

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network

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To:

Prayer services don't do it for you?



**No problem. We've got a great alternative.
The CTN Shabbat Experience.**

Saturday, July 17, 9:30-11 am. At the CTN Center, 2832 W Touhy.
Registration: www.torahnetwork.org/shabbatservice.htm

The CTN Shabbat Experience, led by Rabbi Moshe Katz, is not your typical, long Shabbat service. *(If you regularly attend a full service, that's great ... keep it up!)*

Instead we take select prayers and discuss their meaning and relevance.

You'll hear short insights, inspiring stories and nuggets of inspiration. *(And maybe a few good jokes!)*

We guarantee you will not be passive while a Rabbi "conducts the service". You'll be engaged, stimulated and inspired.



Home for the
Wondering Jew.™

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: MATTOS-MASEI (NUMBERS 30:2 - 36:13)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored by Bunny Wagner, in loving memory of her mother, Anne Jacob, Channah Rachel bas Avraham Mordechai. May her neshama (soul) have an aliyah (be elevated).

1. You shall be innocent in the eyes of G-d and of Israel (32:22)

It's a very important message. About our responsibilities in life.

That it's not enough to just do what's right.

It's important to make sure nothing we do even *looks* improper.

We shouldn't say: *It doesn't matter what other people think. What my actions look like to them.*

As long as I know that what I'm doing is right.

The Torah says no.

Why?

Because what we do impacts others.

Our children. Friends. Even strangers.

People see how we act - and it can affect their commitment and behavior.

... So whether we actually do something wrong.

Or it just looks that way.

The bottom line is the same.

People may learn from what they see us do.

And that's also part of our responsibility.

▪ *Rabbi Aaron Kotler was walking in Jerusalem. Along the way, there were a number of poor people asking for charity. And he gave something to each of them.*

Except for one.

A full block later, he hesitated, turned around and walked back to give him some money.

A student who was with him, asked him to explain. And he did.

'At first I passed by. Because I already gave that man charity this morning.

But then I thought about it. And realized that someone may have seen me pass by.

And would think that I didn't want to give him at all.

Maybe I knew something bad about him.

And the person who saw me might also not give.

Which would be wrong.

So I went back and gave the man again'.

STORY OF THE WEEK

A woman was walking along the ocean with her small child. Suddenly a huge wave came and carried him out to sea.

The woman was totally helpless, and panicked.

She called out to G-d in desperation, "Please, I beg You, give me back my child!"

Suddenly, a huge wave appeared. And deposited the child. Safe and sound.

She hugged and kissed her son, and with tremendous feeling, thanked G-d.

Then she looked down at her son. And addressed G-d again.

"He was wearing a hat."

... We have so much to be thankful for.

Let's not ask for the hat!

Dr. Abraham Twersky, (It's Not As Tough As You Think)

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August 3 – 31 7:30 – 8:30 pm at the CTN Center

www.torahnetwork.org/hebrew.htm info@torahnetwork.org 773.761.0400 x208

VIP TOUR OF THE NEW ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

CTN invites you to participate in a VIP tour the new Holocaust Museum, this Thursday, July 15.

This special and very meaningful program begins at 4 pm with a Docent-led tour of the museum, followed by a kosher dinner and discussion with Rabbi David Begoun of the L'Chaim Center of Inspired Living. Following dinner there will be a session with survivor Aaron Elster, who will share the moving and captivating story of his survival.

The cost of the event is \$50. For complete details and registration: jbegoun@comcast.net



Shabbat Shalom and have a wonderful week.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Moshe Katz'.

Rabbi Moshe Katz

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doni Deutsch'.

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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