

Adelaide Hebrew Congregation News



Volume 9 Issue 2

September 9, 2011

Shabbat Details

- Friday night service
6.15pm
- Saturday morning
service 9am
followed by special
Kiddush
- Times for Shabbat:
LC 5:44 PM
ends 6:40 PM

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Notices

- All are welcome to join to an inspirational **Shiur** by the Rabbi on Thursday 22nd September 7:30 pm in Shul- "*The meaning of the Simanim and Tashlich on Rosh Hashana*".
- **First Selichot** will be recited on Motzei Shabbat Nitzavim Vayelech 24th September 10:30 pm. Please come and participate in the preparations for the Yamim Norayim.
- **High Holidays Choir - If you think you have a nice voice** and you would like to join the Shul choir for the High Holidays services, please contact the Rabbi. The practice will start next week.
- Rosh Hashanah is just 3 weeks from now. Time is running out if you wish to contribute to the special "**Voice newsletter**" for the High Holidays Please contact the office to give the wording and a small donation of \$36.
Le' Shana Tova Tikatevu U'Techatemu!!
- Please call the office and let us know if you and your family are planning to be in Shule for **Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur**, so we can honour you with a **Torah call up, or opening of the Ark**.
- **Cheder learning-** please contact the office or the Rabbi if interested in Hebrew and/or Jewish learning for your child. Lessons currently running for all primary school and kindergarten age children.
- **Refuah Shelema-** Kitty Anderson, Nina Hassan, Ivor Lee, Judith Bayer, Janette Ailion, Richard Hoffman, Rayner Yudkin. If you know of anyone who is unwell, please contact the Rabbi or the office.

Yahrzeits:

We wish the following members long life on their Yahrzeit:

Mr. Ronald Axelrad for brother Richard Axelrad

Dr. Ivan Krell for father Leon Krell

Mrs Bessie Krell for husband Leon Krell

Mrs Rosy Costi for husband Samuel Costi



Parashat Ki-Tetze: Tough Love

One of the subjects discussed in Parashat Ki-Tetze is the “Ben Sorer U'more,” the “wayward son.” The case involves a child who refuses to obey his parents' authority, eats and drinks with unrestrained gluttony, and commits criminal acts. The parents bring the child to local Rabbinical court and report about his unruly behavior. After hearing the parents' report, the court must – if certain conditions are met – execute the child.

The Talmud teaches that this case never actually happened; the Halacha of “Ben Sorer U'more” has always remained a strictly hypothetical concept. One of the reasons for why this situation never arose is because Halacha imposes numerous conditions for this law to apply, making it all but impossible for such a thing to ever happen. The Halacha is introduced by the Torah, but practically speaking, it cannot ever apply.

The Talmud raises the obvious question of why the Torah instituted a Halacha that would never apply. What purpose is served by establishing a law which is never implemented? The Gemara explains, “Derosh Ve'kabel Sachar” – the Torah provided us with additional material to study and thereby earn reward. The law of “Ben Sorer U'more” will never be practically applicable, but we are able to study the numerous laws and details relevant to this subject and thereby earn reward.

Clearly, we do not need the Halacha of “Ben Sorer U'more” to ensure that we have enough study material. Even without this topic, we have far more Torah to learn than we could ever master in a lifetime. Therefore, when the Talmud speaks of “Derosh Ve'kabel Sachar,” the reward available to us through studying this subject, it likely refers to the valuable lessons that can be gained. Studying the topic of “Ben Sorer U'more” is rewarding in the sense that it is enlightening, specifically regarding our most crucial responsibility in life – raising children.

The most obvious lesson that emerges from this Halacha is a parent's obligation not to ignore or overlook a child's misbehavior. In the extreme case of the “Ben Sorer U'more,” the parents report their child to the Bet Din knowing that the child might be put to death. As mentioned, this will never happen, but it presents us with an important model of parental responsibility. Too often, parents dismiss their child's misbehavior as a passing phase, or excuse it as normal, acceptable conduct for a child. Rather than take the difficult but necessary steps required to discipline and restrain their children, they just let it go. The extreme model of “Ben Sorer U'more” demonstrates the concept that psychologists call “tough love” – showing love and concern for children specifically by not giving them everything they ask for and not allowing them to do everything they want to do. It demonstrates that parents must, at times, take action to rein in on their children's misconduct.

(The article was taken from Rabbi Mansur - dailyhalacha.com)

Now is the time to bring your children to shul, and start prepare your family to the High Holy Days!

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Netanel Friedler

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