



“The Tomato Factory”

November 2020

An unemployed man is desperate to support his family of a wife and three kids. He applies for a janitor's job at a large firm and easily passes an aptitude test. The human resources manager tells him, "You will be hired at minimum wage of \$7.15 an hour. Let me have your e-mail address so that we can get you into the computer system. Our system will automatically e-mail you all the forms and advise you when to start and where to report on your first day" Taken aback, the man protests that he is poor and has neither a computer nor an e-mail address.

To this the manager replies, "You must understand that to a company like ours, that means that you virtually do not exist. Without an e-mail address, you can hardly expect to be employed by a high-tech firm. Good day." Stunned, the man leaves. Not knowing where to turn and having \$10 in his wallet, he walks past a farmers' market and sees a stand selling a 25 lb. crate of beautiful red tomatoes. He buys a crate, carries it to a busy corner, and displays the tomatoes. In less than 2 hours, he sells all the tomatoes and makes 100% profit. Repeating the process several times more that day, he ends up with almost \$100 and arrives home that night with several bags of groceries for his family.

During the night he decides to repeat the tomato business the next day. By the end of the week he is getting up early every day and working into the night. He multiplies his profits quickly. Early in the second week he acquires a cart to transport several boxes of tomatoes at a time, and before a month is up he sells the cart to buy a broken-down pickup truck. At the end of a year he owns three old trucks. His two sons have left their neighborhood gangs to help him with the tomato business; his wife is buying the tomatoes, and his daughter is taking night courses at the community college so she can keep books for him. By the end of the second year he has a dozen very nice used trucks and employs fifteen previously unemployed people, all selling tomatoes.

He continues to work hard.

Time passes and at the end of the fifth year he owns a fleet of nice trucks and a warehouse which his wife supervises, plus two tomato farms that the boys manage. The tomato company's payroll has put hundreds of homeless and jobless people to work. His daughter reports that the business grossed \$18 million dollars.

Planning for the future, he decides to buy some life insurance. Consulting with an insurance adviser, he picks an insurance plan to fit his new circumstances. Then the adviser asks him for his e-mail address in order to send the final documents electronically. When the man replies that he doesn't have time to mess with a computer and has no e-mail address.

The insurance man is stunned, "What, you don't have e-mail? No computer? No Internet? Just think where you would be today if you'd had all of that five years ago!" "Ha!" snorts the man. "If I'd had e-mail five years ago I would be sweeping floors at Microsoft and making \$7.15 an hour".

Which brings us to the moral of our story: In life sometimes not having a luxury, or not having all our wants, it is G-d's way of preparing us for greater heights, way beyond our dreams. Our disappointments might actually be the big break we were waiting for. Remember, just because we always see or understand G-d's response, does not mean he isn't listening to our prayers. He is just preparing us for a better outcome that we could have never imagined.

With the Thanksgiving Holiday upon us please let me share with you a short Thanksgiving prayer....

Dear Lord...Even though I clutch my blanket and growl when the alarm rings each morning, thank You, Lord, that I can hear. There are many who are deaf.

Even though I keep my eyes tightly closed against the morning light as long as possible, thank You Lord, that I can see. There are many who are blind.

Even though I huddle in my bed and put off the effort of rising, thank You, Lord that I have the strength to rise. There are many who are bedridden and ill.

Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned, and tempers are short, thank You, Lord, for my family and loved ones. There are many who are lonely.

Even though our breakfast never looks like the pictures in magazines and the menu is at times unbalanced to say the least, thank You, Lord for the food we have. There are many who have less than we do.

Even though I grumble and bemoan my fate from day to day and wish, my circumstances were not so modest, thank You, Lord, for the gift of life.

And please Lord, keep me mindful of all the blessings You have bestowed upon me, because I know there are many whose burden is much heavier than mine.

Lord as we go through these most unprecedented times, where at times we feel lost and forlorn please Lord, keep us in YOUR loving care and remind us that there is a beautiful sunshine waiting for us behind this temporary cloud. We are MOST grateful for your love and blessings. AMEN!

Last but not least, let us remember, we are all family and none of us should ever feel alone or lonely. Please look around among your peers and co-workers, reach out to anyone that can use some company or love in these most trying times; let them join your family for a meal or your family festivities, it will enrich both of you. Let this be your motto, "Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others, cannot keep it from themselves".

On behalf of ALL the Chaplains, may G-d bless you and keep you safe. Should you need a shoulder to lean on or an ear to listen, don't hesitate to give us a call.

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

Rabbi Moshe Wolf (773)-463-4780 or moshewolf@hotmail.com