



VAYERA

This week we read the Parsha of Vayera. Avraham Avinu was sitting at the entrance to his tent, when he saw three angels (disguised as people) coming towards him. He invites them in, tells them they should rest a while and that he will go get them "a little bread and water" to partake of. A nice thing to do, for sure. Then, he runs in to tell his wife, Sarah, to prepare all kinds of cakes, and he sends his son Yishmael to the field to capture an animal to eat so that he can serve them meat, and serve he does. A huge feast! From this incident in the Chumash, the Rabbis teach the concept of "Emor Me'at, V'aaseh Harbeh," which means "Speak little, do a lot." Avraham simply said that he would give them some bread and water, but what he actually went and DID for them was far greater.

The human being is considered greater than all of the other animals because we were given the power of speech. Obviously then, speech is an important and noble concept. But at the same time, we have to realize that "talk is cheap," because what really counts in the greater scheme of things is NOT what we say and what we promise to do, but what we actually GET DONE (ask any politician!)

We see Avraham still adhering to this concept at the end of the Parsha, in the famous story of the Akeidat Yitzchak, the Binding of Isaac. Avraham could have easily questioned G-d's command to carry this out. After all, hadn't G-d just promised him that through this son, Yitzchak, the nation of Israel would eventually begin to form? Yet for Avraham, this was not a time for questions. He had been told what to do, and immediately set off to do it, no questions asked, just action.

Let us always measure our words carefully, and more importantly, let's make sure that our words get translated into positive ACTION!

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Cohen