

Special Purim Edition Teaching

March 20, 2019

According to Jewish law we are required to go and listen to the story of Purim.

This mitzvah is so important that the Talmud notes that even the study of Torah is interrupted for the reading of the Megillah.

Maimonides went even further and asserted that the reading of the Megillah supersedes all other Commandments.

The Megillah/the Book of Esther recalls the acts of heroism that Esther and Mordechai performed on behalf of the Jewish People. Together, their courage saved their fellow Jews from intended destruction. Additionally, both Esther and Mordechai stayed true to their religious obligations, refusing to bow down to any authority other than God.

The reason the Book of Esther is so important to us is that it is the story of the Jew throughout time.

Our courage, and our steadfast fidelity to God, Torah and Israel, is the secret by which the Jewish People have survived and thrived.

Joyously celebrating Purim is at the essence of joyously celebrating our Jewish identity.

No mitzvah could ever be greater!

Chag Purim Sameach,

Rabbi Mitch

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