

Hidden Truth ©

Bereisheit 33.1 - 20

Our Devri Limood is in the loving memory of Mr. Yochanan Bond, Mr. Stephen Reynolds and Mr. T.J. and Mrs. Olive Norman may they rest in peace.

וַיִּשָּׂא יַעֲקֹב עֵינָיו

Bereisheit 33.1-3

The relationships between relatives is often tested. In our Devri Torah Limood this week we see the test between Eisov and Yaakov, brothers, twins coming head on. All relationships experience tests. This comes pretty naturally. Brothers test brothers. Sisters test sisters. Children test parents. Husbands test there wives and wives test there husbands. No special tests are required. Situations that arise from out of no where test us.

We could go on and on... The facts are we all face tests and need to prepare in advance for them.

In this weeks Limood this is what we see Yaakov doing. Yaakov saw the test coming. It was Eisov, his brother, and 400 men. Yaakov made plans to face the test. UNFORTUNATELY not all tests that come our way are as easily identified a Eisov and 400 men coming right towards us. Tests creep into our lives without us paying a great deal of attention to them. Then all of the sudden they are upon us. They have us in their grip. We are surprised! We are shocked!

Yaakov knew why this test was coming his way. Yaakov lied to his father. Yaakov deceived his father. Now, we understand why Yaakov lied and deceived his father. It was for a very good reason. However Eisov did not share this position.

We know that there were extenuating circumstances:

- G-d Told Rivkah through the Novie, Shem that the older son, Eisov, would serve the younger son, Yaakov.
- We know that Yaakov purchased Eisov's birthright after he returned from murder and rape on the day of his grandfather, Avraham's death.
- We also know that Rivkah, the mother of Eisov and Yaakov instructed Yaakov to follow her plan. Yaakov did as he was instructed by his mother.
- We know that Rivkah participated in the deception of her husband

- We also know that it would have been disastrous if Yitzchok had given the blessing of the firstborn to Eisov...

Yet, all of this did not change the facts. Eisov was angry because he felt he had been wrongly dealt with by Yaakov. Eisov felt that Yaakov deceived him twice.

Now, sometimes situations happen and we do not know all the facts and we are tempted to make a judgment on just the information we have.. Many religious groups judge Yaakov to be a deceiver. They are looking only at Eisov's account of what happened. We should be careful in judging areas like this.

We who live in 5769 F.C. have the advantage of knowing the entire story as our Creator Related it to Moshe on Har Sinai. Yet, when this story happened in 2172 F.C. only pieces of the story were known. Hundreds of years later the truth of what happened was revealed.

We do not read anywhere in Ha Torah of Rivkah stating her involvement of what transpired to Yitzchok or Eisov. We do not read anywhere in Ha Torah of Yaakov defending himself against Eisov's allegations of lying and deceiving. We do not read of Yaakov blaming his mother etc. The information that the Creator wanted us to have was revealed centuries later.

Many years ago after I returned to Judaism my mother spoke with me. She queried, Akiva do you remember the time your father phoned and left a horrible message saying something to the effect that you needed to fall down on your knees and cry out to Jesus for forgiveness...? That you were raised better....? That you were taught the truth...? That there was no excuse for you leaving christianity and returning to Judaism...? Then your father said something like he would have nothing to do with you until you were cleansed by the blood of Jesus etc. Then Momma said I got on the phone and made a comments to the effect that I agreed with your father. By this point in the conversation Momma was crying. Momma said, Akiva your father made me say those words. I did not want to say them. I did not agree with him. Will you forgive me?

I responded, Yes! I understood all along that my mother never meant a word of what she was forced to say that day. Yet this was not confirmed until years later.

A few years back during the Atlanta Olympics there was a bombing. Richard Jewell was wrongly accused. He was arrested and charge with a crime he was later proved to be innocent of. At first the media was running wild with this story. Richard Jewell was convicted of this crime in the minds of many Americans before his day in court. We were all so to speak sweep off our feet by this story. We were pulled into the media hype without knowing the facts.

Many men who were tried and convicted of crimes they were innocent of have later been found innocent. Why? DNA! all the truth was not known...

Only parts of the truth were know when Yaakov meets his brother Eisov after 20 years of

separation... Yaakov knowing the truth bravely prepares to meet his brother.

May Hashem Bless each of us with patience when the times of test rise to be careful in our thoughts and deliberations.

Blessings Health, Prosperity, Kindness and Peace,

Dr. Akiva Gamliel