

# Weekly Teaching

## April 27, 2018

One day, the rabbi was asked by his son: “Abba, what is Heaven like?”

The scholarly rabbi hemmed and hawed, and said: “Well my son, if you keep coming to shul with me, you’ll learn the answer soon enough.”

The next day, the rabbi’s son was driving in the car with him when his dad got lost going to the temple president’s home, a place he had traveled to often.

“Abba, you don’t have to tell me what Heaven is like!”

The boy’s father was surprised.

“Why have you changed your mind?”

“Well, I figure if you can’t even find the way to someone’s home, after you’ve already been there many times, you don’t really have any idea what Heaven would be like; after all, you’ve never been there.”

The father laughed, and said: “You’re a much better rabbi than I am!”

We’d all like to know what comes in the next world. But, it’s “cappuccino talk;” it makes for nice speculation with a friend or two, but, it’s really irrelevant to how we Jewishly understand our lives.

Judaism is a religion of sanctification, what can we do in the here and now. Most of us face the greatest challenge; not in avoiding the profane but rather, transforming the mundane into the holy.

How can we manage to create more opportunities of sacred time and sacred space?

The easiest Jewish prescription is “remembering and observing Shabbat.” The fourth commandment is a ritual discipline that anchors our lives.

Take a break from the hurried pace of secular life. Turn off the smart phones, computers, etc. Find your Jewish spiritual space.

Shabbat is as close to heaven as we will ever discover in this life. Unfortunately, too many of us have lost our precious Sabbath gift.

Take a break this Shabbat, and put a slice of heaven back into your life!

Shabbat Shalom,  
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