

Mishpatim 5781
February 12th, 2021

NAGEELA SHABBOS

Have-a

SEASON 5 EPISODE 17

a kid friendly publication of Nageela West Coast Joyfully Jewish Experiences



Trading Up

by Rabbi Dani Locker

••••• Torah LTE 7:41 PM 75%
< Messages Chiya Details

You must feel terrible.
You lost \$600! What a
lousy day this is for you.

No not really. I feel pretty
great!

I don't understand, why
aren't you freaking out
that you lost so much
money?

Because I didn't lose the
money. I spent it. On a
brand new PS5 and a
sweet gaming chair! I'm
actually quite happy with
my choice.

Aren't you sad to be
down \$600 in your bank
account?

Not really. I made a
conscious trade and I am
much happier having my
PS5 than having money
sitting and collecting dust
in Gringotts.

📷 iMessage Send

That conversation took place between the great Rabbi Yochanan (180-279 C.E.) and his student, Rabbi Chiya Bar Abba. Well, I can't guarantee that every word was EXACTLY the same. OK, fine. I'll tell you the real story, but it's not nearly as interesting as my imagination made it. Here goes:

Rabbi Yochanan and Rabbi Chiya were traveling together in northern Israel (rumor had it they were on their way home from a ski trip at Mount Hermon, but I can't confirm those reports). They passed a number of properties that Rabbi Yochanan had once owned. A field, an olive orchard and a vineyard; all had been owned by Rabbi Yochanan, but he had sold them to pay for his expenses so he could continue to study Torah. Rabbi Chiya started crying, because Rabbi Yochanan had lost so many valuable possessions and now had little left.

Rabbi Yochanan calmed
Rabbi Chiya down



Candle lighting

Henderson	5:01
Las Vegas	5:01
San Diego	5:13
Reno/ Tahoe	5:14
Irvine	5:13
Los Angeles	5:16
Oakland	5:27
Park City	5:39
Scottsdale	5:51

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continued on next page

with this explanation: "My son, I sold something that was given in 6 days (worldly possessions were created during the 6 first days) and bought something that was given in 40 days (the Torah was given with Moses spending 40 days in heaven)." Forgetting the math for a moment, Rabbi Yochanan's message is powerful and clear. "I did not lose my field and my vineyard. I spent them wisely on something far more valuable."

An artist hasn't lost money when he buys his paints, nor a symphony violinist when acquiring an expensive instrument. Athletes who hire personal trainers and doctors who pay for medical school... these are all trades for something more valuable.

In Rabbi Yochanan's example, it is the wonderful, life-changing study of Torah which was worth trading everything for.

We measure the value of things by what we're willing to trade for them. You may end up paying more money for Kosher food. It will cost more to attend a Jewish school or Jewish camp. Keeping Shabbat and holidays, giving to charity, being honest in business... all of these could be looked at as costing more. Let's look at it like Rabbi Yochanan or a PS5. They don't cost us more. That is a trade worth making. A bit of money for the opportunity to live a life committed, disciplined and holy. So trade up. Trade up for God.

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WEST COAST JEWNIOR NCSJ CHAPTER WARS 3

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN AN NCSJ RABBI

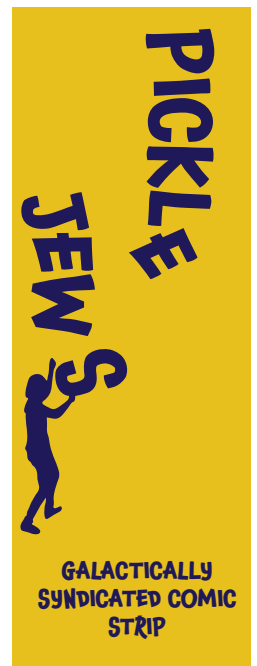
A 'STUMP THE RABBI' QUIZ GAME SHOW!

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THIS WEEK

deep thoughts

ALL THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN TELEKENESIS, PLEASE RAISE MY HAND



Stump the Rabbi is a forum where kids can ask ANY Jewish question.

Have a question? Please send it in to stump@nageelawest.org

Questions here are real. Names and some wording have been changed.

Note: We call this 'Stump The Rabbi' for fun, but that's not really the point. The goal is to learn something important in an interesting way.

Stump the Rabbi



#159 Horizontal Commandments

Hi Rabbi,

I've heard of the golden rule: "Treat others how you would want to be treated." That sounds like a pretty good rule to live life by. Does Judaism actually give us more detailed rules about how to treat other people? Isn't it enough to just live by the golden rule?

Thanks
Harrison Zontal

Dear Harry Zontal,

Let me tell you a story about a football player named Tom Patrick. That's a completely random name. I don't know what you're talking about. Tom was the best player on his High School varsity team. He worked really, really hard to get an athletic scholarship, and he was finally signed by one of the top College Football teams in the country, with a real chance to play in a major bowl game. From the time he was young, Tom had practiced. His daily work-out routine was extremely intense, and he worked hard to be in the best shape possible. He threw the ball, caught the ball, sometimes he even ate with the ball.

The first day of the season came, and Tom was excited! He stepped on the field and the coach told him to run play C7.

"Play C, what now?" Tom asked.

"Play C7!" replied the coach.

"From page 14 in the playbook."

"Playbook. Umm, sure. The playbook. I thought that was meant as a paperweight

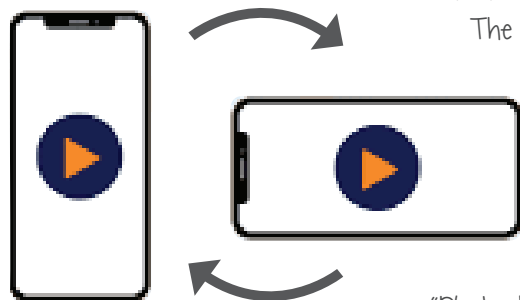
or something."

The coach's face turned purple. "Do you mean to tell me that you expected to step on the field in a major college football game without studying the playbook and knowing every play backwards and forwards?"

"But why is it all necessary?" Tom wanted to know. "I practice football all day every day. That should be good enough!"

"Son, listen to me, and don't ever forget this. If you ever want to be serious about anything in your life, you can't just 'try'. You need to carefully plan out your moves. If you want to be successful in business, in sports or in relationships on a high level, there are rules and strategies that need to be followed. Everyone on this field is a great athlete. To beat them, you need to get to the next level. That's why we have a playbook."

So many cultures, religious and social circles talk about being good to other people. Kindness, care and love are spoken about all over the world. How do you know when a culture is just talking a good game, and when they are



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1

3

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DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST
GIRLS SESSION

1

5

6

DAYS TO CAMP NAGEELA WEST
BOYS SESSION

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Stump the Rabbi_{continued}

really serious about taking your interpersonal performance to the next level? I'll tell you how. When a culture or religion has actual laws detailing exactly how to do business honestly, how to give charity and how to speak to others, that tells you that it's a true priority.

Moses brought two tablets with him as his carry-on luggage when he came down from Sinai. One tablet has what I call 'vertical' mitzvot. Picture a set of vertical/ up- down arrows. These are the commandments that tell us how to act in our relationship with

God. The second tablet is all horizontal. Picture sideways arrows. These are the commandments that guide us on how to act toward other people. Wait. That means that HALF of the commandments in the table are about how we treat other people! Also, why did they allow him onboard with two carry ons? Hmm, maybe because one of them is a 'personal' item.

You mentioned 'the golden rule' which is taken from a statement of the great sage Hillel. But it's misquoted. And it leaves out half. A man who wanted to become Jewish came to Hillel and asked the Rabbi to teach him the whole Torah while he was standing

on one foot. Hillel told him, "That which you hate, don't do to someone else. That is the entirety of the Torah. The rest is details. Go and learn it." The golden rule is great! But look at what Hillel said. "Go and learn the details." It's not enough to try not to hurt people or even to work really hard to treat them kindly. We must learn the details. Stay tuned for some more details on horizontal mitzvot.

Have a Nageela Shabbat,

the Rabbi



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to Madden Marks who got called to the Torah this week! Great job, Madden!

Leah Friedler
Bennett Warnick
Gideon-Peters
Tehilla Gross
Abigail Rivera
Sam Hodara
Matan Adelson



A snail tried to remove his shell to move faster.
But it just made him more sluggish.

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