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**Parsha and Haftara Ki Tavo**  
**by Julie Zhuk on 2023-09-02**

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Parsha Ki Tavo

Every week the Parsha has a different story, but the message is very much the same for the Jewish people. It was the same message during the time when Moses was alive and it's the same message for the Jewish people now in the era of 2023. Follow the commandments G-d put in front of us many years ago, they were what He wanted us to follow then. They are the same as what He wants us to follow now. At the end of the Parsha, Moses reprimanded the Jews for many curses will fall upon the Jews if they don't listen to His ways. One way that Moses put it for the Jews was, "They will fall upon you because you didn't serve G-d with joy and goodness from your heart." There is a type of Chassidic teaching coming from the Parsha, there is an evil inclination that robs people from doing a service to G-d. It gives people an opportunity to do bad things. People constantly have to stay alert to tell that voice of consciousness that they can do better.

We are in the month of Elul now and people are preparing for the Jewish New Year. They want a restart with G-d. G-d is all for that, he is waiting for people to make small steps to come forward to Him. Any attempt of connection with Him is what He is looking for. There is another story in this Parsha that I want to share. There were two sisters growing up, one was good and kind-hearted. Unfortunately, she was not attractive. The other sister was beautiful, but she was not nice. The girls were growing and in this story the mother is not mentioned. The father, has a hard time finding a match, but there is a matchmaker who comes along and finds a perfect fit. There are two men who happen to be blind and deaf. The blind man gets married to the unattractive girl and the deaf man marries the girl who is not nice. It's a match made in heaven, no one sees each other and no one hears the other person. This goes on for a while, until a prominent doctor comes to town and promises to cure any illness. His promise is successful, he makes the blind man able to see and the deaf one able to hear.

They are able to live without their problems anymore, but then they have problems with their wives, it is for the first time the blind man hears his wife's comments and her beauty is no compensation for what she says to him! That same prominent rabbi sends them to rabbi and listened to what the patients and doctor had to say. The Rabbi said, "You doctor have done these gentlemen a disservice they are clearly not happy with your work and this is why you need to go back and undo what you have done before. The one who was blind, leave him blind again. The one who was deaf, leave him deaf again." When the gentlemen heard these words, they became afraid. They spoke up. They shouted together how they did not want to be blind and deaf. And they told the doctor how grateful and thankful they were that they could see and hear. This Parsha teaches us the importance of being grateful and thankful.