What is Your Greatest Accomplishment?



**#1**

**Todays’ Learning Material**

**Torah, Bereishis 24:1**

*Avraham was old, well advanced in years, and G-d had blessed Avraham with everything.*

**Torah, Bereishis 25:8**

*Then Avraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and full of years; and he was gathered to his people*

**If You Were G-d, by Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan**

*There are few human pleasures greater than those of accomplishment - of completing a job well done.*

**Questions:**

* **What do you consider as an accomplishment?**
* **What do you consider as an accomplished life?**

**#2**

**Scriptures, Mishlei 13:12**

*Desire fulfilled is a tree of life.*

**Scriptures, Mishlei 13:19**

*Desire accomplished is sweet to the soul.*

**Questions:**

* **What are the main reasons for wanting more accomplishments?**
* **What motivates you to accomplish?**
* **How do you feel when you wasted one day? One hour?**

**#3**

**If You Were G-d, by Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan**

*If we are praised for it, the pleasure is all the greater. If an important person were to tell us that we had done something good, we would experience an even greater pleasure in accomplishment. To win, for example, a Nobel prize and be recognized by the world, is indeed one of the great pleasures of life, and there are people who would work a lifetime toward this end.*

**Questions:**

* **Do you consider it important that others know about your accomplishments?**
* **When do you need other people’s approval to consider something a real accomplishment?**

**#4**

**Question: Do you consider it a bigger accomplishment to be a good person or to be successful in career? To spend more time with your spouse and children or to be successful in career?**

**Prophets, Yonah (1:8-9)**

*The sailors find Yonah hiding in the bottom of the ship, and they ask him suspiciously, “Who are you and what is your work?” To which he responds, “I am a Jew and I fear the G-d of Israel.”*

**Question: How do you understand Yona’s answer?**

**#5**

**7 Habits of Highly Effective People, Stephen Covey**

*In your mind’s eye, see yourself going to the funeral parlor, parking the car, and getting out. As you walk inside the building you notice the flowers, the soft organ music. You see faces of friends and family you pass along the way. You feel the shared sorrow of losing, the joy of having known, that radiates from the hearts of the people there. As you walk down to the front of the room and look inside the casket, you suddenly come face to face with yourself. This is your funeral, three years from today. All these people have come to honor you, to express feelings of love and appreciation for your life.*

*As you take a seat and wait for the services to begin, you look at the program in your hand. There are to be four speakers. The first one is from your family…who have come from all over the country to attend. The second speaker is one of your friends, someone who can give a sense of what you were as a person. The third speaker is from your work or profession. And the fourth is from a community organization where you’ve been involved in service. Now think deeply. What would you like each of these speakers to say about you and your life? What kind of husband, wife, father, or mother would you like their words to reflect? What kind of son or daughter or cousin? What kind of friend? What kind of working associate? What character would you like them to have seen in you? What contributions, what achievements would you want them to remember? Look carefully at the people around you. What difference would you like to have made in their lives?*

**Questions:**

* **What are your thoughts about this article?**
* **Would imagining this help you to become more productive?**
* **If you were to have only one year to live, what would you want to be certain to accomplish?**

**#6**

*Our Sages attribute one of the greatest miracles in Jewish history, the splitting of the Red Sea, to the courageous actions of Nachshon Ben Aminadav, the head of the Tribe of Judah, who was the first to enter into the sea (Talmud Sotah 36a). With Pharaoh and the Egyptian army in close pursuit, it was Nachshon who daringly risked his life and stepped into the sea, not knowing whether or not it would split. This ultimately brought about G-d’s intervention and the great miracle of the splitting of the sea.*

**Questions:**

* **When should one take risks to achieve results?**
* **Is it a healthy thing to have fear of taking risks?**

**#7**

**Torah Shemos 6:26-7**

*It is the very same Aharon and Moshe to whom the Lord said, ‘Bring forth the Israelites from the land of Egypt, troop by troop.’ It was they who spoke to Pharaoh King of Egypt to free the Israelites from the Egyptians; these are the very same Moshe and Aharon.*

**Rashi on Torah Shemos 6:26**

*There are some places where the Torah lists Aharon before Moshe and some places where it lists Moshe before Aharon - to tell us that they were equals.*

**Question: Moshe was the leader of the Jewish nation. He brought the plagues on Egypt. He led the Jewish people out of slavery. He split the Red Sea. He went up to receive the Torah on Mount Sinai. But even more telling, he was the greatest prophet who ever lived. The only human who reached the level of seeing G-d with total clarity was Moshe. There never was, nor will there ever be, a person who will reach that level. Wasn’t Moshe far greater than Aharon? So, how can Rashi tells us that Moshe and Aaron were equals when clearly Moshe was on a higher level?**

**Can you answer this question by looking at their potential?**

**#8**

**Questions:**

* **In what areas are there large discrepancies between your potential and your actual accomplishments? What is the main reason for this?**
* **What can you do to try to utilize your hidden potential?**
* **What traits, abilities, skills, knowledge do you need to be able to accomplish more?**

**#9**

**Question: What’s your takeaway from today’s discussion?**