



## *Parshas Eikev 2021, seeing it through*

*This week's Parsha Perspective is in loving memory of Shlomo Ben Edward, Edward Ben Efraim & Yirachmiel Daniel Ben Tova Basha.*

*This Parsha Perspective is in the merit of the Lubavitcher Rebbe's father, Reb Levi Yitzchak Schneerson. He was an immense Torah scholar and Kabbalist who gave his life to preserving Judaism in the Soviet Union. In his honor, may we merit the coming of Moshiach and the ultimate Redemption!*

Our Parsha continues with Moshe's final address to the Jewish people. He tells them that if they follow the Torah's path and keep the Mitzvahs, they will be blessed above all people. He reminds them that they did not inherit the land due to their own righteousness. But instead, because of the promise G-d made to our forefathers.

Moshe recounts how he broke the Luchos on his way down from Har Sinai when he saw them sinning with the Golden Calf. He also tells them the second paragraph of the Shema, where we are told the physical rewards that we will receive for observing the Torah or the consequences if we don't, Heaven Forbid.

However, a question comes to mind: After telling the Jewish nation how important it is to keep G-d's commandments, Moshe reiterates it again. He says (8:1), *"you shall observe all the commandment that G-d has instructed you today so that you will live, thrive, and inherit the land that G-d promised to your forefathers."* But why does Moshe use the singular term "**Mitzvah**," which means **a single commandment**, rather than "Mitzvos," which implies many commandments?!

Furthermore, if Moshe was actually saying to the Jewish nation, *“all the Mitzvah/singular commandment that G-d has told you today.”* What Mitzvah or law is Moshe referring to?!

The Sforno (*Rav Ovadiah Sforno, an Italian commentary and doctor from the early 1500s*) answers these questions by looking at the previous Pasukim. At the end of chapter 7, Moshe says that if the Jewish people follow the Torah, G-d will give them Israel without any injury or even a fight. Therefore, Moshe repeats the Mitzvah to burn the idols of the nations who lived in Israel at that time. As the Pasuk writes (7:25), *“You shall burn the images of their G-ds and not desire the silver and gold on them; for it is an abomination to G-d.”*

However, Rashi (*Rav Shlomo Yitzchaki, the leading commentary on the Torah*) gives a deeper and more profound explanation. He writes Moshe was not referencing or hinting at a specific Mitzvah but rather **at each Mitzvah as a whole**. Moshe is explaining to the Jewish people that they must complete each Mitzvah in its entirety to receive its reward.

When doing a Mitzvah, we must carry it out and see it through till it’s accomplished. Although this may seem difficult, the reward for persisting to complete a Mitzvah is not only living but **thriving** in G-d’s land.

The Gemara in Taanis (25A) relates a story about one of the bigger sages of the Mishnah, Rav Chanina Ben Dosa. A Torah scholar who was awfully poor but extremely pious and holy. The greatest rabbis of that Era would come to him for blessings because of his ability to pray and petition before G-d.

Once, a few chickens wandered into the yard of Rav Chanina Ben Dosa. He collected them and looked for their owner to give them back to do the Mitzvah of returning a lost object. But after searching for a while with no luck, he gathered the chickens and brought them home.

He told his wife what happened and gave specific instructions to care for them but did not benefit from them. As time passed, the chicken grew older and began to lay their own eggs creating noise and chaos in their home.

So Rav Chanina Ben Dosa took them to the market to sell them and bought goats instead. A while later, he overheard someone talking about their missing chickens in the marketplace.

Rav Chanina Ben Dosa approached this person and asked if he had any signs to prove ownership. The man responded that he used to tie a red string around the chicken’s leg to show they were his. Rav Chanina Ben Dosa realized this man was the rightful owner and brought him to his backyard. He showed him the herd of goats and said that he was now a proud owner of a large herd of goats.

The man was astonished; he asked the Rav how this happened?! Rav Chanina Ben Dosa replied that it was through his careful and rigorous observance of the Mitzvah to return a lost object.

The lesson we learned from here is ever more prevalent as we approach the month of Elul. It is a month of self-introspection and reflection on our observance of the Torah and connection to G-d.

In our daily life, we must understand that to change your life or become successful is all about following through. Many people have great business ideas and concepts but never actually implement them to their full potential.

Many people want to improve and transform themselves for the better but do not follow through with their plans. We mostly have access to the same knowledge and information; the difference is who has the determination and resolve to see it through. **The lesson Moshe is conveying to the Jewish people is to have the courage and tenacity to follow through with their dreams and aspirations!**

***“There is a six-word formula for success:  
Think things through - then follow through.”***

*-Eddie Rickenbacker*

*(the most successful fighter pilot & Medal of Honor recipient from World War 1)*

*Have a meaningful Shabbos,  
Rabbi Sholom Yemini*