



VAYISHLACH

In this week's Parsha of Vayishlach, we read about how Esav was advancing towards Ya'akov, together with an army of four hundred people, presumably to fight against Ya'akov. Ya'akov's preparations, interestingly, involved three things, sending ahead gifts to Esav, PRAYING to Hashem, and making the physical preparations for battle.

The tactics worked, and we read about how the meeting between the two brothers went pretty smoothly; although deep down, Esav certainly still hated Ya'akov (and still does to this very day), they exchanged civil words and did not have any bloodshed.

At the end, however, the Passuk says that Esav left and went home, by himself. What happened to the 400 people?

Rashi explains that when they feared that Esav would harm Ya'akov, they slipped away, one by one. They did not wish to be implicated in the evil that Esav was going to do. Later on, they were actually rewarded for this! We read in Sefer Shmuel Aleph about how King David wages war against a group of Philistines, who are descendants of Esav, and the Navi there describes how everyone in that group was killed in the war, except for, you guessed it, 400 men.

Every action has an impact, maybe right away, maybe not until much later. But, it counts!

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Cohen