

SHULWEEK

DVAR TORAH: Matos-Maasei by Rabbi Baruch Lederman

The Torah gives very explicit instructions. The Torah tells us what to do. It also tells us how, when and where to do it. Every detail is spelled out. Just like using a washing machine, when you read and adhere to the directions, all will be well. If not, things will go awry, as the following true story, documented in Parsha Parables by Rabbi Mordechai Kamenetzky, illustrates:

It was the eve of December 25th, 1776. General George Washington was reeling from his crushing defeats in New York. In a bold and daring move, he had decided to cross the ice-filled Delaware River and attack Trenton, New Jersey. He planned to surprise the thousands of Hessian troops guarding that portal. He did not know that his surprise attack was almost no surprise. A farmer, a British sympathizer knocked on the door where the Hessian Commander, Colonel Johann Rall was attending a holiday party. Rall had always scoffed at the thought of attack, boasting, "Those clod-hoppers will not attack us!"

The farmer had heard of the plans and seen the movement across the shore. He wanted to get the message to the Colonel but he could not get past a servant who accepted a note which spelled out Washington's plans and handed it to the commander. Rall, however, was in the middle of a card game and would not be interrupted. He stuffed the paper in his pocket without even glancing at it. He continued playing through the night until he collapsed from drunken exhaustion.

At dawn, Washington attacked. His ammunition was so waterlogged that his troops could hardly fire a shot. They did not need to. The Hessians were drowsy from the previous night's festivities and the Colonial Army's bayonets were as sharp as the troops' spirit. After an overwhelming onslaught in which the colonists took nearly 900 prisoners, Rall who was mortally wounded, surrendered. As the doctor cut away his jacket, a note fell out. Rall read it and mournfully said, "If I only had read this last night, I would not be here today."

The Rosh Yeshiva ztl, told us that when he was a youth, he told his father, Reb Dovid Leibowitz ztl, that he was thinking about becoming a doctor instead of a Rabbi. His father replied, "Try preventive medicine." He was telling his son that if we learn and follow the dictates of the Torah our lives will be enriched both physically and spiritually.

Dedicated by Anonymous for the release of Gilad Shalit.

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SanDiego CandleLighting, schedule of services, classes, events: Go to www.kehillastorah.org/shulweek.html.

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Join Young Israel San Diego for a TziTzit tying workshop on Sunday July 18, 2010 at 10am. FMI visit yisd.youngisrael.org

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SHATNEZ CHECKING: For suits or dresses that need to be checked for Shatnez, contact trained Shatnez checker Debbi Lederman, 858-613-0222, debbilederman@yahoo.com.

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To book Rabbi Lederman for a speaking engagement, please call 858-613-0222.

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Q: What's red and smells like blue paint?

A: Red paint.

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Two presidential candidates each blow 125 million for a job that pays 400k a year. Must have a great dental plan.

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Why is it after I press 1 for english, I still can't understand the person on the other end.

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Puzzle: A man is stranded on an island covered in forest. One day, when the wind is blowing from the west, lightning strikes the west end of the island and sets fire to the forest. The fire is very violent, burning everything in its path, and without intervention the fire will burn the whole island, killing the man in the process. There are cliffs around the island, so he cannot jump off. How can the man survive the fire? (There are no buckets or any other means to put out the fire)

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Answer to Last Week: [If you have a billion dollars and spend a thousand a day; how long will it take spend it all? While we are on the subject, what was the first year in which the US national debt exceeded one billion dollars?] 2740 years. 1863.

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