



59 Broad Street · Freehold, New Jersey 07728
office@freeholdjc.org · (732) 462-0254 · www.freeholdjc.org

Parashat Sh'lach

June 25, 2022 – 26 Sivan 5782

In physics, one learns, that “for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction”. How a person feels is the reaction to a happening earlier. How did Tziporah (Moshe’s wife) feel after her sister-in-law Miriam was sent out of the camp? According to Rashi; it was Tziporah who was responsible for Miriam being sent out of the camp because of leprosy. The camp waited seven days for Miriam to return, and Tziporah is not even mentioned in the story.

Moshe asks G-d for others to share Moshe’s authority. Moshe is keenly aware that authority can be delegated but not responsibility. G-d gives Moshe authority to choose seventy elders from the twelve tribes. Moshe’s challenge was not to offend any tribe and therefore there was a lottery. In the lottery, each tribe has an equal allotment. Two elders did not consider themselves worthy of prophecy. They were Eldad and Meidad. They gave prophesy for years and did not serve on the court of seventy elders. They prophesied the death of Moses that he would not enter the land of Israel. They also prophesied the war of Gog and Magog at the end of days.

It is at this juncture that Tziporah comes onto the scene. When she heard about the prophecies, she pities the wives of Eldad and Meidad. Because of this Miriam understands why Moshe separates himself from Tziporah. Moshe had to be ready to receive prophesy 24/7. Miriam saw this as odd and brought her complaint to Aharon her brother and also a prophet.

Something that we think is small may turn out to be huge and the reverse is also true. For every action, there is a reaction. Miriam receives leprosy and was separated from the people. Tziporah directly or indirectly may have been the cause and Moshe separated himself from her. No matter what the odds are things happen when G-d wants to teach a lesson about being careful of what you say and do.

Good Shabbos!

Rabbi Nathan W. Langer

