

בס"ד

דברי תורה ד'צבי אליהו
DIVREI TORAH

פינחת

Pinchas

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Reach

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You have to want it. Whatever it is in life you might hope to obtain or to become, if you are going to get it, you have to truly want it. Torah is no different. The best Torah student is not the attentive pupil who dutifully records the teacher's every word. Rather it is the one that records every word and then asks questions, investigates and still wants to know more. In this week's parsha there is a message to us of the importance of wanting wisdom. It is a lesson to us to know how important Torah is and to search for it.

This week's parsha includes the story of five women who are collectively referred to as the daughters of Tzelophchad. Their father died without sons, and they wanted to inherit his portion in the land of Israel. They asked Moses for their share of his inheritance and Moses brought their request before Hashem. Hashem responded that the daughters of Tzelophchad had spoken appropriately and they indeed deserved their father's portion in the land of Israel (see *Bamidbar 27:1-7*).

Consider this story of the daughters of Tzelophchad. In a nutshell, the Torah is teaching us a straightforward law: women have a right to inherit from their fathers just like men do. Why did the daughters of Tzelophchad have to ask Moses and Moses have to make a special request of Hashem in order to learn this law? Why didn't Hashem teach this law directly to Moses without him or anyone else asking to know it?

There is a story in tractate Shabbos of the Talmud (89a) which we can use to understand why Hashem waited for the daughter's of Tzelophchad's request before teaching this law. The Talmud tells us that when Moses ascended Mount Sinai to receive the Torah he found Hashem tying crowns to the Torah's letters. Hashem asks Moses to "give Him Shalom" and tells him, "It is up to you [Moses] to help me." There is a great deal of depth to this short story, but there is one detail I would like to share here. What does it mean that Hashem wants Moses to help him? Hashem can do anything and He certainly doesn't need anyone's help. How can Moses possibly help him?

The Maharal (16th Century, Prague) explains that Hashem wants to share Torah with the world, but Torah can only be received by students who truly want to learn it. Moses can help Hashem by being the kind of eager student who constantly wants more. (*Be'er Hagolah, Be'er 4*). This is the lesson of the daughters of Tzelophchad as well. Hashem teaches us the law of inheritance only after the daughters of Tzelophchad ask to learn it. It is a lesson to us that Torah is not just received, it is something we must seek out. It is not enough to passively receive the wisdom in the Torah. We must look deeper and search for all of the wisdom it can possibly contain.

In our generation, where we do not have prophecy or prophets, we search for Torah by consulting our sages and by delving deeply into the Torah and its commentators. The lesson from this week's parsha is that we must always seek to learn deeper, to learn actively. It is only by asking

questions that we will truly know the depth of the wisdom G-d has shared with us.

May we all be blessed with great teachers and to be great students and to plumb the

depths of the limitless wisdom G-d has given us. GOOD SHABBOS!!!