

SHAILOS L'CHAZARA

Review Questions

Sefer HaSichos 5752

ספר השיחות · תשנ"ב

Parshas Mikeitz

פרשת מקץ

1 sicha in this booklet

Sicha 1: Pure Oil for a Dark World! · Shabbos Mikeitz, §§1-2

Name: _____

Class: _____

★ easy ★★ medium ★★★ harder

Each sicha has questions, a true chassidishe story, and a lesson for you.

Pure Oil for a Dark World!

שמן זית זך

Sefer HaSichos 5752 vol. 1, sicha of Shabbos Parshas Mikeitz, Shabbos Chanukah, Rosh Chodesh Teves 5752 (1991). Sections as in the Sichos in English edition (vol. 51).

The point: *Chanukah is celebrated with lights, not meals, because it was a spiritual victory. Bread and water are Nigleh; oil is the deepest secrets of Torah. The Greeks wanted to make Torah just "wisdom", and the answer was pure oil: P'nimiyus HaTorah, which reveals the G-dliness in all of Torah. As the darkness grows, more of it is revealed, from Chanukah to Yud-Tes Kislev to Tomchei Temimim, a taste of Moshiach. Yaakov called his life "few" because the Geulah hadn't come; we too must feel that, and add in Chassidus and Mivtza Chanukah.*

Name: _____

Date: _____

QUESTIONS ★ easy ★★ medium ★★★ harder

1. ★ How is Chanukah different from other Yamim Tovim in the way we celebrate it?

2. ★★ What is the reason for this difference?

3. ★★ Bread and water, wine, and oil are all meshalim for Torah. What does each stand for?

4. ★★★ How could the Yidden reach the level of "oil", the deepest secrets, exactly when the Greeks were oppressing them?

5. ★★ What did the Greeks want to do to the Torah, and what does “they made the oil impure” mean?

6. ★★★ The Torah was translated into Greek by the 70 Sages, yet that day was “as hard as the day of the Golden Calf”. Why?

7. ★★ Why is the pure jug of oil, sealed by the Kohen Gadol, the direct answer to the Greeks? What does it have to do with P'nimiyus HaTorah?

8. ★★ Why are the Chanukah lights lit outside, after sunset, “until the foot of the Tarmudim leaves”?

9. ★★ What is the difference between Chanukah and Yud-Tes Kislev in P'nimiyus HaTorah? Why is Chassidus revealed now more than in earlier generations?

10. ★ When Pharaoh asked Yaakov his age, what did Yaakov answer, and what two questions are there on his answer?

11. ★★ How does the sicha answer, following Rashi?

12. ★★★ What deeper message did Yaakov want to give, and what does it mean for us, "the last generation of galus"?

A CHASSIDISHE STORY

The Answer to a Question Nobody Asked

A young man in Eretz Yisrael had learned in a yeshivah for many years but had never been exposed to Chassidus. When he started looking for deeper meaning, he met Lubavitcher chassidim and was struck by the depth and joy of their life. He began learning Chassidus. Some things felt very different from his family and his yeshivah, so he wrote to the Rebbe with his questions.

A few weeks later a detailed answer came. At the end was a strange postscript: "There is no need to ask why Chassidus was not revealed in earlier generations", with a full explanation. That question had never bothered him, and he hadn't mentioned it.

Soon his yeshivah found out. A talmid chacham he respected called him in to talk him out of it. He brought argument after argument, and the young man answered each one; the scholar simply didn't know Chassidus well. Then he pulled out what he thought was his strongest point: "If Chassidus is so valuable, why wasn't it revealed to earlier generations?"

The scholar was surprised by how fast, and how deeply, the young man answered.

Source: "Encouraging Jewish Advancement", in Eli & Malka Touger, *To Know and to Care*, vol. 1 (*Sichos in English*)

Think: According to the sicha, what is the answer to the scholar's question?

THE LESSON FOR YOU

The darker the world, the more light we need. Add some "oil" to your learning; a little Chassidus makes your Gemara feel G-dly. And don't get used to galus; even when life is good, want Moshiach.

For example: A friend says, "Gemara is enough; why do we need to learn Chassidus?" You tell him about the oil: it gives flavor to everything else and lights up the outside. Then learn a page of Tanya together at Chanukah lighting.

My turn: One "oil" I will add this Chanukah (Chassidus, a farbrengen, Chanukah gelt for a little one):