



# The Greater Washington Community Kollel

# SHABBOS DELIGHTS

## TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"l

### What Does Hashem Really Want From Me?

Presented by Rabbi Zacharia Schwartz

In *Parshas Shelach*, the *Torah* teaches us the tragic story of the spies. As the Jewish nation is on the cusp of entering the Promised Land, the people ask Moshe to send spies to reconnoiter the land and determine how they might approach its conquest. Moshe sends distinguished leaders of the Jewish people to carry out this task, but unfortunately a vast majority of them return with a bad report. The spies assert that they cannot possibly conquer the land, causing the people to be angry with *Hashem* and Moshe. Ultimately, as punishment for their complaints, the entire nation above a certain age were forbidden to enter the land.

The widely asked and somewhat obvious question is why would distinguished leaders of the Jewish people, ostensibly righteous people, give a negative report about the land that *Hashem* had promised them? One suggestion is that these leaders wanted to prolong their stay in the desert because of the opportunity for spiritual connection afforded by life in the desert. While living in the desert, the Jewish people had all of their physical needs taken care of and they were constantly in close proximity to *Hashem's* presence. To these people, going into the land of Israel meant working the land to support themselves and having less time for spiritual pursuits.

Given the spies' altruistic reasoning, what did they do wrong? The answer is simple: desire for spiritual growth and closeness to *Hashem* never allow one to contravene *Hashem's* will. Wrong is wrong, no matter what the rationale.

The most altruistic of goals can lead one to make the gravest of mistakes. Let us each take this *Parsha* as a call to examine our actions and ask ourselves: is this really what *Hashem* wants from me?

**Wishing you a Good Shabbos!**

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## TABLE TALK

### Point to Ponder

**How is the land, is it fertile or is it lean? Are there trees in it or not? (13:20)**

Tree refers to a righteous person. Moshe wanted them to see if there were any righteous people living in the land that would have merits with which to protect the inhabitants (Bava Basra 15a).

Some lands are fertile lands, and some cannot yield a good produce. However, every land has trees growing there. For this reason the Gemara gave an allegoric explanation for the posuk. However, every posuk must have a simple meaning as well. What is the simple meaning of this posuk?

### Parsha Riddle

**How did Yehoshua's future position impact his actions in this Parsha?**

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

**How many Chumashim are there? (Hint: This week's Parsha)**  
**Answer: 7 (Bamidbar counts as three because of the upside down nuns in Parshas Beha'aloscha.)**

## HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

### HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

Parshas Shelach contains the commandment of tzitzis. The Talmud cites a dispute over whether women are obligated in this mitzvah: R. Shimon maintains that they are not, since women are generally exempt from time-bound positive mitzvos, and tzitzis is considered time-bound since the Torah says "that you may see it," which R. Shimon understands to exclude nighttime garments. Other sages maintain that women are obligated in the mitzvah, since they do not consider it time-bound. (Menachos 43a)

Although the Talmud records that certain sages did indeed affix tzitzis to their wives' garments, (ibid. and Sukkah 11a), the halachah follows the view of R. Shimon that women are exempt from the mitzvah. Women have generally, with some isolated exceptions, not practiced it, and Maharil declares that a woman who does is guilty of "conceit" (yuhara). (Agur, Tzitzis 27) Women do, however, fulfill other time-bound mitzvos from which they are exempt, such as shofar, daled minim, and sukkah, and so the poskim attempt to explain why they should not fulfill the mitzvah of tzitzis. (See Shut. Maharil Ha'Chadashos 7)

Some authorities maintain that wearing tzitzis for a woman violates the prohibition of "Male garb shall not be on a woman" (Targum Yonasan Devarim 22:5; Levush OC 17:2), but others maintain that the prohibition can be avoided by wearing a tzitzis garment that is different from those of men. (Shut. Igros Moshe OC 49; P'ninei Halachah Likutim 1 9:8 n. 3)

In contemporary times, some authorities have staunchly opposed the wearing of tzitzis by women since this is a practice associated with non-Orthodox denominations of Judaism (R. Hershel Schachter, Kol Ha'Edah Kulam Kedoshim, Beis Yitzchak 45) and a rejection of the Torah's assertion of distinctions between the sexes. (Igros Moshe ibid.) Even those who are more tolerant of the idea of a woman wearing tzitzis are critical of one who is lax in other areas of observance but insists on publicly wearing tzitzis, since she is thereby expressing opposition to the halachic tradition and / or utilizing the Torah and its mitzvos "for the promotion of various sorts of interests", and not observing them for the sake of Heaven. (P'ninei Halachah ibid. and [Tefillin] 9:13)

PRESENTED BY  
**RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH**

## KIDS KORNER

### Who Am I?

#### #1 WHO AM I?

1. I was given by Moshe.
2. I came from a woman.
3. I took two dots from the son's segol.
4. I changed a name into a prayer.

#### #2 WHO AM I?

1. I name your bread.
2. I could cause death.
3. I am for the Kohen.
4. I am not a bride.

#### Last Week's Answers

**#1 Lights of the Menorah** (We are seven, yet we caused eight, We face middle, We were up a ramp, Replacement of dedicating.)

**#2 Leviim** (We waved but were not saying hello, The first-bom replacement, We are usually second up, We are movers.)

*The raffle has been postponed until after the shuls are reopened. We are still accepting entries to the raffle.*

All children 13 and under who answer a "Who Am I?" correctly will be entered into a raffle to **WIN a Claw Machine Arcade Game**



Visit [gwckollel.org](http://gwckollel.org) to submit your answers. **Answer as many as you can. Each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chances of winning!**

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