

As this goes to print we are mindful of all of the victims and families who have suffered losses and hardships from the devastating hands of many of the recent natural disasters; (Building collapse, wild fires, flash floods, extreme heat, etc. etc.). And here we are, being confronted with a new challenge, a new strain of the COVID virus. May G-d be with all that are suffering, heal them and give us

all strength as we all have been shown more than we can understand. The lesson that we might all learn from this, is that, when it's difficult to see the light at the end of the tunnel - 'sometimes you just have to let go and let G-d!'...as we see from the following parable. "Sometimes You Have To Let Go"...

Jack was walking along a steep cliff one day when he accidentally got too close to the edge and fell. On the way down he grabbed a branch, which stopped his fall. He looked down and to his horror saw that the canyon fell straight down for more than a thousand feet. He couldn't hang onto the branch forever, and there was no way for him to climb up the steep wall of the cliff.

So Jack began yelling for help, hoping that someone passing by would hear him and lower a rope or something. "HELP! HELP! Is anyone up there? "HELP!" He yelled for a long time, but no one heard him. He was about to give up, when all of a sudden he heard a voice.

"Jack, Jack. Can you hear me?"

"Yes, yes! I can hear you. I'm down here!"

"I can see you, Jack. Are you alright?"

"Yes, but who are you, and where are you?

"I am the Lord, Jack. I'm everywhere."

"The Lord? You mean, G-d?"

"Yes that's Me."

"G-d, please help me! I promise, if you'll get me down from here, I'll stop sinning. I'll be a really good person. I'll serve You for the rest of my life."

"Easy on the promises, Jack. Let's get you off from there, then we can talk."

"Now, here's what I want you to do. Listen carefully."

"I'll do anything, Lord. Just tell me what to do."

"Okay. Let go of the branch."

"What?"

"I said, let go of the branch." Just trust Me. Let go."

There was a long silence.

Finally Jack yelled, "HELP! IS ANYONE ELSE UP THERE I CAN TALK TO?"

Have you ever felt like Jack? We say that we want to know the will of G-d, but when we find out what it is, we can't handle it. Sounds too scary, too difficult. We decide to look elsewhere. When He says, "Let go of the things that stand between you and Me, and trust Me with your life," it sounds pretty scary. But when we let go, we find freedom, safety

and comfort in His hands."

And the other lesson we can learn is, "make the most of every day, because we don't know what tomorrow will bring". As the poem goes "There Are Two Days We Shouldn't Worry About"....

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry, two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is Yesterday with all its mistakes and cares,

its faults and blunders, its aches and pains.

Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control.

All the money in the world cannot bring back Yesterday.

The other day we should not worry about is Tomorrow

with all its' possible opportunities, its' burdens, its' large promise.

Tomorrow is also beyond our immediate control.

Tomorrow's sun will rise,

either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds, but it will rise.

Until it does, we have no stake in Tomorrow,

for it is yet to be born.

This leaves only one day, Today.

Most people can muster the strength to fight the battle of just one day.

It is when you add the burdens that are beyond our control of Yesterday and Tomorrow that we break down. Let us therefore, live Today and make the best of it, and live our lives, 'one day at a time'.

And before we close, here is a bit of humor to keep you smiling:

A man is walking along the beach, finds a lamp. He rubs it and a Genie emerges. The Genie tells him he will be granted three wishes. The man thinks for a moment and says, "First, give me a bottomless mug of beer. A mug of beer appears in his hand. He sips it once, then again and the mug is magically refilled. The man is thrilled and continues to drink. The mug never empties. Then the Genie says, "And what about your other two wishes? "The guy thinks for a moment and says, "Give me two more just like this one!"......lol...

On behalf of ALL the Chaplains Thanks to each of you for all the Holy and noble work that you do. Should you need a shoulder to lean on, an ear to listen or perhaps have some good humor to share, please do not hesitate to give us a call. May G-d bless you and keep you safe, today and always. Amen

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