



# The Jewish Learning Exchange

## How to Spiritually Rebuild the Temple Today

- I. Historical perspective
  - A. Fascinating information recently revealed about site of Temple
  
- II. Why were both *Batei Mikdash* destroyed?
  - A. *Talmud Yuma 9b*
    1. 1<sup>st</sup> – 3 cardinal sins
    2. 2<sup>nd</sup> – baseless hatred
  
- III. Practical applications today
  - A. 1<sup>st</sup> Temple
    1. Literal
    2. Expanded view
      - a. Idols
        - i. What do we worship outside ourselves?
        - ii. Who do we idolize
          - a) Ex. Stars, American Idol, rich and famous
            1. Hollywood Blvd. stars
          - b) Reflects values
            1. Ex. Baseball vs. Rebbe cards
        - iii. What do we worship in ourselves?
          - a) Ex. Work, ego, what others think
          - b) Counter example- slap of fundraiser
      - b. Forbidden sexual relations
        - i. *Tznius*
        - ii. Watching our eyes (Ex. Internet filters)
          - a) Store in Brooklyn – cereal
        - iii. Realistic expectations vs. indoctrination
          - a) Air brushing, Barbie
      - c. Murder
        - i. Embarrassing someone as if...
        - ii. Counter: building someone up
        - iii. Killing with words or body language
  3. Deeper view
    - a. *Maharal*
      - i. First Temple in merit of *Avos* – Patriarchs
        - a) Corresponds to three things world stands on
          1. Avrohom – *Chesed* – Loving Kindness

- 2. Yitzchok – *Avodah* – Service to Hashem
- 3. Yaakov – *Torah* – Study of
- b) Cardinal sins – failure in these three
  - 1. Idol worship – Service
  - 2. Sexual immorality – *Torah*
  - 3. Murder - *Chesed*
- b. What are 3 most important relationships
  - i. Importance of working on each

## B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple

- 1. What does unwarranted hatred mean?
  - a. Never met you? Illogical
    - i. Bias?
    - ii. Lessons from Hitler and Arab terrorists
  - b. Have reason, why unwarranted?
    - i. Reason not good enough!
      - a) Examples
        - 1. Jealous of what he has (wealth, honor, talents, virtues)
        - 2. Insulted me
      - b) Solutions – *Chofetz Chaim Kuntros Ahavas Yisroel*
        - 1. Jealousy, money – why do people have?
          - a. Two reasons, one positive, one negative
        - 2. Bottom line → *Hashem* runs the world
- 2. Examples of *Torah* view
  - i. Revenge and holding a grudge
    - a) Ex. Loaning
- 3. Why so bad? Seems equal to cardinal sins?
  - i. *Maharal* – Second Temple in merits of holiness of *Klal Yisroel* – Jewish People
  - ii. Cause of our continuing exile
  - iii. *Chofetz Chaim* - brings to many sins
    - a) Discord, jealousy, speaking ill, slander, hurtful language
    - b) Embarrassing someone and murder
      - 1. Death of Hevel root
  - iv. Can be constant – whenever think ill of person or people

- v. Another approach
  - a) 1<sup>st</sup> – 3 cause
  - b) 2<sup>nd</sup> – condition to exist

#### IV. Chiddushei Harim

A. Solution → Ahavas Chinam – unwarranted love

- 1. 2 stories



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## The 3 Weeks: 21 Days to Rebuild the Temple

Keys: Look, Think, Feel, and Take the Initiative

1. Doing acts of loving kindness
2. נושא בעול עם חבירו - Sharing someone else's burden
3. Complimenting someone
4. תפילה - praying for someone else
5. Doing an anonymous act of חסד - loving kindness
6. Judging someone favorably
7. Not listening to negative speech about others- individuals or groups
8. Visiting the sick
9. Giving financial support to help someone get married
10. Rising for the elderly or wise
11. Not gossiping about others regardless if true or not
12. Making peace - extending oneself to another even if you (think you) are right
13. Including someone who is excluded from the group
14. Greeting everyone with a happy countenance
15. שידוך - trying to help someone find a marriage partner
16. Cheering someone up
17. Studying Torah with someone less knowledgeable than you
18. How to give charity: **S.M.I.L.E.** = **S**-smile **M**-money **I**-invite **L**-listen **E**-eat
19. Being the first to say hello
20. Trying to help someone get a job, saving someone else money
21. Calling and visiting someone who is lonely