

WEST STREET SHUL

43 WEST STREET HOUGHTON JOHANNESBURG

Newsletter

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WEBSITE <http://www.weststreetshul.co.za>

EMAIL westshul@icon.co.za

For the week ending Shabbat **6th December 2008**
9th Kislev 5769:Shabbat Veyetze

Dear Members & Friends

Timetable for the new week attached.

Rabbi Kacev's Dvar Torah attached.

Four-Day Weather forecast below.

Chanukah Reminder:- first night will be on Sunday 21st December

Reminder:..'Tal umatar''-Request for Rain...the Prayer :-

As of Thursday night, Ma'ariv-4th Dec we add V teyn "Tal Umatar Livracha" in the amidah until Chol Hamoed Pesach

YAHRTZEITS

West St Shul wishes a long & good life to the following members observing their Yahrtzeits in the new week:

MONDAY 8th :- **ISSY SCHLAPOBERSKY (M)**

FRIDAY 12th :- **ESME` ABRAHAMSON (M)**

Holiday Season

With the holiday season gaining momentum, additional pressure will be placed on both the morning and afternoon minyonim.

Your assistance urged

Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks

9th Kislev 5769

italics edited: West ST Editor

Vayetse

kol demamah dakah,
“the still, small voice”

**Jacob loves more than any other figure in Bereishit
But through painful experience, Jacob must learn a truth about love....
.....by listening**

Judaism is supremely a religion of the ear,

unlike all other ancient civilizations, which were cultures of the eye.

This is more than a metaphysical fact. It is a moral one as well.

Those who wish to learn to listen to G-d must learn to listen to other people

Jacob wrestles throughout his life. It is not that he has a moral failing. To the contrary, he is the most tenacious of all the patriarchs – and the only one all of whose children become part of the covenant.

It is rather that every virtue has a corresponding danger

Those who are courageous are often unaware of the fears of ordinary people. Those of

penetrating intellect are often dismissive of lesser minds. Those who, like Jacob, have an unusual capacity to love must fight against the danger of failing to honour the feelings of those they do not love with equal passion.

The antidote is the ability to listen. That is what Jacob learns in the course of his life – and why he, above all, is the role model for the Jewish people – the nation commanded to listen.

How beautiful it is that this message – one of the deepest and most subtle in the Torah – is conveyed in a series of passages whose meaning does not lie on the surface of the text, but discloses itself only to those who listen to what is going on beneath the words: the unspoken cry [**Leah is pleading for attention**], the implicit appeal, the unheard tears [**Rachel pleading for a child**], the unarticulated pain [**preferential love for only Joseph**].

Those who wish to learn to listen to G-d must learn to listen to other people – to the *kol demamah dakah*, “the still, small voice” of those who need our love.

Covenant & Conversation

<http://www.chiefrabbi.org/thoughts/vayetse>

4-Day Forecast for Johannesburg: Dec 2008

Friday-5th	Shabbat-6th	Sunday-7th	Monday-8th
			
26° C 17° C	25° C 15° C	27° C 15° C	28° C 16° C
Chance of T-storms 50% chance of precipitation	T-storms 60% chance of precipitation	Chance of Rain 20% chance of precipitation	Chance of T-storms 30% chance of precipitation

<http://www.wunderground.com/global/stations/68368.html>

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