



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 Behaalotekha

Abraham Galbut – President
June 25th 2016 19 Sivan 5776

Erev Shabbat Schedule

Mincha 7:00 PM
Early Candle Lighting 7:20 PM
Latest Candle Lighting 7:58 PM

Shabbat Schedule

Hashkama Minyan 7:30 AM
Main Minyan 9:00 AM

Rabbi Bixon's Class
Corrected time 7:00 PM

Mincha: 7:50 PM
Maariv 8:45 PM
Shabbat Ends 8:55 PM

Sunday June 19th - Friday June 24th
Shacharit: 7:00 & 8:00 AM
Mincha: Sun-Thurs 8:05 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:

Thomas Weiss, David Gray,
Howard Abrahams, Larry Bernstein,
Sara Raizel Fink, Leo Shwitz,
Candace Muhrad

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Candace and David Muhrad
Becky and Rabbi Aaron Assaraf
Adina and Dave Barouche
Alexis and Yechiel Ciment
Lily and Howard Estrin
Eva and Alexander Rosner
Rachel and Ari Schuster
Ahuva and Shlomy Slatu
Blimie and Jonathan Levy
Rena and Norman Turoff

Mazal Tov To

-Lisi and Daniel Wolfson
on the Bat Mitzvah of their
daughter, Yakira

This Week's Kiddush

is Sponsored By

Lisi and Daniel
Wolfson
In honor of Yakira's
Bat Mitzvah

This week's Announcements are Sponsored by

Pepita and Simon Bronner in
Commemoration of the 58th
yahrtzeit of their beloved father
Bernardo Weinstock
חיים ברוך בן דוד מאיר ז"ל

Rabbi Bixon's last class of the
Pirkei Avos series will be this
Shabbat

Parshat Behaalotekha.
At 7:00 pm
Note: Corrected time

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

TRUE OR FALSE: THE SHORTER
THE TEFILAH, THE BETTER?
רבי שמעון אומר, ... וכשאתה מתפלל, אל
תעש תפלתך קבע, אלא רחמים ותחנונים
לפני המקום ברוך הוא,

“Rabbi Shimon would say: ... When
you pray, do not make your prayers
קבע/routine, but [an entreaty of]
mercy and a supplication before the
Almighty...” (ETHICS 2:10)

So, prayer needs to contain רחמים in
order to be efficacious. The
quintessential prayer is found in this
weeks parsha after Miriam spoke
Lashon Hara and was smitten with
leprosy. Moshe screamed out: ויצעק
...אל נא רפא נא לה...Rashi brings down
2 midrashim: “Why did Moses not
pray at length? So that the Israelites
should not say, “His sister is in
distress, yet he stands and prolongs
his prayer.” [Sifrei Beha’alothecha
1:42:13, Tanchuma Tzav 13]

Another interpretation: So that Israel
should not say, “ For his sister he
prays at length, but for our sake he
does not pray at length.” - [Midrash
Aggadah, Yalkut Shim’oni, Midrash
Lekach Tov]

QUESTION/S: Acc to Rashi's first
medrash, the implication seems to be
that long prayer is undesirable; after
all, why would the Israelites find
fault with Moshe praying at length
unless there was something wrong



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with doing that!. Conversely, the alternative 2nd medrash implies that long prayer is actually desirable! And so to reiterate the above question, is long prayer good or not? Also, who cares what the “Israelites would say”? If long prayer was needed to ensure Miriam’s well being, would/should Moshe withhold such remedious (completely made-up word but it should be a word) tefilah?!? Also, Moses talks to G-d and is he really going to care what gossiping Israelites say about him?!?!?!?!

(In answering these interesting questions, we should understand what the Tanna in Avos meant by not making our prayers קָבַע/SET and that prayers must have elements of רַחֲמִים to be successful...)? ANSWER: The gemara in Brachot 32b highlights the benefit of long prayer: If one prays long, his prayer does not pass unheeded!”. Along with teshuvah and tzedakah, we traditionally know that being marbeh in tefilah is generally viewed positively. When the Tanna says that Tefilah should be SET, this is classically understood that tefilah should be rote; it shouldn’t be a fixed passage devoid of fluidity. But it can also refer to those praying as well; the tefilah should be done in a way *that changes the one praying* so that

he/she demonstrates they are not SET but rather “moved” by whatever they are praying about. Rachamim is also mystically related to changing something about you so that your prayer can have a mystical change on whatever you are praying about. When Moses prayed on behalf of Miriam who spoke Lashon Hara, then, Moshe wanted G-d to answer his prayer and so he used the prayer itself to show that he was “moved” by her actions, changed for the better. How so? If he would have davened long for Miriam, the Israelites would think she needed heavy duty prayer to clear her of sin. That would have been essentially passive Lashon Hara (אַבְקָ לְשׁוֹן הָרַע)! Moshe understood the danger of Lashon Hara and did not want the Israelites to misconstrue his long tefilah. He thus purposely shortened the tefilah out of extra sensitivity for Lashon Hara considerations. This is an example of not just saying tefilah out of rote, but applying/adapting your very tefilah to the situation at hand!!! And so the answer is: Long prayer is usually ideal but prayer does not have to rote/set and here it is adapted out of respect for Miriam; Moses cared “what the Israelites would say” because he was moved by the Lashon Hara that affected his

sister; that very movement ensured his prayer was to be efficacious!

TAKEAWAY MESSAGE: Moshe’s paradigmatic short but sweet prayer for the healing of his leprous sister showed that he was not קָבַע/SET when he davened. He was so moved by the horrific repercussions of her sin, that he did not want to potentially sin with his very tefilah, by misleading people to think that she needed lots of tefilah to heal her! AND SO LONG PRAYER THUS IS GENERALLY PREFERRED OVER SHORT PRAYER, UNLESS YOU HAVE AN AWESOME KIDDUSH WITH CHOLENT WAITING OR YOUR SISTER HAS LEPROSY....

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.com