

THE Kibbitzer

Issue 45



Everybody gave half a shekel when they counted Jews. It spoke to their census.

You get it? A census is counting. They did that in the desert. To avoid a plague, and death, heads weren't counted, but the half shekels. Makes sense. Senses. Census.

RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

Dear rabbi. I went to a Super Bowl party with a bunch of shul friends. The food was excellent, and they loved it. They didn't even watch the game. Why do Jews like the Super Bowl?

My Dear Pupil. Let me tell you why our people love the Super Bowl tradition.

•*Sunday Games* Every other sport has Friday night and Saturday games. The NFL is the only league that loves Jews and is not anti-Semitic. You can keep Shabbat and love professional football. That is why religious Jews don't like high school football, college football, or badminton. You thought the football was a weird looking ball? Try adding feathers to it.

•*There is Food* That makes it a Simcha. We go for the party, the dinner. At first Jews had no idea the Super Bowl was about football. They thought it was the celebration of the kitchenware the guacamole was being served in. Last Super Bowl party I went to, most of the people had no idea there was a game going on. They were too involved with the dips. I later asked my friend about the game and he gave me a play by play about the spread, and how the potato salad went perfectly with the cold cuts. Yes. There was brisket. It is a holiday.

•*Only One Day of Commitment* You seen how many Jews show to shul on Yom Kippur? It's the most loved holiday. You can skip the rest of the season and still consider yourself a fan. It's like not going to shul the whole year and then showing up on Yom Kippur.

•*The Halftime Show* The show is the reason everybody watches the clock. Every Jew knows the two minute warning. It's imperative that everybody in the house hears there's two minutes left in the half, so that we know when the excitement of the five minute concert is going to start. It's tradition. There is something about a laser light show with a geriatric entertainer that captures the imagination of our Jewish people. It's the kindness of the Jewish people that gets us excited to see The Who, Paul McCartney and The Boss coming out of retirement to perform for a couple minutes, and to not finish a song. We love it all. And the commercials. Gvalt. How can you not love the commercials? The Geico gecko. That lizard is a hoot. He sounds like a British chap. Love it.

SERMON OF REBUKE- KI TISA

Shabbat Shalom My Congregants, & Those who come every week but don'tt pay dues and send their kids to Junior Congregation, while they sit in the nice plush movie theater seats... The theater was going out of business. We had to refurbish the seats. That costs money... We refurbished them in the 1970s. Maroon was considered nice back then... When the Jews were building the Beit Mikdash, the Mishkan, there was an understanding that there were some donations that everybody gives. AKA dues... Stop counting people. You sit and count... (Shemot 30:12) H' tells Moshe, 'When you take a census...every man will give H' an atonement for his soul... and there won't be a plague among them when counting them.' We don't need another plague here. We already have the board... We are not singing that Hoshea et Amecha song again... The half shekel is an atonement. We need an atonement all the time. Every time I think of the congregants of this shul, I think, an atonement is needed. When I count a Minyin, and make sure there are ten, I see the members and think, an atonement is needed. Kiddish is atonement... It's that bad, when you serve gefilte fish balls. There's no way those are gefilte fish. They taste off. When we go on a shul trip and have to find Phillip... Where does he go? Always wondering. He comes on the trip and then does his own tour... Censuses are needed. Being here with you, and leading you as your shepherd, should be an atonement for me... It's painful, and I always feel like you guys get lost... Then tell me what page we're on right

now, Pinchas. Lost... Paying dues is important for you, Rachel... You complain, don't help, your kids are the loudest runners... Gliving money isn't just for counting... They count at Bingo. Your dues are Teshuva. A repentance for all the pain you have caused me... In don't need an apology. A raise is fine...

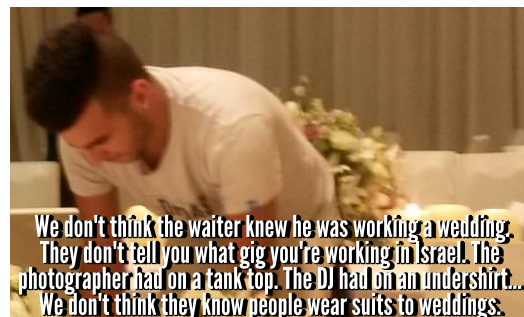
It's half a shekel. You can afford it, Ben...

(Shemot 30:15) 'The rich does not give more, and the poor does not give less than half a shekel... to atone for your souls.' Machatzit Hashekel, the half shekel, when it comes to Kapara, an atonement. We all have share the same path. We're all in a shul with Bernie, Thelma, Francine, and Frank's section in the back left. Nobody is better in Kapara... We all have to be around these people. Once we understand that, we can do Kapara. We can atone, once we understand we're together in this pain. This pain of having to come to shul and see you. It makes me want to atone. I must've done something wrong... I know people give nothing. Stop putting it on Feygelstein. We know he's wealthy and doesn't donate... Invest better, Ben.

Purim is coming up. You give a half shekel... You share what you're drinking... Then bring cups. Selfish. You can't be atoned for if you're selfish. Taking up the full armrests... Couldn't even sit next to you in a movie theater. You're selfish. You probably don't even buy your kids popcorn... You sit there with your hand in the bucket the whole time. You don't share...

Rivka's Notes on Rabbi Mendelchem's Drasha:

The shul seats are comfortable and ugly. Maroon doesn't go with the brown checkered carpet. I believe board members in the 1970s made the original renovation decisions. The rabbi started calling the kids runners. They finally started counting the kids at Junior congregation. The youth director spaces out. No idea where the kids are. The next class at shul was an investment seminar. The rabbi realized that he has the least successful congregants. They would have no chance of making it as Jews in New York.



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