



“The Landscaper”

October 2018

Have you ever found yourself in the following situation? Recently, I was sitting at a funeral of one of our members, listening to the eulogies given by family members, relatives, and co-workers. Siblings get up and speak the praises of their departed family member, how special they were and how loved they were. Then the coworkers get up and speak of the person's character, their sense of humor and what a pleasure it was working with them; and the praises continue. We all have been in this situation. We sit there and get that warm feeling in our hearts that we blessed to share a close friendship with this person, then we ask ourselves, why were these sentiments not expressed and shared while this person has been with us? Why is it that we are all guilty of this, being quick to express our disappointment if someone invades our "space", but slow to express our appreciation when it is so deserved. Remember, "when you bring sunshine to the face of others, it will brighten your day like nothing else".

It reminded me of the story of "The Landscaper"...

The year was 1989. George was at work, standing at his regular spot behind the counter at the register in his local 7-11. In walks a guy he never met and asks "can you please give me quarters?" and pulls out a five dollar bill. George doesn't think twice and pulls out four quarters and four singles, the guy says "sorry, if you can I need twenty quarters?". He never had such a request and there was no laundromat nearby but he pulled out twenty quarters and handed it to the guy. The guy takes the money walks over to the public phone drops in a coin and starts dialing. Now George is fascinated and try as he might he can't help but listen in as he hears the guy trying his hardest to drum up some business. And this is how the conversation goes. Hello, is this the McGregor family? Hi my name is William from Wills Landscaping Company, we are currently offering our services at a discounted rate and have very good references if you'd like". After a 30-40 seconds George hears the guy saying "oh so you have a company doing yours and don't want to switch? Sorry for disturbing your day have a nice day".

George watches this guy use up all twenty coins calling person by person and not getting any contracts at all. He feels bad for the guy and walks over to him saying "I'm sorry William but I couldn't help but overhear your phone calls if business is so tough for you I was thinking of introducing you to my boss the pay is good and the job benefits are decent if you're interested?".

The guy bursts out laughing and says, "no you got to understand this, number one my name is not William but Rick". As George is getting ready to call the ambulance to take this lunatic to where he belongs he hears. "I own a nice sized landscaping company, you might of have heard of us Sungrow Landscaping". Now his interest is piqued enough to hang back up the phone and Rick continues "I work my butt off for my customers

providing them the best service humanly possible and beyond, it's just that most of them don't even say thank you for the work I do". "What am I supposed to do I'm a person with the same human needs like any other and I need a compliment and a pat in the back too, so every once in a while I find a payphone and make these phone calls to customers of mine offering them my services from a different company just to hear from them that they appreciate the blood sweat and tears I shed providing my services to them. This way I get the compliments I so desperately need to be able to continue my work". The reality is we are all "Rick" and we all need a pat in the back sometime and what better time to do it then today. As the saying goes "every day of life is a gift, enjoy your present!".

Some "food for thought" that will make you go hmmm... Enjoy!

"Elephants in the Circus". Did you ever go to the circus? Remember those huge elephants that weighed several tons who were held in place by a small chain wrapped around one of their huge legs, and held to the ground by a small wooden stake? If those huge elephants wanted to, they could walk right through those small chains and that small wooden stake like a hot knife going through butter. But they don't. Why is that?

When they were little baby elephants, they were chained down by those same small chains and the small wooden stakes. But to them, as babies, they couldn't move. They tried and tried and tried again and could not release themselves from those chains and stakes. And then, an interesting thing happens. They stop trying. They gave up. They developed a belief system.

Now, as adult elephants, they don't try because they are programmed to believe that their efforts would be useless – in vain. They simply don't try because the memory of trying as babies is their main program. And as huge, adult elephants, they don't even try. So, they're held in prison by their beliefs.

The same is true with the "elephant" in each of us, Don't hesitate to try something new, saying "this is the way we've always done it", you might surprise yourself and ask "why didn't I try it sooner??"

On behalf of ALL your Chaplains, May G-d bless you and keep you safe. Should you need a shoulder to lean on or an ear to listen, don't hesitate to give us a call.

Compliments of your Police Chaplain, Rabbi Moshe Wolf
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