



Beth Israel Congregation

Rabbi Mordechai Shapiro z"l Sanctuary

Weekly Announcements

770 W 40th St. Miami Beach, FL 33140

ph: 305.538.1251

email: info@bethisraelmiami.org

www.bethisraelmiami.org

Rabbi Donald Bixon – Rabbi
Parshat Balak

Abraham Galbut – President
July 23rd 2016 17 Tammuz 5776

Erev Shabbat Schedule

Mincha	7:00 PM
Early Candle Lighting	7:20 PM
Latest Candle Lighting	7:55 PM

Shabbat Schedule

Hashkama Minyan	7:30 AM
Main Minyan	9:00 AM
Mincha	7:45 PM
Maariv	8:40 PM
Shabbat Ends	8:50 PM

Fast of Tammuz 17 Sunday July 24th

Fast begins	5:26 AM
Shacharit	7:00 & 8:00 AM
Mincha	7:40 PM
Maariv	8:11 PM
Fast Ends	8:40 PM

Monday July 25th – Thursday July 28th

Shacharit: 7:00 & 8:00 AM
Mincha: Sun-Thurs 8:00 PM

Weekday Class Schedule

Tuesday at 9:15 am

Women's Parsha Class

Wednesday After Maariv

Advanced Talmud Class

There will be an additional Shacharit minyan Monday –Friday only at 8:45 am

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Jeffrey Album, Judy Herskowitz,
Ronalee Galbut, Ezra Michael
Newfield, Lee Goldberg

As the Beth Israel Fiscal year ends, Beth Israel would like to close out our books as efficiently as possible.

Please make sure your account is up to date. If you have any questions please call the office.

Mazal Tov To

Sima and Jonathan Burstein on the birth of a baby boy. Mazal Tov to grandparents Gilda and Jack Burstein and Mindy and Mark Friedlander

This weekly announcements is Sponsored By:

Nina and J. Jerry Schechter in memory of Jerry's beloved sister Selma Schechter a"h

Guest Speakers:

Rabbi Shlomo Stilerman;
YEHUDI Educator
will be giving the Shabbat Morning Drasha

Rabbi Yekusiel Stern
will be speaking at Seudat Shlishit

**“If You See Something Say Something”
Help Keep Our Shul Safe**

Youth Groups Announcements

Pre-Groups begin @ 9:15

Regular Groups begin @ 9:45

Throughout the summer Beth Israel Congregation will provide Youth Groups under the direction of Atara Raab that will take place in the youth house only. Please make you sure you walk your children into the youth house and pick them up after davening.

DVAR TORAH BY: DR. ARI CIMENT

WHAT IS THE TIP-OF-THE TONGUE BILAAM TEST!?!?

אמר רבי יוסי בן קסמא, פעם אחת הייתי מהלך בדרך ופגע בי אדם אחד, ונתן לי שלום, והחזרתי לו שלום. אמר לי, רבי, מאיזה מקום אתה. אמרתי לו, מעיר גדולה של חכמים ושל סופרים אני. אמר לי, רבי, רצונך שתדור עמנו במקומנו, ואני אתן לך אלף אלפים דינרי זהב ואבנים טובות ומרגליות. אמרתי לו, בני, אם אתה נותן לי כל כסף וזהב ואבנים טובות ומרגליות שבעולם, איני דר אלא במקום.... תורה

Said Rabbi Yossi the son of Kisma: Once, I was traveling and I encountered a man. He greeted me and I returned his greetings. Said he to me: "Rabbi, where are you from?" Said I to him: "From a great city of sages and scholars, am I." Said he to me: "Rabbi, would you like to dwell with us in our place? **I will give you a million dinars of gold, precious stones and pearls.**" Said I to him: "If you were to give me all the silver, gold, precious stones and pearls in the world, I would not dwell anywhere but in a place of Torah!!!"

QUESTION: Always wondered the following: Why does this Mishna in ethics go over the whole give-and-take here, it seems redundant and frankly overstated!?!?!

Also, in this weeks parsha, Bilaam initially staves off Balak's servants by saying, *“Even if Balak gives me a house full of silver and gold, I cannot do anything small or great that would transgress the word of the Lord, my God.”* Rashi says the following on that pasuk: **“a house full of silver and gold”**- This shows us that he was greedy and coveted



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other people's money. He said, "He ought to give me all his silver and gold, since he has to hire many armies, and even then, it is questionable whether he will be victorious or not, whereas I will certainly succeed."- [Mid. Tanchuma Balak; Num. Rabbah 20:10]

I don't get it! When Rav Yossi from *Ethics* says "if you were to give me all the silver, gold etc.", we don't question him and assume that he's full-on sincere but with Bilaam, Rashi informs us that his statement of "Even if Balak gives me a house full of silver and gold" shows that he is satiated with greed and insincerity!?!?!?

ANSWER: The reason why the whole give-and-take is mentioned in the mishna in *Ethics* is to show that the utmost priority of a community leader/Rav or even a layman really should not be money/materialism/wealth. "Silver, gold, precious stones" should only be discussed if you are asked a question directly about them but shouldn't be at the tip of your tongue. Rav Yossi thus only said "If you were to give me all the silver, gold, precious

stones and pearls" because he was asked if he would take them to leave his place...

Bilaam however was not asked about silver and gold but brought it up on his own showing his materialistic nature. If we engross ourselves in money talk, we will talk about money. It is human nature to talk about things that we value and clearly silver and gold were on Bilaam's tip of his tongue, unusual for a prophet of G-d!!!

The point is that we should take heed about what really is at the tip of our tongues. Are we thinking about money/wealth/luxuries more than education/health/spirituality? Would we pass the Bilaam test? Or are we more like Rav Yossi, who has to be reminded about materialistic pursuits in order to discuss it..

TAKEAWAY MESSAGE: We are what we speak. If unsolicited talk begins with red Dodge-Chargers and Heat lower bowl seats (you know who you are- i.e.: me), perhaps it is time to reset. The whole give-and-take of the Rav Yossi story was to show this lesson that unsolicited talk

should not be replete with the mundane. Unsolicited, Bilaam revealed what his brain was imagining- silver and gold; his mundane nature was revealed! If you think holy, you speak holy and vice versa. THE TIP-OF-TONGUE BILAAM TEST CAN BE USED TO ASSESS SOMEONES UNDERLYING NATURE; WOULD WE PASS THE TIP-OF-THE-TONGUE BILAAM TEST!?!?!?

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bikur Cholim Miami Beach

If you know anyone that could use help please refer them to Bikur Cholim. See how you can get involved in Bikur Cholim or donate.

Check out the website

Bikurcholimmiamicom.org