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Parsha Re'eh
by Julie Zhuk on 2023-08-19

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Parsha Re'eh

In this week's Parsha, G-d gave the Jews a blessing and a curse. The purpose of the blessing was if they were to listen to His commandments. The curse was if they were to not follow through with His commandments, then the Jews would be cursed. The term for the name of the Parsha is to listen, and it is stated in the singular. Moses spoke to all Jewish people as a whole, and everyone listened to what Moses was saying. This week's Parsha is the start of the month of Elul, and we are now focusing on the spiritual preparation of the holidays of upcoming High Holidays. There have been stumbling blocks in front of us, and there is the question in front of us if we are ready to confront them. The Parsha is reminding us that it is time to re-evaluate that we can now re think our thoughts and our actions and how we are going to live our lives from now on. The Parsha tells us that we have to see ourselves clearly through the lens of what is the present and not through the lens of what the past was before.

The next part of the Parsha focuses on how Jews should share their wealth with each other. In this week's Torah portion, we are commanded to give charity to others. You shall open your hand to him, you shall give him what is required and whatever he is lacking. The Sages are explaining here that the person should get whatever they don't have and then the person can move on. If a person loses their fortune, we have to give him the luxuries they don't have! Sometimes there is an emotional strain of losing one's belongings maybe bigger than losing anything physical. It is because of this reason that the Talmud tells us that one adds these additional words of encouragement, they are to give charity. While we are alive, G-d wants us to use the money we have. We can't take our finances with us to the World to Come.