Class #12- Parshat Vayechi: Was Yaakov part of the Call-out and Cancel Culture?

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

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<https://youtu.be/J1KSLMn63xY> Kevin Hart Out As Oscars Host After Controversial Tweets Resurface

1. What was Kevin Hart’s crime?
2. Did the punishment fit the crime?
3. What are the limitations of the Call-out and Cancel Culture? What are 3 ways calling out is distinguished from the mitzva of “rebuking”?

***King Solomon states in Proverbs - Ch. 15:31***

*אֹזֶן שֹׁמַעַת תּוֹכַחַת חַיִּים בְּקֶרֶב חֲכָמִים תָּלִין׃*

*He whose ear heeds the [rebuke/discipline] of life, Lodges among the wise*

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*4) What is the causal connection between listening to Tochachat and lodging among the wise?*

***Jacob's Blessings: Reuben, Simeon, Levi***

49:1 Jacob called for his sons. [When they came,] he said, 'Come together, and I will tell you what will happen [in the course of time](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=49#C916). 49:2 Come and listen, sons of Jacob; listen to your father Israel. 49:3 'Reuben, you are my firstborn, my strength and the beginning of my manhood, first in rank and first in power. 49:4 [But because you were] unstable as water, you will no longer be first. This is because [you moved](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=49#C917) your father's beds, committing a profane act. [He moved my bed!](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=49#C918)

49:5 'Simeon and Levi are [a pair](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=49#C919); instruments of crime are their [wares](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=49#C920). 49:6 Let my soul not enter their plot; let my [spirit](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=49#C921) not unite with their meeting - for they have [killed men](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=49#C922) with anger, [maimed bulls with will](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=1&CHAPTER=49#C923). 49:7 Cursed be their rage, for it is fierce, and their fury, for it is cruel. I will disperse them in Jacob, scatter them in Israel.

*……...*' 49:28 All these are the tribes of Israel, twelve in all, and this is what their father said to them when he blessed them. He gave each one his own special blessing.

Rashi Comments:

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| **Superior in rank: Heb.** שְׂאֵת יֶתֶר. You were fit to be superior over your brothers with the priesthood, an expression of raising up the hands (נְשִׂיאוּת כַּפַיִם) [to recite the priestly blessing]. — [from Gen. Rabbah 99:6] |
| **and superior in power:** Heb. וְיֶתֶר עָז, [i.e. superior] with kingship, like“And He will grant strength (עֹז) to His king” ([I Sam. 2:10)](http://www.chabad.org/15831#v10). - [from Gen. Rabbah 99:6] |
| **-פחז כמים - You have the restlessness of water**: The restlessness and the haste with which you hastened to display your anger, similar to water which hastens on its course. Therefore- |
| you shall not have superiority: You shall no longer receive all these superior positions that were fit for you. Now what was the restlessness that you exhibited? |
| for you ascended upon your father’s couch; then you profaned that Name that ascended my couch. That is the Shechinah, which was accustomed to going up on my bed  . — [from Shab. 55b] |

5) Why is Yaakov calling out Reuven, Shimon and Levi and cancelling them?

6) What would a Shomeah Tohachat [listener of rebuke] do in response to legitimate rebuke?

**Ralbag** – “Many wonder about these “Blessings”, as a number of Yaakov’s sons did not receive a [positive] blessing, such as Reuven, Shimon and Levi!

The best explanation is that these blessings of the prophet are what will occur in the future, for without that forecasting, the blessing would have no benefit. It is critical that you know that informing others about the future, whether it be good or bad, IS A BLESSING! Therefore, Hashem informed those who he related providentially, what would occur to them in the future, in order that they take council either to avoid evil or maximize the good that will happen…”

7) Scenario #1 – Your much younger sibling Pat admires you a lot and has tremendous trust in you. You have both love and have loyalty to each other. Both you and Pat “have each other’s their back”. As much as you love Pat, you realize that they are still very immature, especially in Pat’s dating practices. Pat regularly “ghosts” on people they are dating. Pat will abruptly end dates with lame excuses. Pat is now having difficulty finding dates and complains to you about it. What should you do?