Class # 13 - **Parshat Va’era – From the frying pan into the fire: what do I do when my life falls apart**

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

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**The Pursuit of Happyness - Subway scene**

Chris Gartner’s life fell apart completely.

His wife left him, he made bad investments leaving him nearly penniless, his wife could no longer care for their child, and then he is evicted from their apartment.

Every day is a struggle for single father Chris Gardner (Will Smith)., he and his young son (Jaden Christopher Syre Smith) who find themselves alone with no place to live.

<https://youtu.be/dLwjEtY4uas?t=67>

1. What would most people feel at that point? What would most people do? What would you do?
2. If you were Chris and went to the last possible family member, a well known Rabbi, and they promised you help, how would you feel about Judaism and Hashem?
3. What if this last possible family member, completely let you down and did nothing, casting you into the street, how would you feel about Judaism and Hashem at that point?

5:6 That day, Pharaoh gave new orders to the people's administrators and foremen. He said,

5:7 'Do not give the people straw for bricks as before. Let them go and gather their own straw.

5:8 Meanwhile, you must require them to make the same quota of bricks as before. Do not reduce it. They are lazy, and are protesting that they want to go sacrifice to their God…..

5:22 Moses returned to God and said, 'O Lord, why do You mistreat Your people? Why did You send me?

5:23 Ever since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he made things worse for these people. You have done nothing to help Your people.'

1. Why did Moshe accuse Hashem of mistreating him and abandoning the Jewish people?
2. Why did Moshe not consider that Hashem had other plans for the Jewish people?
3. Why is Moshe not rebuked for this “chutzpah”?

**Isaiah 55:8** - For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are My ways your ways —declares the LORD.

כִּ֣י לֹ֤א מַחְשְׁבוֹתַי֙ מַחְשְׁב֣וֹתֵיכֶ֔ם וְלֹ֥א דַרְכֵיכֶ֖ם דְּרָכָ֑י נְאֻ֖ם יְהוָ-ֽה׃

6:1 God said to Moses, 'Now you will begin to see what I will do to Pharaoh. He will be forced to let them go. [Not only that, but] he will be forced to drive them out of his land.'

**Reassurance**

6:2 God spoke to Moses and said to him, 'I am YHVH.

6:3 I revealed Myself to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as God Almighty (El Shaddai), and did not allow them to know Me by My name YHVH.

6:4 I also made My covenant with them, [promising] to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, where they lived as foreigners.

6:5 I have also heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are holding as slaves, and I have remembered My covenant.

6:6 'Therefore say to the Israelites [in My name], 'I am God. I will take you away from your forced labor in Egypt and free you from their slavery. I will liberate you with a demonstration of My power, and with great acts of judgment.

6:7 I will take you to Myself as a nation, and I will be to you as a God. You will know that I am God your Lord, the One who is bringing you out from under the Egyptian subjugation.

6:8 I will bring you to the land regarding which I raised My hand, [swearing] that I would give it to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I will give it to you as an inheritance. I am God.' '

6:9 Moses related this to the Israelites, but because of their disappointment and hard work, they would no longer listen to him.

1. How did Hashem renew Moshe’s efforts to redeem the Jewish people from Egypt?
2. What life lessons can we extract from Moshe’s experience for our own life difficulties?
   1. The role of personal expectations
   2. The role of being stuck in a rut
   3. The role of limited perspective
   4. The role of acknowledging mixture of blessing. Life is not really ALL bad