

Putting your heart into it



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In this week's parasha, the Jewish people are told about the blessings that will be granted to them if they listen to God's laws, and the consequences if they do not.

In the middle of the section speaking about the negative consequences of not listening to God, the Torah gives a seemingly strange reason for why the Jewish people will receive these 'curses'. The verse says, "Because

you did not serve the Lord, your God, with gladness and with a good heart, out of an abundance of everything" (Devarim 28:47).

It seems very strange that we should be taken to task merely for not doing the mitzvot with gladness and a good heart. How can it be that even though we fulfil all of God's commandments we will be punished just because we did not do it with full hearts?

Rabbi Elyah Lopian (1876-1970) gives a wonderful insight on the topic. He explains that the Torah is not talking to someone who doesn't fulfil the mitzvot at all, but rather the

Torah is addressing a person who does the mitzvot "*melumada*", by routine and habit, someone who does not put any meaning and thought into his actions. Such a person may ultimately stop doing the mitzvot altogether.

The message is that although we may do many mitzvot, we must constantly be thinking and learning more and more about these mitzvot to ensure that they are not merely a part of our routines, but that, they are performed with thought, meaning and enthusiasm, out of love for our Creator.

Parasha Anagrams

1. The warnings in this parasha are known as the COACH HAT
2. The parasha reminds us of the importance of keeping AMENDMENTS COMMAS SHH
3. When a farmer harvests his land, he must separate THE SIT
4. A portion of the harvest is given to the MIL VIE
5. ITS RIFT SURF are brought to Jerusalem
6. The farmer makes a declaration to the Kohen in the HABITS HAD MIKE

