

# THE Kibbitzer



**A wise Ashkenazik Israeli was found asking when to read Parshat Matot, so the community decided we should read Matot-Masai.**

You get it? The two Parshas are almost always read together. 'Matai' means when. Ashkenazim might say 'Masai.'

## RABBI ANSWERS HIS PUPILS

**All my religious friends go to bungalows in The Mountains for the summer. What is the bungalow?**

My Dear Pupil. Nестeled in The Mountains, this is the summer getaway for the Jewish city dweller. Before we deal with the bungalow, we must understand what The Mountains are. •Imagine taking Brooklyn and putting it someplace with foliage. That is The Mountains. The Jews of New York want to see grass and trees. That's summer vacation. And that is where the bungalow is. In Brooklyn, mountains means grass and flowers. That's how they teach geography in Flatbush. Anything with grass is a mountain, including a meadow.

The Mountains must be capitalized, as it is a Jewish city. I do not believe that New Yorkers have ever traveled further than The Mountains. This is what makes them 'The' Mountains.

Now that you understand the greatness of The Mountains. You can begin to understand the bungalow:

•The idea is to move from a home with central air to a hut with a screen door that doesn't keep out mosquitos. You want to get out of the apartment.

A hovel with tilted fun room floors, made of wood that hasn't been shellacked, is enjoyed by people who are trying to get away from their two-million-dollar apartment. The city apartments aren't built to accommodate summer enjoyment, or the New York 85-degree temperatures that equal humidity of 180. You can also wear a nightgown all day. Are you beginning to understand the enjoyment of the Frum Jew in a bungalow.

•Bungalows are communal, and we're a communal people. People bring out tables, benches, chairs. Bring whatever you can out of your bungalow; fridges, ovens, dressers. This frees up the hovel and gives you enough space to sleep. No need to worry about what the neighbors think about you keeping your clothes outside. You're going to be wearing the nightgown all day anyways.

•Jews leaving New York City, move as one and live in what is known as a colony. It's a form of protection against the unknown terrain and being caught without a Minyin. It's a Kibbutz where nobody works the land. A modern day Kibbutz. A modern Kibbutz with more Yiddish. A Kibbutz for religious people, where you don't settle the land.

## SERMON OF REBUKE MATOT-MASAI

**S**habbat Shalom My Congregants, (Bamidbar 31:1-2) Moshe is told to lead the war against Midian, and H' tells him, 'Afterwards you will be gathered to your people'... That means death, Bernie. When somebody dies, we gather them... Not like a crop. Crops are not people.

He is told about his death and yet, he goes to war right away. The next Psukim speak of Moshe getting the people together to go to war... It is about duty. What is our duty? Max, Hymie, Bernie, Sam. You're all in your nineties. The least you can do is come to Minyin on time. You said you would...

Masai begins with the travels of the Jews in the desert. Where they complained... Summer trips with family. It's a journey. You complain... Yes. It feels like a desert. The Mountains is a desert with trees... You swear you don't want to be with the kids... You swear at them... You swear you'll never do another vacation... Wife swears she is slaving. She says she'll never do it again... I took her oath back for her. I told her that the kids will be out of the house soon and she'll want to vacation again...

This week is a double Torah portion. And as thus I feel it is my duty to speak extra long today. That was the plan. However, being that it was a double portion and the BaAl Koreyh read the Torah double slow. I will have to speed it up. You have my word.... Next time, please read faster. Some of our members have to make it to their golf games... You are killing me. I have a sermon prepared and now I cannot give it the way I wanted. Well next time speed it up a little. It is Hebrew and they don't understand it anyways... That guy that

corrects you is crazy. He is just angry at his wife... He's correcting and screaming at you because something happened in the house. I think they just went on vacation. That is why... I will speak faster...

In the beginning of the portion, it states, 'Whatever came out of his mouth- he shall do' (30:3). How many of you are men or women of your word? How many of you made a New Year's resolution last year?... And you still ate chocolate. I saw you eating some chocolate glazing. Oh, a girls scout cookie you call it. Does that make it OK? You said you were going to stop eating chocolate. What were you thinking when you made that resolution? You wanted to take off weight... Why not resolute to be in shape. We shall not desecrate our words... Never resolute to get thin. It won't happen... I've seen you all try. You are just lying. You are lying to H'. We're a heavy people... Jenny Craig is a sinner... When your wife says she's going on a diet, just tell her it's not going to happen...

*Rivka's Notes on R' Mendelchem's Drasha:*

The rabbi forbade vacations. He didn't want to have to do another summer trip with his kids complaining. Husbands and wives were fighting a lot after the sermon. The rabbi's point about the husband not able to take back the wife's words of 'You are the worst husband' was well received by the women. Finally something the feminists could get behind. To ensure people were keeping oaths they might have made, the rabbi took the angry husband who corrects the Torah reader all the time. The rabbi had him following people around and correcting them whenever they didn't keep their word. He was hanging out at the kosher supermarket, in the pastry section. Nobody could go in there without the guy yelling at them. He was very threatening. The average shul member lost twelve pounds. After that whole experience, they were finally able to understand why the Torah reader said 'I am sorry' in the middle of laying (Torah reading), even though Gd didn't write it in the Torah.



The bungalow pantry. I don't know what vendetta they had against the hexapoda kingdom. I'm assuming they got to the cereal. The ants had no chance.

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