Class # 6–Parshat Vayaitze –Don’t Hate!

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

Rabbi Yoni Sacks and Rabbi Pinny Rosenthal with ideas from Rabbi Reuven Mann

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98dai6CC5BA>

Questions:

1. What is Jerry Seinfeld’s attitude toward Newman?
2. Do you think there is some “history” behind this attitude? What kind of event between friends would cause this attitude?
3. What keeps Jerry from simply not having any relationship with Newman?
4. How could the kind of attitude Jerry Seinfeld had toward Newman arise in a couple that are dating?
5. Are conflicts such as these ever resolved?

**Esav’s hatred of Yaakov**

27:41 Esav was furious at Yaakov because of the blessing that his father had given him. He said to himself, 'The days of mourning for my father will be here soon. I will then be able to kill my brother Yaakov.'

27:42 Her older son's plans were reported to Rivka. She sent word and summoned her younger son Yaakov. 'Your brother Esav is consoling himself by planning to kill you,' she said.

27:43 'Now, my son, listen to me. Set out and flee to my brother Laban in Charan.

27:44 Remain with him awhile until your brother's anger has subsided.

27:45 When your brother has calmed down from his rage against you, and has forgotten what you have done to him, I will send word and summon you home. But why should I lose you both on the same day?'

27:46 Rivka said to Isaac, 'I am disgusted with life because of those Hittite women. If Yaakov marries such a Hittite girl, from the daughters of this land, why should I go on living?'

**Yaakov's Journey, Marriage and Children**

28:10 Yaakov left Beer-sheba and headed toward Charan.

**Radak - וישטום...יקרבו ימי אבל אבי**, he wished fervently for the day of his father’s death which was expected soon as else why did he already bless his sons? He planned to kill Yaakov after the mourning period after his father would have passed. He did not want to kill Yaakov while their father was still alive, so as not to be responsible for Yitzchok dying as a result of grief over having lost his son.

**Rashi** - **'Your brother Esav is consoling himself by planning to kill you,',** He regrets the brotherly relationship existing between you, harboring thoughts other than those of brotherhood, to estrange himself from you and to kill you. The Midrashic explanation (Genesis Rabbah 67:9) is: In his eyes you are already regarded as dead and he has drunk for you (i.e. because he regards you as dead) the cup of consolation (which it was customary for near relatives of the deceased to drink).

1. According to Radak what was holding back Esav from murdering Yaakov? According to Rashi?
2. Why did Rivka and Yaakov not anticipate Esav’s murderous anger before they heard his explicit plan?
3. 27:45 Rivka says she will call Yaakov when Esav’s anger cools. Does this ever happen?

**Rambam, Laws of Character Traits, Ch 6:5-6**

**5.** Whoever hates a [fellow] Jew in his heart transgresses a Torah prohibition as [[Leviticus 19:17](https://www.chabad.org/9920#v17)] states: "Do not hate your brother in your heart." One is not [liable for] lashes for violating this prohibition because no deed is involved.

The Torah only warns [us] against hating in [our] hearts. However, a person who beats a colleague or insults him, although he is not permitted to do so, does not violate [the prohibition,] "you shall not hate."

**6.** When one person wrongs another, the latter should not remain silent and despise him as [[II Samuel 13:22](https://www.chabad.org/15873#v22)] states concerning the wicked: "And Avshalom did not speak to Amnon neither good, nor bad for Avshalom hated Amnon."

Rather, he is commanded to make the matter known and ask him: "Why did you do this to me?", "Why did you wrong me regarding that matter?" as [[Leviticus 19:17](https://www.chabad.org/9920#v17)] states: "You shall surely admonish your colleague." If, afterwards, [the person who committed the wrong] asks [his colleague] to forgive him, he must do so. A person should not be cruel when forgiving [as implied by [Genesis 20:17](https://www.chabad.org/8215)]: "And Abraham prayed to God..."

1. Did Jerry violate the prohibition of hating a fellow Jew in his heart?
2. As time goes on would you expect Jerry’s relationship with Newman to get better or worse?
3. How about a couple that is dating and has an unresolved issue like Jerry’s-would you expect the relationship to get better or worse?
4. Why does Jerry avoid rebuking Newman? Is this a common problem in relationships?
5. How does one get past the resistance to rebuking?
6. Would a couple which practices rebuking improve or worsen the relationship?
7. What pitfalls would a couple have to overcome to benefit from rebuking each other?
8. Why might the obligation to forgive be difficult to do? How does one overcome this difficulty?
9. Does Yaakov ever ask Esav’s forgiveness?
10. What finally improves Yaakov’s relationship with Esav?