



TOWARDS MEANINGFUL PARENTING

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Every Word Matters: Lessons from the Megillah

Today, I want to focus on a halacha that at first glance seems technical, but which actually contains a profound insight into the story of Purim.

The Mishnah Berurah writes as follows:
אדם שלא קרא או לא שמע אפילו מילה אחת מן המגילה, לא יצא ידי חובה, וצריך לחזור ולקרוא את המגילה, מן המילה שלא שמע ואילך

A person who did not read or hear even a single word of the Megillah has not fulfilled the obligation and must return and read the Megillah from the word he missed onward.

According to this ruling, missing even one word of the Megillat Esther means one has not fulfilled the mitzvah. At first, this seems almost extreme. After all, if someone hears 99.99% of the Megillah, shouldn't that be enough? Yet, as Rav Meir Bareli explains in the sefer *Ohalei Halacha*, there is a profound reason behind this halacha. It carries a lesson that extends far beyond the technical

requirements of the mitzvah.

Purim itself is a story built out of details. The entire redemption of the Jewish people emerged not from grand miracles, but from a chain of small, seemingly insignificant events: a sleepless night in the palace, a refusal to come to a party, a conversation overheard at the right moment. None of these moments appeared important when they happened, yet together they formed the basis for salvation. If even one had been missing, the outcome would have been entirely different.

This is precisely why missing even a single word of the Megillah invalidates the reading, for who can say which word might hold the key? The halacha reflects the deeper truth that every detail counts. Hashem's hand is not only revealed through dramatic, open miracles, but also through the quiet, hidden moments that seem ordinary or disconnected. Each one plays a role in the unfolding of His plan.

This understanding changes how we view the story of our own lives. Often, we experience events that feel random, frustrating, or meaningless. We can't yet see how they fit together. But Purim teaches us that nothing is random. Every "word" of our lives, every moment and encounter, is part of a larger plan written by Hashem. Even when His name seems absent, His presence fills every line.

And this perspective extends to the world around us. When we read the news, follow events in Israel, or face uncertainty in global

Mazal Tov to
Daniel & Gabriella Sopher
on the marriage of their son

affairs, it's easy to feel confusion or despair. Yet Purim reminds us that the story isn't yet finished. Just as the people of Shushan could only see Hashem's plan once the story concluded (after 12 years!), we too will one day be able to look back and recognize the divine planning behind each event.

Listening to every word of the Megillah trains us to listen more carefully to life, to recognize that even what feels hidden, delayed, or insignificant may be the "missing word" that brings the entire story together.

May we all be Zocheh to witness how the seemingly disconnected events going on around us will gradually unfold into the ultimate Geula, במהרה בימינו. ■

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