

## Friday Night, Parshas Beshalach, Shabbos Shira, 5766

On Friday night, at the first Shabbos meal, Mohorosh Shlit" a spoke inspiring words based on Lekutei Mohoron, Part I, Lesson 272, which discusses the verse "Today, if you would listen to His voice".

Rebbe Nachman says, "It is written (Tehillim 95), 'Today, if you would listen to His voice.' This is a great rule in serving Hashem, to place before one's eyes only this day. In respect to earning one's livelihood and obtaining one's other needs, it is necessary not to think about tomorrow. The same thing goes for serving Hashem – to only place before one's eyes this day and this moment. Because when one wishes to begin serving Hashem, it seems to a person as if it is a heavy burden and that it is impossible for him to carry such a heavy load. However, when he will consider that he only has this day, then it will not be a burden at all. Moreover, he should not push off until tomorrow what he can do today, saying to himself, 'I will start tomorrow. Tomorrow, I'll pray with concentration and with the proper strength.' The same thing applies to all other forms of Divine service. For a person only has in his world this day and this moment in which he is standing. For tomorrow is another world completely. 'Today, if you would listen to His voice,' – precisely *today*." (These are the words of Rebbe Nachman.)

Mohorosh explained that we see from Rebbe's Nachman's revelation to us that all of a person's success, both spiritual and material, depends only on a person's integrating within himself this idea – that he has only today, and that he shouldn't confuse himself with what happened yesterday or with what will be in the future. In this way, he will merit success in all of his endeavors and he will live a truly good and sweet life. Because the main reason for all of the stumbling blocks in a person's life is that he is always thinking about what was, about what has already happened to him – the mighty waves and breakers that have passed over him – and it seems to him that the same things will happen again today. And even if he has already merited seeing some salvation in his life or some other good thing happen to him today, he will immediately begin to worry about and fear what will happen tomorrow. And this confuses him completely and he is unable to be happy with today. But, when a person absorbs into his mind very well that all he has is today – "Today, if you would listen to His voice" – then he will greatly succeed in all

of his endeavors. In spiritual matters, he will do everything he can to learn, pray and fulfill mitzvos on this day, and he will not confuse himself with the past or the future at all. The same thing applies to material matters - his being involved in making a living and in all of his other physical needs – he should only worry that he will have enough for today and not to confuse himself with worrying about tomorrow at all. He will then be very successful in every matter and live a truly good life.

We see that the idea of “*Today*, if you would listen to His voice,” is also a secret of success in finding one’s spouse, as well as in making a living. And even though our holy Sages said (Sotah 2a): “Finding one’s wife is as difficult as splitting the Red Sea,” and they also said (Pesachim 118a): “Making a living is as difficult as splitting the Red Sea,” the main difficulty is only when a person confuses himself with his past and his future, and he hangs everything on nature, chance and fate and he says to himself, “You see that I still haven’t found a wife, and I still have no livelihood, and chances are that it will stay like this for me.” As a result, it will really be difficult for him and he’ll be completely broken. But, when a person absorbs into himself the trait of Holy Faith and says, “I only have today,” and he stands up and prays before Hashem, “Master of the Universe, everything depends only on Your hand. If it is Your will, I will find my spouse today, and if it is Your will, I will have my sustenance for today.” Then, he will not be confused at all by what has already happened to him and he will strengthen himself greatly. And even if the day of his salvation is pushed off for a short while, he will not become disheartened at all, for he knows that it was Hashem’s will. And then certainly, the day of his salvation will eventually arrive. As Rebbe Nachman says (Lekutei Mohoran, I:9): “Just as one gives ‘sustenance’ to his Father in Heaven through his prayer, so too will they [Heaven] grant him *his* sustenance; and just as he causes a union (*zivug*) [between Hashem and His Shechinah] to happen through his prayer, so too will he merit to find his own match (*zivug*), because everything depends on prayer. The Red Sea was split into twelve parts (Pirkei d’Rebbe Eliezer, ch. 42) one for each of the twelve different prayer liturgies, since each tribe has its own heavenly gate and special liturgy through which to elevate their prayers. And when a person focuses only on today and what needs to be done today, and doesn’t confuse his mind with the past or the future or with what others are doing, searching only for his own gate and path, he will then merit to receive a wondrous salvation, literally as great as the splitting of the Red Sea. He will be saved from all oppressive and constricting forces surrounding him and an

abundance of heavenly blessings, both spiritual and physical, will be showered upon him. Happy is he and fortunate is his portion.

Mohorosh tied these ideas to our parsha in a wonderful way. It is written (Shemos 14): “And Hashem saved Israel *on that day* from the hand of Mitzrayim, and Israel saw Mitzrayim dead on the seashore.” We can ask ourselves, why are the words “*on that day*” necessary? At first glance, these words seem to be superfluous (as this question is also raised in the holy book “Kedushas Levi”). However, according to the words of Rebbe Nachman, we can understand it very well. The main salvation of Israel in all generations which is to be saved from all of those things which press them down and make their lives narrow, spiritually and physically, is accomplished through attaining the trait of “On that day” – i.e., not to place before one’s eyes anything but today and to strive to serve Hashem according to what needs to be done “On that day”. As my master, my father, may his merit protect us, brings in his book “Minchas Zev” (Parshas Beshalach) the explanation of the “Yismach Moshe”, may his merit protect us, in Parshas Nitzavim on the verse (Devarim 29): “You are standing *today* all of you...”: that if a person truly thinks that he only has today to live, he will surely fill that day with Torah and Mitzvos and the service of Hashem. Likewise, with regard to earning a living and finding one’s spouse, which also includes having family harmony, it all depends on actualizing the trait of “On that day.” For when a person will think that he has only today, he will not worry about his sustenance for tomorrow, and he will not start an argument with his wife and hurt her feelings, G-d forbid. Rather, he will be a person who is a master of “giving in” and “yielding” in his home and he will do whatever in the world is possible to be at peace with her. Does it really pay to destroy his home just for “that day”, G-d forbid? And this alluded to in the verse, “And Hashem saved Israel “*on that day*” from the hand of Mitzrayim.” The word Mitzrayim includes all of the exiles and afflictions which pass over Israel. All of these troubles are referred to as “*Mitzrayim*” since they all press down upon and constrict Israel (the Hebrew word *meitzar* means to press down upon and to constrict as Rebbe Nachman teaches in Lekutei Mohoran, I:4). But when a person has reached the level of “On that day”, he is saved from all forces which press on him and make his life narrow. And this is the verse, “And Israel saw Mitzrayim dead on the seashore” – also those things that constrict and press down on a person which are in the category of “the seashore”, i.e. the issues of a livelihood and marital life, which are both as difficult as the Splitting of the Red Sea, also these constricting and repressive forces will completely perish and nullify themselves before him by means of the trait of

“On that day”. For when a person places before himself only today and continually prays to Hashem that He should help him find a livelihood, a spouse and family harmony, in this way, great heavenly abundance, both spiritual and physical, will be showered upon him. And he will lack nothing at all. And Hashem should help us to attach ourselves to Him anew each and every day, not thinking about any day but today until we merit to ascend and be included in Him completely, now and forever. Amen v’ Amen.