

Ultimate Parsha continued...

This week's parsha, *Shoftim*, gives us our answer. We read "Righteousness, righteousness shall you pursue..." Whenever the Torah repeats a word, it is to teach us an additional lesson. R' Bunam of P'shis'cha suggests that this lesson is that we should pursue righteousness ONLY in a righteous way. In other words, the ends does NOT justify the means. Even if we are pursuing a worthwhile or even praiseworthy objective, we must be certain to do so in a way that will also be praiseworthy.

For students this is a reminder that shortcuts to academic or athletic success are not viable options. It is also a lesson to all of us that speeding through a residential neighborhood to get to school or work on time is not a praiseworthy choice. As a new school years begins, it is a lesson for us to keep uppermost in our thoughts.

Shabbat Shalom,

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