



## **"Leading By Example"**

**February 2024**

I was out on the street during the recent Holiday Season and my phone rang, it was one of our department members. They mentioned how their family brought mom home from a healthcare facility for the holidays, so she can celebrate with the children and grandchildren. The family member asked if I could stop by and see the family, and give grandma a blessing? I said " my pleasure"!

I knew it was no easy feat to bring home and care for a terminally ill, frail grandma, but the children did it anyway because "it was the right thing to do". I walked into the home and there they were, the whole family, grandmother, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren - all there to give grandma an opportunity to enjoy the fruits of her labor. I said to myself there is no better way to teach children and grandchildren love and respect for elders than by being a living example. This family made me proud; no sacrifice was too much or task too difficult, when it came to honor and respect their beloved Mom. It reminded me of the story of "The Wooden Bowl" .....

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and seven-year-old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered.

The family ate together at the table. But the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth. The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. "We must do something about Grandfather," said the son. I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor.

So, the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. Their Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner. Since Grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl.

When the family glanced in Grandfather's direction, sometimes he had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he was clumsy with his drinking cup, dropped a fork or spilled food.

The seven-year-old watched it all in silence. One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, "What

are you making?" Just as sweetly, the boy responded, "Oh, I am making a little bowl for you and Mama to eat your food when I grow up." The four-year-old smiled and went back to work.

The words so struck the parents so that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done.

That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days, he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth soiled.... End of story....

Some Points To Ponder and Remember...

Not always in life will things work out the way we planned, that doesn't mean you can't enjoy the moment.

That, no matter what happens how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.

That, regardless of our relationship with our parents, we'll miss them when they're gone from our life. (At least some of us will.)

I've learned that making a "living" is not the same thing as making a "life."

In life sometimes you do actually get a second chance.

Remember we shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. We need to be able to throw something back.

That if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But, if you focus on your family, your friends, the needs of others, your work

and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you.

That whenever we decide something with an open heart, we usually make the right decision.

That even when we have pains, we don't have to be one.

Every day, we should reach out and touch someone emotionally, to let them know they are loved and not alone.

Life is a journey not a destination, let's enjoy the ride!

And before we close, some humor from the "Moshe Files" to keep you smiling.

"A Gift For The Wife"

After being away on a business trip, Tim thought it would be nice to bring his wife a little gift.

"How about some perfume?" he asked the cosmetics clerk at the airport counter. She showed him a bottle costing \$95.00.

"That's a bit much," said Tim, so she returned with a smaller bottle for \$60.00. "That's still quite a bit," Tim complained.

Growing annoyed, the clerk brought out a tiny for \$35.00 bottle.

"What I mean," said Tim, "I'd like to see something really cheap."

So the clerk reached under the counter and handed him a mirror. LOL... (Have any good stories to share, send a copy my way.)

On behalf of ALL your Chaplain's, may G-d bless you and keep you safe, today and always. Amen.

Should you need a shoulder to lean on, an ear to listen or perhaps some good humor to share, don't hesitate to give us a call.

All our contact numbers are printed in your FOP books.

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