

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network

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Chicago Torah Network presents

This Wednesday!



Lunch, Learn

1st Wednesday of the month

MITZVAH

A unique opportunity to combine a great kosher lunch with quality Jewish learning, while at the same time giving dignity and respect to developmentally challenged young adults.

Enjoy Rabbi Moshe Katz's popular workshop, **"WHAT WE BELIEVE AND WHY"** – A fascinating look at some of Judaism's most fundamental teachings: About G-d, Man, the Soul, the Afterlife and more.

Lunch will be provided by the KJ Café, a joint effort of Keshet, Bernard Weinger JCC and the Sandwich Club. KJ Café is unique. It is staffed by young adults of Keshet which provides educational, recreational and vocational programs for Jewish children and young adults with special needs.

Please join us for a great lunch, great learning and a great mitzvah!

Wednesday, February 2, 2011

At Northbrook JCC 300 Revere Drive

Networking & Lunch – 11:30 am

Workshop – 12:00 pm

Advanced Paid Registration: \$15 (includes lunch)

At the Door: \$20 (includes lunch)

Info: info@torahnetwork.org or 773 761 0400 x201

The Lunch, Learn, & Mitzvah Learning Series is dedicated by the Hartman Family Foundation in memory of Wilfred Lefkovich.

Also, Coming up at CTN

Busy during hebrew school?



The CTN Five-Week Hebrew Reading Crash Course begins February 8.

It's easy. It's fun. And it works.

www.torahnetwork.org/hebrew-crash-course.htm

THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX[©]

A WEEKLY PRESENTATION OF JEWISH THOUGHT PUBLISHED IN MEMORY OF RAE DANIEL

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 17 FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2011 / 23 SHVAT 5771 CANDLE LIGHTING: 4:40 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 5:51 (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: MISHPATIM (EXODUS 21:1 - 24:18)

*This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored anonymously,
with a prayer for peace in Israel and around the world.*

1. "If a man shall uncover a pit, or if a man shall dig a pit and not cover it, and an ox or a donkey fall into it, the owner of the pit is responsible ..." (21:33)

Digging pits in a public place?

What does that have to do with us?

Rabbi Yisrael Salanter's answer?

Everything.

Because 'a pit in a public place' includes anything that can damage others. In any way.

His example. Sometimes we have *one of those days*.

When everything seems to go wrong.

It gets to us. And we walk around looking down.

With that 'frustrated, angry and negative' look on our face.

Something to keep in mind? Something the Torah wants us to remember?

When we look like that - we affect others.

It gets them down.

Puts a damper on their spirits.

And we have no right to do that.

As Rabbi Salanter used to say: *"Your heart is private. But your face is public."*

2. "If you see your enemy's donkey lying down under its burden, though you wish to avoid helping him - you must help him." (23:5)

I come across someone who needs help.

Even if it's someone I don't like.

The Torah says I must help him.

It's a very powerful lesson.

Because it's not just for the sake of the animal.

Or for the sake of the other guy.

You know who gains the most from this law?

... I do.

▪ "... I was driving along, when I saw Harry working on his car. A flat tire. He had a jack in his hands and was trying to use it. Without success. Now I never did like Harry. Couldn't stand him in fact. It was something he said years ago. It really hurt. And I hadn't spoken to him since. I decided to keep driving. As if I saw nothing. It was his problem. Then I remembered. ... We just learned it last week. 'You shall not see your enemy's donkey lying under its burden and pretend you haven't seen it.' That was it. I couldn't just drive by. I don't have to speak to him, I told myself. I'll just help him change the tire – and leave. I parked a little way up the road and walked back. Without saying a word I took the jack from his hands. I tried to set it up. But it kept slipping. Changing a tire seems to go better when it's a joint effort. Okay. I'll speak to him. Just a little. So I asked him to hold the jack. Eventually it got done. Basically I did it. And Harry helped. When we finished, he was extremely thankful. He took out some cold drinks from his cooler. He gave me one. I took it. And we drank together. Maybe he's not such a bad guy after all, I thought. I don't know how to thank you, he said. It's all right, Harry. Anytime. I got up to leave. As I got to my car, I turned around. And said: Be well, Harry. As I drove away, I kept thinking: Amazing thing, this Torah. It tells you to help your enemy. And what happens? It turns out that you don't have one. ... Amazing."

Based on Masterplan (Aryeh Carmell; Feldheim Publishers)



Shabbat Shalom and best wishes for a wonderful week.

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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