



SIMCHAT SHMUEL

BY RABBI SAM SHOR

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This Friday we commemorate *Pesach Sheini*, literally the second *Pesach*. In *Parshat Beha'alotcha*, we read:

However, there were some men who were unclean, having come in contact with a corpse and could not offer the Korban Pesach on that day. Appearing that same day before Moshe and Aharon, those men said to them, "Unclean though we are by reason of a corpse, why must we be prevented from presenting Hashem with an offering at its set time with the rest of the Jewish People?" Moshe said to them, "Imdu- Stand by, and let me hear what instructions the Hashem gives for you." Hashem spoke to Moshe, saying: Speak to the Jewish people, and say: When any of you or of your posterity who are defiled by a corpse or are on a long journey would offer the Korban Pesach to Hashem, they shall offer it in the second month, on the fourteenth day of the month, at twilight. They shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, and they shall not leave any of it over until morning. They shall not break a bone of it. They shall offer it in strict accord with the law of the Korban Pesach..."

The *Chidushei HaRim*, the first *Gerer Rebbe* zy'a, explains that the word **Imdu** does not mean to stand by and wait, rather it means **Imdu** stand up, even

though you may have been unable to perform the *mitzva* initially, don't fall into despair. **Imdu- stand up-** Hashem gives us the opportunity for a second chance!

Teshuva, the opportunity for growth and change, the opportunity to move forward... is a great gift from Hashem!

So too in our days, in the absence of the *Korban Pesach*, there is an eternal message of *chizuk*, inherent in these verses, and represented by this sacred day of *Pesach Sheini*. **Imdu-** Stand up! Each of us can stand upright once again before *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* through *teshuva* and *tefila*. It is never too late!

Rebbe Naftali Tzvi of Ropschitz, zy'a, taught that a person might think that because of their many mistakes or flaws, there is no hope for them, that it is impossible for them to turn their lives around, to improve their circumstances. Giving up, selling oneself short, explains the *Ropschitzer*, is not only counterproductive, but is also an act of great heresy! *Teshuva*, the opportunity for growth and change, the opportunity

to move forward, and leave our mistakes or missed opportunities in the past, is a great gift from *Hashem!* One who feels that he is not capable of *teshuva*, explains the Rebbe, is not simply selling himself short, but rather denying the endless kindness, compassion and love that the *Ribono Shel Olam* has for each and every member of *Klal Yisrael*.

The message of *Pesach Sheini*, is precisely this idea, to leave behind those past mistakes or missed opportunities, and move forward and embrace the potential for growth and success, to embrace the gift of *teshuva*, to tap into our innate strength that Hashem has endowed each of us with, and in so doing transform ourselves and the entire world. ■




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