



Table Talk



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Birthdays



Daniel	Magid
Ellis	Horwich
Rachel	Miller
Jason	Stein
Tal	Kasuto
Lucy	Kaye
Gideon	Prais
David	Solomons
Gabriella	Benson
Avishav	Engle
Rebecca	Flasz
Matthew	Jackson
Daniella	Kelly
Nathan	Orr
Tony	Samuels
Alexander	Glassman

A Bite of Inspiration

Parashat Chukat-Balak

In this week's Torah portion, a king named Balak wanted to curse the Jewish people. He sought out a prophet named Bilaam to carry out this wish and sent his officers to summon him. Bilaam asked Hashem if he could go, but Hashem immediately told him not to go and curse the Jewish people because they were a people who were "blessed." But when Bilaam relayed this answer to the king's officers, Bilaam left that part out and only said: "...Hashem refuses to let me go with you."

Hashem had told Bilaam two things. First, Hashem emphatically told Bilaam not to go and second, to not curse the Jewish people because they are blessed. But when Bilaam relayed this simple and brief response, he left out 50 percent of what Hashem said!

Hashem made it very clear to Bilaam that it would be completely futile to even attempt to curse the Jews because they are a blessed nation. But to an arrogant and haughty prophet -- which Bilaam certainly was -- he could never bring himself to admit his own powers lacked any limitations. So instead of telling the king's delegates that Bilaam was simply the wrong man for the job and would be completely ineffective and incapable of doing the king's bidding, he chose to omit all of this and "pass the buck" to Hashem by only saying that Hashem said he wasn't allowed to go.

Most people are clear that Hashem gives us unique strengths and talents, things that we do "naturally". At the same time it's clear that Hashem *didn't* give us

certain skills and strengths, we all have weaknesses. While some of these weaknesses are things we might continually work on to become better people, there are some things that we are just plain not good at, and that's just how it is!

Those who can readily and easily admit that they aren't "good" at something aren't showing weakness or incompetence. Rather, it demonstrates honesty, strength and self-confidence. Others will look at this person and see someone who is comfortable with the strengths and talents that they DO have and need not proclaim to all they meet that they're good at everything.

Bilaam was just too proud to admit he couldn't do what someone had requested of him. Let's learn from this the next time you're asked to do something that you're either not that skilled at or are outright incapable of doing. Contrary to what Bilaam believed, telling people you're not the right person for the job will actually make you shine in their eyes, because it means you have the confidence to say so. It also sends the message that when you do take on a task, you unquestionably believe that you'll deliver great results.

After Dinner Joke

A guy walks into a bar and demands to know "Who's the strongest in here?"

The toughest guy looks at him and says "I am the strongest around here!"

The other guy politely asks "Can you help me push my car to the petrol station?"



שבת
שלום

Side Dish

Student Associates

Two weeks ago King David opened its doors to three students from the University of Manchester to experience life as a teacher. As one of these lucky three I have had the pleasure of shadowing teachers in the Religious Studies and History department. All the staff and pupils have genuinely helped at every chance and made our placements here very insightful! I have helped year 10 make

Challot for Shabbat, created the school's first multi faith wall display and have the chance to attend Sports Day, a school delight I thought I had left behind when I left school three years ago!

We, Charlotte Parker, Dayle Collins and Kevin Keelan would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the staff and pupils for being so welcoming to us and allowing us to experience so much whilst on our placement!

Celebrating Success

Good luck to all those competing in sports day!

Results in an extended section next week .



מזל טוב