

## **RaYBaSH's Torah Thoughts for Kids**

**Parashah Double Portion! # 51-52: Nitzavim & Va'yelech: "You are standing, And he went"**

**Devarim (Deuteronomy) 29:9-31:30**

**By: Yehudah ben Shomeyr**

One evening while I was checking my e-mails my daughter approached me with "busy work". She was working with scissors and construction paper trying to make a heart. Many times before I had shown her the trick to making hearts by folding a piece of paper in half, drawing half of the heart, then cutting it out. This time I verbally told her how to do it. She huffed and puffed and pouted, "I can't, I can't!" She was about to ask her Gram to do it when I forbade her and said, "No, you're not asking Gram, I know you can do this yourself." This time I drew her instructions on a piece of paper and again verbally told her how to do it. In disappointment and frustration she sat down and began trying to make the paper heart. Several times she hastily folded the paper and scribbled a half circle on it and protested, "I can't, I can't!" As the floor began to fill with discarded attempts I said:

"Yes you can, you are just disappointed because you are not getting your way and you are frustrated and not really trying."

Again she went through the exact same process and said; "I can't, I can't!" and she began to cry. I'm sure her Grandparents probably thought I was cruel and making a big deal out of nothing, but I had a point and it would take an hour to make it!

She began to cry and I told her to go to her room to get a hold of herself and when she is calm to come back out and we would talk.

A short time later she emerged from her bedroom, eyes all red and sniffing. I stopped pecking keys on the computer, turned to her and asked her if she was ready to talk. Once I was sure she was calm and I had her full attention I looked her straight in the eye and said:

"Honey, look at the clock, it's almost 7 o'clock. It has been almost an hour since you began trying to make a paper heart. Now is that something to get all upset over and crying about and wasting an hour of your life over?"

She shook her head no as I continued.

“Honey, if you need me to grab something that you can’t reach, or lift something that is too heavy for you, I will be happy to help you. But I refuse to do things for you that I KNOW you can do. You’re almost seven years old and I KNOW you can do something so simple as cutting out a paper heart. Sweet heart, I’m not mad at you, and I’m not trying to yell at you but you need to learn how to do things on your own. This world is cruel and you cannot depend on anyone, everyone will eventually fail you. Even your mother and I will fail you and most likely already have in some way. There are only two people you can depend on and that is you and God. Your mother is very independent and can do many things by herself and I am trying to teach you to be that way too. You won’t get far in life if you can’t achieve some level of independence. Second, you were getting frustrated and therefore causing yourself to fail.”

I saw so much of myself in my daughter at that moment.

“You know what my Mom told me when I got frustrated? She told me to walk away from it for a little while and do something else, and when I have calmed down and some time had passed to come back and try again. And I think you need to do that with your paper hearts. If you don’t, you just set yourself up for failure because of your emotions.”

I saw tears began to well up in her little eyes.

“What’s the matter now? Honey, I’m not mad at you and you not in trouble, what is wrong?”

As her little bottom lip began to tremble she lunged at me to embrace me with hug. I held her and comforted her.

When she felt better she went along her merry way and about another hour later she came back practically bursting my eardrums excitedly shouting; “I did it! I did it! Daddy I did it!” She had folded a piece of paper, successfully drew a half heart on it and cut it out.

“See, I knew you could Honey!”

She was proud because she didn’t give up, because she knew down deep she could do it, because she didn’t take the easy way out and allow someone else to do it, because she calmed herself down, tried again and did it!

This is just like the Torah, it may seem like you can't do it but G-d would never expect us to do anything that was impossible for us.

**Phil. 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**

Shabbat Shalom and Shavuah Tov!

-- Yehudah ben Shomeyr