish people were community obligation in which he following the will of Hashem that had no self-interest; that of fulfilling they should leave Egypt with great the promise made to Yosef long ago.



Miami Edition



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Meeting ID: 2765819544 Password: raz

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Understanding the Value of Enough is Enough

So Moshe drove Bnei Yisroel from the Red Sea [...] (15:22).

Rashi (ad loc), quoting the Midrash Jewish people even richer than they collecting wealth for the sake of Red Sea. The reason for this was that force the people to leave because achieve the status of "wealthy." the Egyptians had decorated their they were collecting "too much" why horses with gold, silver, and precious would Hashem miraculously bring up stones, which were miraculously so much booty from the depths? brought up from the water's depths. Hashem should have simply brought on to the banks for the benefit of the up the proper amount for the people Jewish people to collect. In fact, our to collect and when there was no Rabbis teach that they found more more wealth there on the banks than what voluntarily without needing to be they were able to "liberate" from forced! the Egyptians as they were leaving Egypt.

Gold, silver, and precious stones, how does one really know when he and being able to turn and walk when thrown into the Red Sea, will is wealthy? In other words, at what away. At that point they would know naturally sink to the bottom and be point does a person feel that he has they were truly wealthy. lost forever. Clearly, Hashem created enough and is sufficiently wealthy? this miraculous event to make the Unfortunately, most of us keep

would thev have

Jewish people to have wealth, but laying on the ground in front of them

Tanchuma, comments that Moshe already were after leaving with all having more. Ultimately, that means had to literally force the Jewish the valuables that the Egyptians had that what we have is never enough people away from the bank of the given them. Yet if Moshe had to and therefore we never feel as if we

> Hashem is teaching the litmus test for being rich and a lesson for all of us to strive to achieve. When you can walk away from money laying right in front of you and don't make the effort to pick it up, at that point you are truly rich. Hashem's goal for the Jewish people was real wealth. The only way to measure that was Obviously Hashem wanted the by having piles of gold and silver

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