# Assembly Notes
# PARSHAS KI SEITZEEI 5785
## Assembly Theme: Honest Weights and Measures - No Mixed Signals

## Dvar Torah

The school year has just started. It is an opportunity to ask ourselves again: what is the function of schools? There are three partners in forming the next generation. The home; the atmosphere of society; and the schools.

What should a good Jewish school provide? Obviously, Jewish teachings alongside general studies. Teaching itself entails two functions: imparting knowledge and, crucially, helping learners to acquire skills. Covering ground in the subject area is essential. Perhaps even more important is learning how to learn. That is a benefit for life.

But beyond teaching, and far more important, both at home and in school, is Chinuch (character training). Imparting values, being a role model of one who works on themselves, and is consistent and trustworthy.
Perhaps the greatest value of all is to cultivate in our students a sense of priorities.
Among the 74(!) Mitzvos in this week's Parsha, KI Seitzei, is the commandment to own only honest weights and measures. Following this is the Mitzvah to eradicate all memory of the nation Amalek, with which the Parsha ends.

Amalek was our archenemy. They were not threatened by Jewish people, yet their hatred was so strong that they went out of their way to attack the Jewish people and eliminate them. (There are also such evil people today; but I like to think that the vast majority of people are not so).

What is the connection between honest weights and measures and Amalek? Our Sages say that if we are dishonest in our business practices, we can expect an attack from Amalek.

The nation of Amalek assimilated thousands of years ago, and does not exist today as a nation. But every word of the Torah is eternal, in the spiritual sense.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe explains that the Amalek within represents doubts of faith; which leads to coldness and indifference; leading in turn to an aimless existence that sees everything as random and meaningless; and no red lines.
This spiritual Amalek stems from having false weights and measures. This may happen when our base, materialistic needs take prominence over our spiritual needs, and selfishness predominates over selflessness. Before you know it, one has become cold and indifferent to holiness, instead of inspired and enthusiastic.

(On the other hand. when the spiritual side of a person dominates over the material, one's material life is also enhanced. One's material pursuits become a partner of the spiritual self. This is the ultimate win - win situation)!

Shabbat Shalom!
Good Shabbos!

גוט שבת!

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Story of the Rebbe

A young Lubavitcher who left the USSR and came to the United States was very close to the Rebbe. He would often walk to 770 Eastern Parkway on Sundays to receive a Brocho from the Rebbe and a dollar for Tzedaka.

He then went into business and worked in the field of construction. He was successful in his field, but his dress code had changed. His working clothes were certainly not like those of a Yeshivah bochur, and often full of paint or dust etc. It was normal for his occupation, but he would be embarrassed to come to the Rebbe dressed like that. Many weeks and months went by when he did not come to the Rebbe for dollars.

One Sunday there was a family Simcha in 770, and he was dressed in his finest suit and hat. He decided to utilise the opportunity to go by the Rebbe for a Brocho and a dollar which he did.

The Rebbe asked him where you have been all this time; why haven't I seen you for so long? He answered that he was working in construction and his clothes were dirty, so he didn't want to come to the Rebbe like that. The Rebbe told him in Yiddish: קום ווי דו ביסט, אבער קום
("Come as you are, but come").

Sometimes a person can feel embarrassed to come to the Rebbe and ask him to intervene with Hashem with his Brocho. The person may feel ashamed for mistakes that they made or for not having done more. The Rebbe is saying that his Ahavas Yisroel is unconditional. Come as you are for a Brocho and the Rebbe will help you to come closer to your potential in Avodas Hashem

Good Shabbos!
Kesivah vaChassimah Tovah!