

Pinchas

This week's Parsha is named for the hero of last week, Pinchas Ben Alazar Ben Ahron Hakohen, who stopped the plague from the crimes of Zimri and Kosbi, characters who succumbed to the schemes of Bilaam (that is to tempt the Jews into promiscuity to lead them astray and serve Baal Peor).

Pinchas the parsha, includes all the enjoyable holiday readings, of all the sacrifices that one brings for the holidays.

To explain and connect with a point the Alter Rebbe brings on the parsha. There's the following joke:

A wife decides to have a logical conversation with her husband in order to get him to change his habits.

Wife: Do you drink beer?

Husband: Yes.

Wife: How many beers a day?

Husband: Usually three.

Wife: How much do you pay per beer?

Husband: I pay \$5, including the tip.

Wife: And how long have you been drinking?

Husband: About 20 years, I suppose.

Wife: So a beer costs \$5, and you have three beers a day, so you spend \$450 monthly. In one year, that would be about \$5400, correct?

Husband: Correct.

Wife: Not accounting for inflation, this means your spending over the past 20 years is about \$108,000 correct?

Husband: Correct.

Wife: Do you know that if you didn't drink so much beer, that money could have been put in a savings account, and with interest compounding over that time, you could now have bought an airplane?

Husband: Do you drink beer?

Wife: No.

Husband: Where's your airplane?

The same could be said about mitzvos. If you don't actually do them, you cannot look to someone else and wonder where there mitzvos are. This is the lesson of sacrifice and self-sacrifice that is explained through the Korbanos, and something Pinchas himself exemplified.