

THOUGHTS on the PARSHA

RABBI DOVID FREDMAN

Ever been in the middle of a baseball game and it begins to rain? Dedicated ball players often make the decision, we'll play one more inning and take it from there. Another action-packed inning of hits, outs and sliding (intentionally or otherwise) into bases comes and goes, and the decision is made to continue playing. I believe that the difference between the choice of the abovedescribed ball players and, say, the decision that it's too hot in the Bais Medrash to learn, is at the heart of a central theme in this week's פרשה.

Allow me to explain.

"And עשו loved עשו." What was at the heart of this love? They both shared the גבורה of גבורה (strength). גבורה, as my Rebbe, (R' Aharon Lopiansky, shlita) describes it, is not simply

physical power or strength, but the ability to push through, with grit and tenacity, for something that is important to you. יצחק and עשו shared this essential quality. Though עשו used it for his own shortsighted purposes, יצחק appreciated the potential that עשו had to push without limit to achieve. יצחק turned this middah to his 'עבודת. He tenaciously clung to doing what was right and nothing could push him off that goal. His attitude was closeness to 'ה no matter what!

This is really behind many of the challenges we face in life. When we are met with less-thanoptimal circumstances, do we exempt ourselves or do we ask if this is the roadblock 'ה put in our way to challenge us to push a little harder?

SPARKS of MUSSAR

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VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

Rav Yisroel Lipkin of Salant -"Cheering People Up"

A disciple once saw R' Yisroel conversing about mundane things. Later, during a discussion on idle speech, the disciple asked R' Yisroel about that conversation. In his humility, R' Yisroel was not offended by the question. He explained that the man with whom he was speaking was depressed and it was a great chesed to cheer him up. "Now," said R' Yisroel, "how could I cheer him up? With talk of Mussar and fear of G-d? The only way was with light, pleasant conversation about worldly matters."

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"ועשה־לי מטעמים כאשר אהבתי והביאה לי ואכלה בעבור תברכך נפשי בטרם אמות" (כז, ד)

יצחק directed עשו to make a dish for him to eat and planned to then give ברכה of the בכור. The מסוק. He brings a פסוק from when רבקה was pregnant with עשו and עשו which mentions that the נביא told her that the older twin will serve the younger. This seems to mean that עשו will serve יעקב in the future. The fact that יצחק still wanted to give the עשו to עשו implies that רבקה never told her husband about this prophecy.

In this week's רמב"ן asks why she never told him, especially at this critical time. The רמב"ן explains that if יצחק knew, he still wouldn't give the ברכה to יעקב, or at least not with his full heart. This is because he loved עשו so much. Therefore, instead of giving it to either one of his sons, he would leave it to the hands of 'ה to decide which son would receive all which is included in the ברכה. Consequently, since רבקה knew that יצחק wouldn't give the ברכה with his full heart to יעקב, she decided not to tell him that it was יעקב and trick him into thinking that יעקב was עשו.

What רבקה did is truly questionable. Her

husband was the גדול, and his focus in life was serving הקדוש ברוך. He went through the עקידה - happily all for 'ה's will. With so much that was at stake, could יצחק really not give the ברכה with his whole heart to יעקב? Couldn't יצחק have been expected to put his feelings aside to follow the will of 'ה?

We can learn from this whole interaction that people are not robots. They have feelings that even the biggest יראי שמים like יצחק could not put aside. It is important for us to recognize this element of human nature and strive to be in touch with our feelings so that we can serve 'ה to the best of our abilities.

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I'm learning a lot with my rebbi, Rabbi Zachai, this year. In addition, I have a new general studies class called Engineering Principles. We've spent the beginning of the year using a website called CodeHS, learning a programming language called Karel. Karel is a computer program through which you are controlling a dog by giving it commands. This would seem easy enough but it's actually challenging because after doing more and more lessons it begins to become more and more difficult. For example in the beginning we just had to program commands to solve a challenge, but now we are moving into Javascript, programming graphics. My brother is a programmer and I think I finally understand his job and how difficult it can be. Graphics is actually way more time consuming than Karel. The computer programming is just part of the course. Soon we will move into physics, and other engineering topics - hence the name of the course - Engineering Principles.

Toin us this

MOTZEI SHABBOS!



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Women's Orchos Tzaddikim University City	Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim Chesterfield				
2 7	8	9	10	11	∰4:32PM 12	13
Women's Orchos Tzaddikim University City	Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim Chesterfield				
14	15	16	17	18	⁸⁶ 4:27PM 19	20
	Men's Basketball MTI Gym	Women's Orchos Tzaddikim Chesterfield				
21	22	23	24	25	å 4:24PM 26	27

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