**Class # 32- Parshat Ba’alaotcha - FOMO- The Fear of Missing Out.**

Advanced Fellowship Parsha Class - Sponsored in memory of Alice Toby Barbanel Z”l

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[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrC\_MSG9zSU**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrC_MSG9zSU)

Fear of Missing Out (FOMO) is an almost inevitable danger in the modern world, where we’re surrounded by suggestions of how life might be perfect.

1. What about modern life creates a greater sense of FOMO than ever before?
2. Why do you think people are plagued by FOMO?
3. What is the video’s distinction between the “Romantic” and “Classical” approach to seeing life?
4. When have you felt FOMO the most?

*Passover in the Desert*

9:1 God spoke to Moses in the Sinai Desert, in the second year of the Exodus of Egypt, in the [first month](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=9#C2900), saying, 9:2 'The Israelites shall prepare the Passover offering at its proper time. 9:3 The proper time for its preparation shall be the 14th day of this month in the afternoon. They must prepare it in accordance with all its decrees and laws.' 9:4 Moses spoke to the Israelites, [telling them] to prepare the Passover offering. 9:5 They prepared the Passover offering in the Sinai Desert, on the 14th of the first [month] in the afternoon. The Israelites did exactly as God had instructed Moses. 9:6 There were, however, some men who had come in contact with the dead, and were therefore ritually unclean, so that they could not prepare the Passover offering on that day. During the course of that day, they approached Moses and Aaron. 9:7 'We are ritually unclean as a result of contact with the dead,' the men said to [Moses]. **'But why should we lose out and not be able to present God's offering at the right time, along with the other Israelites?'** 9:8 'Wait here,' replied Moses. 'I will hear what orders God gives regarding your case.'

*Making Up the Passover Offering*

9:9 God spoke to Moses, telling him to 9:10 speak to the Israelites, saying:

If any person is ritually unclean from contact with the dead, or is on a distant journey, whether among you [now] or in future generations, he shall still have the opportunity to prepare God's Passover offering.

9:11 He shall prepare it on the afternoon of the [14th of the second month](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=9#C2901), and [shall eat it with matzahs and bitter herbs](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=9#C2902). 9:12 He shall not leave any of it over until morning, and [not break any bone in it](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=9#C2903). He shall thus prepare it according to all the rules of the [regular] Passover offering. 9:13 However, if a man is ritually clean, and not on a distant journey, and he neglects to prepare the Passover offering, that person shall be cut off [spiritually] from his people. He shall bear his guilt for not offering God's sacrifice at the prescribed time. 9:14 If a proselyte joins you, he must also prepare God's Passover offering, presenting it according to the rules and laws governing the Passover offering. There shall thus be a single law for [all of] you, the proselyte and native born [alike].

Seforno

אנחנו טמאים לנפש אדם למה נגרע, seeing that the ritual impurity we have incurred was incurred in the process of our fulfilling a positive commandment, why should the result of this be the misdemeanor of not fulfilling such an important commandment as observing the Passover at the appointed time?

במועדו, seeing that this is a commandment which can only be fulfilled at its appointed date?

[*According to this position the petitioners were people whose impurity stemmed from dealing with a dead body for the purposes of fulfilling a mitzvah.  They could have become impure from burying a "מת מצוה", caring for the bodies of Nadav and Avihu or carrying Yosef's casket, as per the opinions in* [*Bavli Sukkah 25a-b*](http://alhatorah.org/Pesach_Sheni_%E2%80%93_The_People's_Petition/5#BavliSukkah25a)*.*[*1*](http://alhatorah.org/Pesach_Sheni_%E2%80%93_The_People's_Petition/2#fn1) *They question why it is fair that the performance of a good deed should have negative consequences*[*2*](http://alhatorah.org/Pesach_Sheni_%E2%80%93_The_People's_Petition/2#fn2) *and thus request a special dispensation that their impure status be ignored.]*

RASHI

*WHEREFORE ARE WE KEPT BACK? – He (Moses) had said to them, "Sacrifices are not permitted to be offered by anyone who is in a state of uncleanness". They retorted, "למה נגרע" — Why should that prevent us? Let the blood be sprinkled on our behalf by clean priests, and let the flesh be eaten by the clean". (i.e. let us partake of the flesh at night when we shall already be clean: see Note). Thereupon he said to them: "Stand still (i.e. wait a short time) and I will hear [what the Lord will command concerning you]" — ….*

*6) Why did the people have FOMO over the Korban Pesach?*

*7) Why did the people not feel happy that they DIDN’T have to do the Korban Pesach! Aren’t there Mitzvot that you would feel happy being exempt from?*

***משנה אבות ד ב***

*בֶּן עַזַּאי אוֹמֵר, הֱוֵי רָץ לְמִצְוָה קַלָּה (כְּבַחֲמוּרָה), וּבוֹרֵחַ מִן הָעֲבֵרָה.*

*שֶׁמִּצְוָה גּוֹרֶרֶת מִצְוָה, וַעֲבֵרָה גוֹרֶרֶת עֲבֵרָה.*

*שֶׁשְּׂכַר מִצְוָה, מִצְוָה. וּשְׂכַר עֲבֵרָה, עֲבֵרָה:*

***2.*** *Ben Azzai would say: Run to pursue a minor mitzvah and flee from a transgression. For a mitzvah brings another mitzvah, and a transgression brings another transgression. For the reward of a mitzvah is a mitzvah, and the reward of transgression is transgression.*