



Parshas Vayigash

A Parsha Story for the Shabbos Table

In parshas Vayigash, Yosef tells his brothers not to feel bad about having sold him down to Egypt, because it was really Hashem's plan that Yosef be there to prepare a way to help everyone survive the famine. Sometimes things that happen in our lives look bad, but Hashem is always looking out for us – ultimately, everything He does is for the good.

Asher finished counting all the bricks in the wall for the 6th time. There were 118. He was bored. Bored an impatient. All the other kids had gone home already, but his mom was late to carpool. It was just him and the principal, Rabbi Zaitchik, left waiting.

"When is she going to get here?" moaned Asher.

"I'm sure she'll be here any moment," replied Rabbi Zaitchik, looking at his watch. Asher slumped dramatically in his chair. "Come ooooooon!" he groaned. He slid down out of his chair onto the ground.

"You seem a little frustrated," noted Rabbi Zaitchik. Asher sighed.

What would you say to Asher if you were Rabbi Zaitchik?

Rabbi Zaitchik looked at Asher. Asher looked at Rabbi Zaitchik.

"I'm gonna go to the bathroom," muttered Asher. He picked up his sagging body and heaved it towards the bathroom.

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When he walked into the bathroom and turned on the light, he noticed that there was a puddle on the floor underneath one of the sinks. Into this puddle was trickling a steady drip-drip-drip from a leak behind the sink. "That doesn't look good," he remarked to himself.

He hustled back to Rabbi Zaitchik, who was at the same time hustling over to him. "Asher! Your mother's here!"

"FINALLY!" exclaimed Asher. "Oh, but Rabbi Zaitchik, there's a leak in the bathroom. Maybe you should check that out."

"Oh?" replied Rabbi Zaitchik. "Thanks Asher, I'll take a look. Have a good night!"

Later that evening, Asher got a phone call at home. It was Rabbi Zaitchik. "Asher, I wanted to express my hakaras hatov to you. I looked at that leak. It turned out to be pretty serious. I've got an emergency plumbing team working on it right now. If you hadn't seen that when you did, we would have had a serious problem – we probably would have had to shut down school tomorrow while they fixed it! It was a huge bracha that you spotted that problem for us. Thank you so much!"

"Oh, um, you're welcome," responded a surprised Asher. "I guess it was a good thing I was there when I was!"

What situation put Asher in the right place to spot the leak?

How should we respond when we find ourselves in a situation that looks bad?

What if we don't end up seeing the good that comes out of a bad situation?

Good Shabbos!

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