

Parshat Naso

Taking Responsibility

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In this week's Parsha, Parshat Naso, Hashem commands B'nei Yisrael to expel from their camp any individual who has tzara'at, leprosy. During the times of the Beit Hamikdash, an individual who had tzara'at may have gotten it from gossiping about someone else. So what may be a reason why it would be important, for that person with tzara'at, to live outside of the community? When an individual makes a mistake, he or she do not like taking responsibility for it. People don't want to be thought of as someone who hurts other people. To avoid this, people may choose to create excuses for their actions, so that they feel justified in their choice of actions and not bad. By being separated from the community, it makes it less likely that they will sin more by trying to repeat their actions in the hope of defending the way they look at themselves. Having responsibility is different than taking responsibility. Having responsibility means that you have an obligation to act, while taking responsibility means to accept the actions and their consequences that you have made. Having responsibility is not a choice, while taking responsibility is. Make the right choice and try to take responsibility especially in difficult situations, even though you may be worried about how it might make you look like a bad person. A person who takes responsibility for their mistakes is someone who is ready to improve.

Parsha Questions

- 1) For Leviim to do work in the Mishkan, they had to be between what ages? (30-50 years old)
- 2) What are the 3 types of Tamai people that must leave the camps of B'nei Yisrael? (Tamai meit, zav and tzaruah)
- 3) What happens to the money one steals from a convert without relatives that died? (It is given to the Kohen)
- 4) What is a woman called who is suspected by her husband? (Sotah)
- 5) Why does the Kohen uncover the hair of the woman? (To embarrass her)
- 6) How long is regular Nezirut for? (30 days)
- 7) What may a Nazir not eat or drink? (Any grape items)
- 8) What can a Nazir not cut? (His hair)
- 9) Can a Nazir allow himself to become Tamai Meit for his father/mother/sister/brother? (No)
- 10) What happens if a Nazir accidentally becomes Tamai Meit? (He shaves on the seventh day and starts over again on the eighth. He also needs to bring 3 offerings)