

SICHA STORY

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



Likkutei Sichos, Volume 16

Bo, Sicha 3 (First Sicha of the week)

- Rabbi Yossi Nemes, Metairie, Louisiana

Rashi: "Rabbi Masia, the son of Charash, used to say: ...the time to fulfill the oath to Avraham had arrived. But the Bnei Yisroel had no Mitzvot, so Hashem gave them two mitzvot, the blood of Korban Pesach and of circumcision." Reb Masia's own Yeshiva was in Rome, to ensure that every Jewish person have a mitzvah as preparation for being redeemed

We should seek out every Jew, and have them do even one mitzvah, thus preparing them for Geula.

Searching out every Jew in love

From Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Sacks, A"H, Kinus Hashluchim keynote address: "...the Rebbe, like every Rebbe, set it his goal to mekarev the geula and to bring Moshiach... the Rebbe did so with particular urgency, and although he never specified why, I've speculated on this. It is because he was the first Rebbe to become Rebbe after the Holocaust.

And how can you redeem a world that witnessed H. Yimach Shemo? The Rebbe did something extraordinary; he said to himself: "***if the Nazis searched out every Jew in hate, we will search out every Jew in love.***"

If it is this important then I will put on Tefillin!

In 1976, Rabbi Yossie Raichik and Rabbi Yossie Gerlitzky went on Merkos Shlichus to the far east. On a Friday afternoon, in Kobe, Japan, they met an Israeli and asked him to put on Tefillin.

The Israeli shared that shortly after the Six-Day War, he visited the Western Wall. And a Chabad'nik requested that I put on Tefillin. He refused and told the Chabad'nik "I am not religious. I came to visit the Western Wall as a Jewish historical site, now that we have access again, but it is not a religious thing for me."

Years later, he was walking on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan and a young man came out of a truck and asked if he would come in and put on Tefillin. He responded, "if I did not put on Tefillin at the Western Wall, right after the Six-Day war, I'm not going to put on Tefillin now." And that's the same line he used when he was approached in Philadelphia and at other venues to put on Tefillin. "But now that I see that the Rebbe sent two young men all the way to Kobe, Japan to ask me to put on Tefillin, I cannot refuse. If it is this important then I will put on Tefillin!" He then put on Tefillin for the first time in his life!

(from the Shluchim Zoom Farbrengen Book, Page 89)

I knew one day the Rebbe will find me!

What follows is part of a longer story, whose last chapter has not yet been written.

In the New Orleans region, there is a Shliach and Shlucha that opened a Chabad House in a small town. They found out that an hour's drive from them, in a very remote rural area, there lives a Jew. One night, the Shliach drove out there and knocked on this person's door. When the man opened the door, he was quite startled to see the Shliach and said, "I was kind of afraid of this moment. I knew one day the Rebbe will find me!"

This person used to live in a larger Jewish community and was observant in his youth. He moved to this very remote area, in part, to get away from anything Jewish. About six months later, after many conversations, they started learning together once a week. A few months after that, the man put on Tefillin for the first time in two decades. He then

found his own Tefillin in a box, brushed them off, and made a resolution to start putting on Tefilin every weekday!

He would post on social media, pictures of himself wearing Tefillin, and at least one person began putting on Tefillin due to these posts!
