**Questions for Understanding and Reflection**

1. What verse or verses from the readings of the previous Sabbath (Gen 42:18 – ‎‎43:13‎; Psa. ‎‎35; Is 50:10 – 51:7, ‎‎11; Mk 3:31-‎‎35‎; Lk ‎‎8:19-21; and‎ Acts 9:32-‎‎43) were fulfilled in your life during the last week?‎

Last week I said: Let us become surety for our “brothers”… I had an opportunity to take time to put my life on hold for a few hours in order to track down the Hakham when his flight from Los Angeles went astray.

1. From all the readings for this Shabbat which verse or verses impressed your heart and fired your imagination?

**Bereshit 44:13** And they rent their clothes; but the strength of fortitude was given to them; and they laded every man his ass, and returned to the city.

The Hakham taught that the Jew can only receve their salvation if the Gentiles are saved first. The first Talmud was published in the language of the Gentiles, only at the beginning of the 20th century. This was really the first time that the Gentile could receive the oral Torah. This was the beginning of the final salvation of Gentiles.

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 43:14?

**And may the Almighty God** – What was being asked from God?

**the Almighty God** – What is the midrashic understanding of this pasuk?

**and he will release to you** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: וְשִׁלַח ?

**your…brother** – Which brother?

**Other** – Who is this other brother?

**and as for me** – What happened to him?

**as I am bereaved** – Who are the ones for which Yaaqob was bereaved?

**I am bereaved** – Who is being spoken of?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 43:15?

**and Benjamin** – What happened to Benjamin?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 43:18?

**Now the men were frightened** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: וַיִירְאוּ ?

**because they had been brought into Joseph’s house** – Why were they frightened?

**we are brought** – Which house?

**to roll upon us** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: לְהִתְגֽלֵל עָלֵינוּ?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 43:23?

**Your God** – Why did God favor them?

**Then the man brought** – How were the broght in?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 43:34?

**portions** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: מַשְׂאֽת?

**five times as large** – How was this broken out?

**and they drank and became intoxicated with him** – Why did they become intoxicated?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 44:8?

**Behold, the money, etc.** – Why is this mentioned?

**And he said, “Now indeed...”** – What is the meaning of this pasuk?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 44:13?

**and each one loaded his donkey** – What do we understand from this pasuk?

**and they returned to the city** - It was [in fact] a [major] metropolis. So why does the Torah say, “to the city,” meaning a city of any size?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 44:16?

**God has found** – How is mthis to be understood?

**and how shall we exonerate ourselves** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: נִצְטַדָָּק?

1. What is the nature of the evil that we fought and still fight against at Chanukah?

It was a spiritual assault that attempted to prevent us from studying Torah, circumcising our children, and observing Shabbat. The Greeks wanted us to become like them. We cannot adopt the standard of the Greeks (Gentiles); this would be our downfall.

1. ‎In Psalm 36:10 we read: “in Your light do we see light.” How is this related to the lights of Chanukah, and to the weekly Sabbath lights?

His light contains two parts: One that we use and see today in the Shabbat candles, the second part of His light was hidden away fro the righteous in the Olam HaBa – this is the light of Chanukah. In Spanish, when a woman gives birth, they say that she has given to the light. She has revealed the light of HaShem and the light of a new sould. This is what the woman does when she lights the Sabbath candles.

1. ‎According to the Prophet Jeremiah, why is it so important for God to have the Jewish people settle in the land of Israel?

God will forgive you if you stay in the land of Israel. In Egypt they will be assimilated.

1. Why was some (seed) that fell into uncultivated soil, eaten by the birds? Please explain your answer.

Keep hungry. If you keep hungry you will keep seeking to eat more. Don’t ever become satisfied with what you have learned.

The birds are a symbol of the shedim (in the sod). If you give them a chance they will steal your seed. They come from nowhere and they leave us with nothing.

1. ‎What Halakhot is the Master teaching in the text of Mark 4:1-9‎?

To honor the Hakhamim.

To cleave to the Hakhamim.

To learn Torah.

We must look to our deeds because they are a mirror of our spiritual positiomn. We understand the spiritual from the physical. We can never fix the spiritual unless we first fix the spiritual.

1. What additional information is Hakham Shaul providing to us in his Tosefta of Lk 8:4-8‎, that was not given in Mark 4:1-9?

He gives 4 analogies that are not provided in Mark. He was giving us the detail in the peshat that is simply assumed in Luke. He assumes that you are familiar witrh Mark because the Luke is built upon the Mark passage.

1. How is the Remes text of Acts 10:1-8‎ bringing a commentary on the text of Mark 4:1-9?

One person in four will accept the Torah, on average. The other three will disappear. On a deeper level he is speaking of four different types of people. This comprises all people because that is the meaning of the number four.

1. Are the Halakhot presented to us in Acts 10:1-8 the same as those presented to us in the text of Mark 4:1-9? Why or why not? Please explain your answer.

We are looking for faithfulness in our talmidim. Faithful in their Torah study, tzedaka, and chessed. But, he must be faithfull in all he does. What we do in the natural, that we will do in the spiritual.

1. Was the Centurion convert, and his household, submersed in water as their **only** requirement to become part of the nation of Israel? Please explain your answer.

In the peshat it looks like he was immersed with nothing more. Yet, we know that the halacha requires that he be circumcised, and to learn Torah first. Therefore, a pars-pro-toto is being presented in the peshat. We see the immersion and we understand that this includes all of the halachic requirements, with immersion being the final component.

Remes is fond of using “pars-pro-toto” artifices. Therefore “immersing” in this context presupposes that the males were already circumcised in accordance to Jewish Law. It then follows: “Can anyone forbid water” ...

1. ‎Taking into consideration all the readings for this Shabbat what is the prophetic statement for this week?‎

This is a propitious time to **use** the light HaShem has given us. Have respect for the light and the light bringers.