How Jews Date

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**#1**

**Today’s Learning Material**

**Torah Bereshis 24:2-4**

*And Avraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Put, I beg you, your hand under my thigh. And I will make you swear by the Lord, the G-d of heaven, and the G-d of the earth, that you shall not take a wife for my son of the daughters of the Canaanites among whom I live. But you shall go to my country, and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."*

When Yitzchak married Rivka, the Torah says:

**Bereishis 24;67**

*He married Rivka, she became his wife, and he loved her.*

**Questions:**

* **Do you find anything strange in the order of events?**
* **Explain!**

**#2**

**Rosie Einhorn, L.C.S.W. and Sherry Zimmerman, J.D., M.Sc., from www.jewishdatingandmarriage.com**

At almost every one of our programs, someone will come up to us and ask, "What is the most important thing that I need to know before I start dating for marriage?" Most people expect to hear, “Look for someone with a good heart,” or “Always look your best – you never know who is watching you,” or even “Find someone with a good family background.” They are usually surprised by our answer. The most important thing a person needs to know before they start dating is – themselves.

**Questions:**

* **How do you understand this statement?**
* **Do you agree with it?**

**#3**

**Question: What qualities should one look for when dating?**

**Rabbi Yitzchok Berkowitz**

When choosing a person for marriage you should look for qualities that you share with the other – common points that make you feel comfortable, and character traits that you find beautiful in this person. Equally important you should look for qualities in the other that will challenge you to work on yourself and grow as a person. Obviously, one should not look for challenges that will make life extremely difficult, like depression or an abusive nature, etc…Rather when a person notices in his potential partner a quality which he finds difficult or challenging, he should ask himself the following questions: “Does it make sense that G-d would send me someone who challenges me in this area in order to grow in life, or would living with this challenge wreck my life?” If you do find these character traits will force you to grow in areas that are good for you in becoming a more whole person, you should embrace such challenges in your potential partner. Marriage is a harmony precisely because the parts are very different yet with time play beautifully together.

**#4**

**Gila Manolson, Head to Heart, pg. 114**

One of the gravest dating mistakes is bonding emotionally with someone before knowing if you’re fundamentally compatible…Love doesn’t always conquer all. To build a future with someone, your relationship must not only feel right, but be right. Its foundation must be more than emotional. So why even date someone about whom you know little? Why not first find out whether your values and goals are compatible?

**Questions:**

* **Do you relate to this?**
* **How do you avoid getting blinded by "love" and make sure your values and goals are compatible?**
* **Are there certain feelings you should experience to know you have found your soulmate?**

**#5**

**Scriptures, Mishlei 31:30**

*Charm is false and beauty is vain.*

**Talmud Sanhedrin 100b**

*Fortunate is he who has a good-looking wife – the days of his life are doubled.*

**Question: How do you resolve this contradiction?**

**#6**

**Rabbi Ben Tzion Shafier, Finding your Bashert: A User's Guide to Avoiding Misery and Heartache**

It’s almost like they are playing with Mr. Potato Head. Simply open the box and out come your choices. You can dress him up with red lips or blue. Big ears or small. Would you like long legs or short? What about eyebrows? Bushy or sparse? How about feet? Big or little? But don’t fret, if he doesn’t look just right, simply start over, until you get him just the way you like.

This is the way some people look for a spouse. They make their list: “This is what I need. This is what I would like. This is what I have to have.” They form their image of their ideal match, and with these convictions firmly in place, they begin their search.  Yet, for some strange reason it doesn’t work. They come back empty handed, uttering the words, “I just can’t find the ‘right guy.’”

They can’t find the right guy, because they aren’t looking for him! They are too busy looking for their Mr. Potato head, the one they created, and who only exists in their imagination.

**Questions:**

* **How do you know who is the right one and stop looking?**
* **What are absolute “deal breakers?” What are two qualities you feel are absolutely necessary in a partner, and what are two negative qualities you absolutely cannot live with?**

**#7**

**Dr. Lisa Aiken, Guide for the Romantically Perplexed, pg. 25**

While many singles have expectations of a marriage partner, they can be totally oblivious to their own shortcomings. For example, Abe insisted that matchmakers set him up with slim, attractive women, despite his being 5'11" and weighing 270 pounds. Laura continually sought warm, emotionally available men, yet was aloof and cold herself. Diana was attracted to men who were stable, yet she was perpetually disorganized and unable to make a commitment. Dean kept hoping to meet a career woman who earned a lot of money, yet he didn't realize that such women would not respect him since he barely earned enough to support himself.

**Question: How do you decide if your expectations are not too high?**

**#8**

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