



BE A MENTSCH

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Just Listen!

פְּרִשֶׁת בְּחֻקְתִּי

In this week's Parsha, פְּרִשֶׁת בְּחֻקְתִּי, we learn about the mitzvah of “Accepting תּוֹכָחָה”. We can improve our own behavior either by looking at other people's behavior or by listening to people's *words*. Whatever the case, we can learn to better ourselves just by remaining silent, listening to what other people say and asking ourselves, “Is what I am doing the right thing?”

Whenever we observe beautiful behavior, we should try to emulate it and copy it. At a Torah U'Mesorah convention a number of years ago, a story was told about a pre-school child chosen to be the *Shabbos Abba* at school. The boy pointing to a girl in his playgroup, like his father says to his mother, thanked her for preparing a beautiful *Shabbos*. Turning to the other children in his class, he said “Thank you, children, for setting the table” and then he began *Kiddush*. How beautiful! Can you tell what type of *Derech Eretz* this child sees at home every Shabbos night?

However, sometimes people may tell us that **we** are doing things that maybe wrong. It is important to listen and think about what was said to us. *Ask ourselves* a few questions. Did I do that? Is it wrong? Why did I do that? Is the person right? It may be true or it could also be not true. We should not answer back or yell, but we must ***think*** about what is being said. Consider a statement from רַבִּי מֵאִיר in Avos D'Rabi Nosson (פרק כט:א) “Love your friend since his criticism will lead you to Olam Haba”. If we choose to listen to the ideas other people share with us, we can change our lifestyle for the better.

This is what בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל did in this week's Parsha, they listened to Moshe silently and accepted to be the best עֲבָדֵי ה', which they could be. Let's try to ***Become a Mentsch*** and listen to what others are saying!

Have a Great Shabbos!