



“A Thousand Marbles”

July 2019

As your Chaplains we are honored and privileged to make our rounds addressing roll calls, and availing ourselves to the spiritual and emotional needs of our flock.

We get to hear about your heroic actions and Godly goodness, that never make it to the news. We also are privileged to share some of heavy burdens that you carry on your souls.

After a recent roll call, one of our younger members, "Jimmy", pulls me aside and asks, "can we meet for a quick cup of coffee"? So, we go to the local coffee shop and Jimmy starts crying and says "Rabbi, today is one of the happiest days of my life, better than winning the power ball lottery". Jimmy continued, " I have been married to my beautiful wife for five years; she is the love of my life, making me the man I am. Last year she was diagnosed with life threatening lung cancer. It has been a most challenging year. To the Doctor, from the Doctor, Chemo, Radiation, and crying myself to sleep every night. Trying to stay positive and lots of prayer, when at times it looked like we might lose her. Now a year later, we went to the Doctor this morning and by the grace of G-d she got a clean bill of health". "It made me realize, never to take anything for granted, and when the chips are down to never to give up". Jimmy asked that I pass along his story - that even though we encounter challenges and battles, to never give up. We sat there in silence and in gratitude to the Lord, for the positive outcome. Then Jim said, "It reminded me of the story of..... A Thousand Marbles"

The older I get, the more I enjoy Sunday mornings. Perhaps it's the quiet solitude that comes with being the first to rise, or maybe it's the few moments of the phone not ringing off the hook. Either way, the first few hours of a Sunday morning are most enjoyable.

A few weeks ago, what began as a typical Sunday morning turned into one of those lessons that life seems to hand you from time to time. Let me tell you about it.

I was sitting in my living room on my rocking chair having my first cup of coffee, playing with my favorite toy, a "ham radio", picking up conversations from all over the world.

I came across a conversation of an older sounding gentleman, with a golden voice and tremendous confidence, that caught my attention.

He was telling whomever he was talking with, something about “A Thousand Marbles.”

I was intrigued and stopped to listen to what had had to say. He was chatting with a much younger man named Bill. “Well Bill, it sure sounds like you’re busy with your job. I’m sure they pay you well, but it’s a shame you have to be away from home and your family so much.

Hard to believe a young fellow should have to work sixty or seventy hours a week to make ends meet. Too bad you missed your daughter’s dance recital.” He continued, “Let me tell you something, Bill, something that has helped me keep a good perspective and good balance on my own priorities.” And that’s when he began to explain his theory of, “A Thousand Marbles.”

“You see, the older man said, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventy-five years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on average, folks live about seventy-five years.

“Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3900 which is the number of Sundays that the average person has in their entire lifetime. It took me until I was fifty-five years old to think about all this in any detail”; he went on, “and by that time I had lived through over twenty-eight hundred Sundays. I got to thinking that if I lived to be seventy-five, I only had about a thousand of them left to enjoy. “So I went to a toy store and rounded up a thousand marbles. I took them home and put them inside of a large, clear plastic container on my dresser. Every Sunday since then, I have taken one marble out and thrown it away.

“I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life. There is nothing like watching your time here on this earth run out to help get your priorities straight.

“Now let me tell you one last thing before I sign-off with you. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure if I make it until next Sunday then I have been given a little extra time. And the one thing we can all use, is a little more time. Time to sign off, nice talking to you, and I hope you spend more time with your loved ones.”

You could have heard a pin drop on the radio band when this fellow signed off. I guess he gave us all a lot to think about. I had planned to work on the antenna that morning, and then I was going to meet up with a few friends from work. Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife up with a kiss, and said " come on honey, I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast."

"What brought this on?" she asked with a smile. "Oh, nothing special, it's just been a long time since we spent a Sunday together with the kids. And by the way, while we are out there, can we stop at a toy store? I need to buy some marbles." Moral of the story, "make every marble count, as every day is a gift, enjoy your present".

And here is some "food for thought" to keep your brain thinking, and your heart smiling.

As we grow older, and hence wiser, we slowly realize that wearing a \$300.00 watch or \$30.00 watch; they both tell the same time.

Whether we carry a \$300.00 or \$30.00 wallet/hand bag; the amount of money inside is the same.

Whether we drink a bottle of \$300.00 or \$10 wine; the hang over is the same.

Whether the house we live in is 300 or 3000 sq. ft.; loneliness is the same. You will realize, your true inner happiness does not come from the material things of this world.

Whether we fly first class or economy class, if the plane goes down; we go down with it.

Therefore... let us realize and remember, when we have spouses, buddies, old friends, brothers and sisters, whom we can chat with, laugh with, talk with, sing songs with, talk about politics or heaven & earth; that is true happiness!

Five Undeniable Facts of Life:

1. Don't educate your children to be rich. Educate them to be Happy. So when they grow up they will know, The value of things not the price.

2. Best awarded words anywhere...

"Eat your food as your medicines. Otherwise you have to eat medicines as your food."

3. The one who loves you will never leave you, because even if there are 100 reasons to give up, he or she will find one reason to hold on.

4. There is a big difference between a human being and being human; and not all really understand it.

5. You are loved when you are born; you will be loved when you die; in between, you have to do the best with what you got!

Remember, If you just want to walk fast, walk alone! But if you want to walk far, walk together!

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and safe summer. Don't forget to take some time to spend with your love ones, you will all feel better because of it.

On behalf of ALL your Chaplains, may G-d bless you and keep you safe. Should you need a shoulder to lean on, want company for a ride along or perhaps have some good humor to share, don't hesitate to give us a call.

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

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