



# SIMCHAT SHMUEL

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As we all are adjusting to our challenging current events, I'd like to share some thoughts on our experience of this past Shabbat, a Shabbat of solitude.

This past Shabbat, we normally would have gathered together to hear the words of Parshiyot VaYakhel and Pekudei, as well as the special Kria for Shabbat HaChodesh.

Parshat VaYakhel begins with the words: Vayakhel Moshe et kol Adat Ben Yisrael - HaKadosh Baruch Hu instructs Moshe to gather together all of Bnei Yisrael.

How are we to understand this idea of gathering together as an entire community, during these difficult days of isolation, where we are unable to gather together as a community as we are accustomed?

Rashi explains that Hashem gave this instruction and spoke these words to

Moshe, on the day immediately following Yom Kippur. The Admor of Husiyatin zy'a, the Ohalei Yaakov of Tel Aviv, explained this insight from Rashi as teaching us a profound eternal lesson. On Yom Kippur it is almost universally understood that we gather together in harmony, love and unity, but Hashem reminds Moshe, also on the day following Yom Kippur, we need to find ways to express that same unity and love.

Yehi Ratzon, may we find strength from this powerful idea, that despite our physical distancing, may we be united in embracing the guidelines of safety, as an expression of love, unity and concern for one another. May we find ways to come together in virtual harmony, and may we soon gather together as before, in even greater joy and unity. ■



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