Zevi Samet
Parshas Chayei Sarah 2025

The Pasuk (Bereishis 24:12) says, וַיֹּאמַר ה' אֱלֹקֵי אֲדֹנִי אַבְרָהָם, הַקְרֶה נָא לְפָנַי הַיּוֹם, וַעֲשֵׂה־חֶסֶד עִם אֲדֹנִי אַבְרָהָם, "And he said: 'Hashem, G-d of my master Avraham, may You so arrange it for me this day…'" Avraham sent Eliezer out to go find a wife for Yitzchak.

We can perhaps learn a powerful lesson from here:
Rashi says (24:14) אֹתָהּ הֹכַחְתָּ – רְאוּיָה הִיא לוֹ, שֶׁתִּהֵא גּוֹמֶלֶת חֲסָדִים, וּכְדַאי לִכָּנֵס בְּבֵיתוֹ שֶׁל אַבְרָהָם, "Her will You have chosen" – She is fitting for him, in that she will perform acts of kindness, and she is worthy of entering the household of Avraham."

First, when looking for a wife, we should look for a woman who will perform acts of chessed. The Pasuk in Tehillim (89:2) says, עוֹלָם חֶסֶד יִבָּנֶה — "The world is built on chessed." Chessed that a wife does, brings down tons of bracha and shefa into this world and into their home. It will, IYH, trickle down to their whole family and household, which will, BEH, help their kids continue to carry on that mission of always doing chessed for one another. But perhaps another step we can say is that chessed is not just helping one person. It's about thinking and helping beyond that one individual.

I remember seeing in a sefer published by Rabbi Avi Weisenfeld on Parshas Shemini. The Torah lists kosher animals and non kosher animals. There is a bird called the chassidah bird. It is called that because it does chessed with its own kind of birds. But one second! Why is that bird listed with the non kosher birds? R' Weisenfeld quoted someone, I believe, but I forgot who it was. He said because a chassidah bird <u>only</u> does chessed with its own kind but does not help out the other birds. Real chessed is thinking, helping, and doing beyond. There are so many Jews and really all people that we can help. Are we going to be like the chassidah bird and just help "our own kind"? Or are we going to branch out and help other Jews who have a different background than us, different outlooks, different ways of serving and connecting to Hashem?

Think about it for real, and I hope you can agree it needs to be the latter option. Once we know and internalize that, then we need to start believing in it and acting on it!

Another lesson we can perhaps learn is the power of Tefillah, talking to Hashem when we go out on our "journeys." Eliezer davened to Hashem and asked Him that he should know it's the right girl if she comes to the well and he asks her for water, and she should then offer water for him and his camels. We see an episode of Tefillah. Eliezer is about to go out on a mission, and before he does so, he talks to and asks Hashem to help him on his journey.

The Pasuk (24:42) says, וָאֹמַר ה' אֱלֹקֵי אֲדֹנִי אַבְרָהָם: אִם־יֶשְׁךָ־נָא מַצְלִיחַ דַּרְכִּי, אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי הֹלֵךְ עָלֶיהָ,
'Hashem, G-d of my master Avraham, if You would please make successful the way on which I go.'
This is the first step. We need to talk to Hashem for Hatzlacha and Siyata Dishmaya whenever we go anywhere. It starts with this.

The Pasuk (24:15) says, וַיְהִי הוּא טֶרֶם כִּלָּה לְדַבֵּר—וְהִנֵּה רִבְקָה יֹצֵאת, אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה לִבְתוּאֵל בֶּן־מִלְכָּה אֵשֶׁת נָחוֹר אֲחִי אַבְרָהָם, וְכַדָּהּ עַל־שִׁכְמָהּ, "And it was when he had not yet finished speaking that suddenly Rivkah… was coming out with her jug upon her shoulder." He didn't yet finish speaking to Hashem when Rivkah was coming out with her jug. He was answered before he finished talking to Hashem. But he realized Hashem was showing him an opportunity to see if she was the one for Yitzchak. Hashem always answers us. Some of us get things from Hashem before we ask. Some of us get answered while we are still asking. And some of us get answered after we ask. This is the way we perceive things. But we should know that Hashem always answers us and no tefillah is a wasted tefillah.

One great example of this is there was a person driving in NYC, and we know parking is very difficult to find in NYC. A guy was driving for 10 minutes begging Hashem to find an open spot for him. After 10 minutes, he found a spot and then told Hashem, "Never mind. I found one." You're missing the whole point. You literally got answered while you were still asking Hashem for a spot. Don't now forget that Hashem sent you that. Don't think it was all you. Because if you think it was all you, more often than not, you're going to be disappointed with things that don't go your way.

A few Pesukim later (24:25-26), the Pasuk says, וַיִּקֹּד הָאִישׁ וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לַה'. וַיֹּאמֶר בָּרוּךְ ה' אֱלֹקֵי אֲדֹנִי אַבְרָהָם אֲשֶׁר לֹא עָזַב חַסְדּוֹ וַאֲמִתּוֹ מֵעִם אֲדֹנִי אָנֹכִי בַּדֶּרֶךְ נָחַנִי ה' בֵּית אֲחֵי אֲדֹנִי, "So the man bowed low and prostrated himself to Hashem. And he said: 'Blessed is Hashem, the G-d of my master Avraham, who has not withheld His kindness and truth from my master; as for me Hashem has guided me on the way to the house of my master's brothers."

Eliezer now thanked Hashem. We see that they used to talk to Hashem all the time. We need to talk to Hashem before we go on a "journey," during the "journey," and after the "journey." A "journey" can be a trip, a car ride, and can even be a regular day.

We need to begin our journey by talking to Hashem and never stop talking to Hashem until the very last second we're alive!
Hatzlacha Rabbah and have a great Shabbos!!