



## *Parshas Mishpatim 2019, the long game*

*This week's Parsha Perspective is in honor of the Refuah Shlema of HaRav Amitai Ben Shoshanna, Shaul Ben Berta and Lior Gabay Ben Michal.*

*This week's Parsha Perspective is in loving memory of Leah Mintche Bas Ya'akov Yosef, Edward Ben Efraim, Shlomo Ben Edward, and Yirachmiel Daniel Ben Gedalia. May their souls be uplifted and their memories a blessing.*

Our Parsha begins with G-d giving Moshe Rabbeinu and the Jewish nation fifty-three new practical commandments.

He gave them the laws regarding the treatment of slaves, personal injury, murder, and the requirements of a person who is a guardian of another's property. The Mitzvah to see the Beis Hamikdash three times a year, the laws of shemittah, sacrifices, and returning a lost object.

Moshe then tells the Jewish nation what rewards they will receive for keeping G-d's commandments. There will be no miscarriages, the borders of Israel will grow, and they will conquer the land without opposition.

The Parsha ends with G-d summoning Moshe Rabbienu back up Mt. Sinai to study the Torah for forty days and forty nights. Moshe told the seventy elders that his brother, Aaron, and his nephew, Chur, would answer any questions they had in his absence.

G-d's glory set the mountain top ablaze as Moshe began to ascend the mountain with his most faithful student, Yeshuah Ben Nun. The whole Jewish nation watched as Moshe disappeared into the clouds from afar.

A question comes to mind, last week's Torah portion spoke of the most physical representation of G-d in this world. The Jewish nation heard lightning and saw thunder, G-d himself came down to deliver his commandments. Every man, woman, and child saw these amazing moments no matter their level or status. G-d tells the Jewish people that they are his chosen nation.

You would expect the follow-up commandments to be of lofty and spiritual stature. They should be laws of sacrifices and prayer, laws concerning purity and impurity, laws that govern the spiritual life of a Jew and help them connect to G-d.

However, G-d enacted laws that govern the physical life of a Jew, laws that pertain to the mundane everyday life of a Jew. Why did G-d focus on the physical aspect of life rather than focusing on the spiritual side of it, a part which would enhance our connection to him?

Judaism is the religion that encompasses the entire life of a Jew. The Torah has laws for any situation or occasion we may encounter. Whether they are happy celebrations such as birth and marriage or the opposite, heaven forbid. We are given guidelines on how we are to act in those times because G-d is not just in the spiritual sphere but also in our physical realm.

By G-d giving guidelines that govern the physical life of a Jew before dealing with the spiritual side. G-d is telling the Jewish people that if we want to obtain any level of holiness, we first must find spirituality in our mundane everyday tasks. That will lead us up to a level where we can enjoy a spiritual connection with G-d.

For example, when you want to construct a home, you first must build a strong foundation because if not, nothing you create will last. The same goes for our connection with G-d. We must develop a healthy physical, emotional and mental connection with G-d before obtaining a true and everlasting spiritual relationship with G-d.

In our daily life, we must understand that to obtain genuine success in life, a successful mindset must permeate every aspect of our life, not just the monetary aspect of it. If not, our success could be shallow and can be destroyed at the first sign of trouble.

That is why we see people we think are at the pinnacle of success, the founders of Fortune 500 companies or A-list actors and actresses, who still suffer from anxiety or depression. This often leads them towards alcohol or drug addiction, and heaven forbid, even suicide.

For the success they have in one aspect of their life but is not spread to the rest of their life, and therefore they can become unbalanced, and to remain stable, they look in the wrong places to try and fix it.

Therefore it is imperative that you allow your success to extend itself to every aspect of your life, physically, spiritually, mentally and emotionally. So when times get tough, we will not crack because we are balanced and have a solid foundation to hold us together and push us to success.

***"What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals."***

*Have a meaningful Shabbos,  
Rabbi Sholom Yemini*