

My teacher Michal gave an awesome shir on this weeks Parsha, ויצא. We read גרתי לבן עם, and Rashi gives one of his famous commentary, Yaakov lived with Lavan, the רשע, and was able to keep all the 613 Mitzvot. What was the secret to his success?

In the beginning of the Parsha Yaakov has a dream. In the dream there's a ladder with angels ascending and descending. Netivot Shalom explains that the message from his dream is that just like the angels you have to stay on, whether your life is going up or down. The ladder represents life. Whether you're connected or not, hang on. The beauty of it is that everything is temporary. If you're going up you'll soon be going down; if your down know that you'll soon be going up. This can help us actually live our lives. If it's all temporary when you're up then you'll appreciate it more and when you're down you'll have the hopes of going up soon.

We then see Yaakov wake up twice, we read, "ועקב" וייקץ, and then the next passuk, "ועקב" וישכם. Why twice? The first time Yaakov woke up in the middle of the night, at that moment Yaakov conquered the moment so he would not forget it, Yaakov was making a statement, then when he actually got up in the morning he made a מצבה.

Later on, Leah gives birth to her fourth son and thanks Hashem. This is the first time we see gratitude to Hashem, but why did she wait till her fourth son? The אמהות were supposed to have 3 sons each, therefore having 12 men to whom Hashem's covenant with Avraham would have been fulfilled. She noticed that she was blessed to have more than she deserved. So she took that moment to thank Hashem. However, she didn't just take that moment, she conquered that moment by naming her son יהודה in order to remember.

And finally, at the end of the Parsha, Yaakov and Lavan made a מצבה together. After Lavan calls it שהדותא we see Yaakov calls it גלעד. Why did Yaakov have to do that? Why did he have to get that last word in? Yaakov didn't want to change the way he spoke. His final message to Lavan was "you can't change me, I'm gonna stay this way". Yaakov could have taken the easy way out and not said anything,

after all the fighting between them and finally making up, instead he made a statement.

Yaakov was able to survive in גלות because he never stopped thinking about home. The minute you start to appreciate it, the minute you never want to go back. You can't take a break from any commitment you have. It doesn't matter what step on the ladder you're on. You'll have really inspirational and committed days, and you'll have days where you feel down in the dumps and totally not with it or on track. We're supposed to engage I this world. But you can never let the world change you. Like Yaakov we have to conquertize everything, write it down. Take something temporary and make it permanent. Never step off that ladder. When something happens to you do something about it so it becomes a part of you. Say thanks. If we don't do something about our dreams they'll remain dreams. שלום שבת!