



THE TRIBE SCRIBE

MIKETZ: INSIDE OUTSIDE!

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

I KNOW THAT WE LIGHT THE **CHANUKIAH**, BUT WHAT IS **CHANUKAH** ACTUALLY ABOUT?

WELL, THE **GREEKS** WERE FOCUSED ON BEAUTY, STRENGTH AND HOW THINGS LOOKED ON THE **OUTSIDE**.

CHANUKAH WAS A WAR OF IDEAS - WE WERE NOT FIGHTING FOR OUR LAND. WE WERE FIGHTING THE **HELLENIST GREEKS** WHO WEREN'T LETTING US CHOOSE HOW TO BEHAVE AND LIVE. THEY WEREN'T LETTING US LIVE AS **JEWS**.

HOWEVER, THE **JEWS** WERE MORE FOCUSED ON THE **INSIDE**; ACTIONS AND BEHAVIOUR - KINDNESS OVER BEAUTY.

BUT WE CARE ABOUT THE **OUTSIDE** TOO!

OF COURSE WE DO, BUT IT'S ABOUT GETTING THE **BALANCE** RIGHT! MAKING THINGS LOOK PERFECT ON THE **OUTSIDE** ISN'T ALWAYS A REFLECTION OF HOW WE ARE ON THE **INSIDE**. KEEPING **MITZVOT**, CARING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE, HAVING GOOD REAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS, ALL HELP OUR **INNER SELVES** GROW.

And the **Chanukah** story shows us the example. When the victorious Jews reclaimed the **Bet Hamikdash** they wanted to light the **Menorah** but there was no **Menorah** and there was no **oil**.



We all know that they found one small jug of pure olive oil and it lasted for **8 days** - but what did they do about the **Menorah**?

IT WOULD BE YEARS BEFORE THEY COULD AFFORD FIRST A **SILVER** AND THEN A **GOLD** **MENORAH** TO REPLACE THE BEAUTIFUL **MENORAH** IN THE **BET HAMIKDASH**. SO WHY DIDN'T GOD MIRACULOUSLY HELP THEM FIND A **GOLDEN** **MENORAH** TOO?

The message is that it's the **inside** that counts most!



The **Maccabees** made a makeshift **Menorah** out of their spears. That way they could still perform the **mitzvah** of lighting the **Menorah**.



The **Menorah** could still be lit and give beautiful light even if the container wasn't gold. The gold would come, but the fundamental part was the **pure oil**.



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Tribe is the Young People's Department of the United Synagogue: Creating a future for our community through engaging, educating and inspiring the next generation.