

**Good Shabbos Everyone.** This week we read about how the spies went to Eretz Yisroel and carried, among other things, giant grapes on a wooden pole. Rashi explains that one person can carry 1/3 of the weight that two people can carry. For example, if one person can carry 100 lbs. on his shoulders, then two people can carry 300 lbs. together. From here, the Chassidische seforim teach us an uplifting message: Two Jews have more power to uplift together than one alone! The following inspirational story illustrates, at least in part, this concept.

In Eretz Yisroel, about four years ago, Binyamin Newman began to prepare for his Bar Mitzvah. For six months Binyamin practiced reading the words and the proper sounds of Parshas Yisro (the section of the Torah that was read the week he was born), so that on the Shabbos of his Bar Mitzvah he would be able to read it from the Sefer Torah perfectly.

When those six months were up, not only did Binyamin know it, so did everyone else in his family! On the bright and sunny morning of the Bar Mitzvah Shabbos, the Newman group - grandparents, greatgrandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends - gathered at the shul for davening (praying). Then Binyamin's big moment arrived.

The Sefer Torah was taken out of the Aron HaKodesh (the holy Ark) and placed upon the Bimah, where the Torah is read. Binyamin and his father began to walk towards the Bimah from one side of the shul.

To everyone's surprise, at the same time, another Bar Mitzvah bochur Shlomo Pam and his father began walking to the Bimah from the opposite side of the shul. The Pams were new in the neighborhood, and Mr. Rutkin, the Gabbai charge of the shul's affairs, realized with a shock that he had completely forgotten Shlomo Pam's Bar Mitzvah was also that Shabbos. The Gabbai stood between the two Bar Mitzvah boys.

"I'm so sorry, I forgot that there are two happy occasions this Shabbos," he said. "You both have practiced many long hours in order to be able to read parsha. Let's divide the parsha between you." Binyamin saw the disappointment in the other Bar Mitzvah bochur Shlomo's eyes.

"Mr. Rutkin," he said, "I would like Shlomo to read the whole parsha."

"Why?" asked the Gabbai, surprised. "After all....I won't be any less a 'Bar Mitzvah because I did not read," said Binyamin with a smile. Then he leaned over, shook his new friend's hand warmly and said, "Mazel Tov, Shlomy!"

Upstairs in the women's section, one mother looked down, her heart filled with relief, while another mother's heart was filled with pride. "Baruch Hashem, Shlomo worked so hard..." whispered Shlomo's mother Mrs. Pam to her sister.

"The move to the new neighborhood hasn't been easy for him." And few feet away, Binyamin's mother Mrs. Newman whispered to her mother, "My 'tzaddik.' One who says 'What is mine is yours, and what is yours is yours, is called a 'righteous' person (a tzaddik). Thank you, Hashem, for helping us bring up our son Binyamin to be such a man..."

After the Torah reading, Mrs. Pam rushed over to Mrs. Newman. "I can't thank you enough for your son's chessed (good deed). May Hashem repay you and your family many times over." Binyamin's practicing of his bar mitzvah parsha was not for nothing; it came to good use 4 years later. This we will read about next week, with Hashem's help... **Good Shabbos Everyone.**