

**Lessons
for Greatness**
from the
10 Greatest
Sayings
in History

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Preface

One of the greatest mitzvos of the Torah, Dvarim 28:9, is to “follow Hashem’s ways.” The Medrash Tanchuma explains that Hashem prepared and rehearsed the 10 Commandments before He presented them to us.

Thus we gain a mitzvah when we emulate Hashem’s ways to always prepare before we speak!

Lesson #1 -

Learn from Hashem to prepare well before you speak.

Hashem’s speech contains 172 words in 13 concise verses. The Talmud, Pesachim 3b, teaches: “Always teach in a brief manner.”

Lesson #2 -

Keep it short and sweet.

1. Who Are We?

Hashem saved us from Egyptian slavery!

Imagine spending years behind bars, in prison, being beaten and tortured. Now that Hashem redeemed us, we are so grateful we have a burning desire to do whatever Hashem instructs us to do for our growth to greatness.

We need to make clear choices daily to dedicate ourselves to expressing our overwhelming gratitude to Hashem for what He did for us and for what He continues to do for us all the time.

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To become our best, we may need to do mitzvos which others may not be passionate about. The Gemara, Chagiga 9b, says that, "Reviewing your Torah study 100 times is sufficient to be considered righteous. But to qualify as a Servant of Hashem, it takes learning 101 times."

Saying #1 -

"I am a Servant of Hashem," repeat 101 times.

## 2. Source of All Kindness

The Second Commandment teaches that Hashem is the One and Only One for all issues. Thus, He deals with those who disobey Him and rewards those who love Him and fulfill His instructions for life.

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To love Hashem is expressed by the daily mitzvah of the Shema to love Him. In fact it is also one of the 6 constant mitzvos – to love Hashem 24/7.

It also includes to love the Jewish nation, Hashem's beloved children. It also includes to love His Torah and mitzvos.

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It also includes "Love your work," Avos 1:10, because Hashem has arranged this work for you.

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You can be the most talented person in the world, but if you don't fulfill the Mishna 'To love what you do,' and do it with love, you may not achieve good results.

Saying #2 -

"I love Hashem and His mitzvos."

3. His Name

We need to respect and honor Hashem's Name more. His Name means, "He is the Master of all. He is infinite and eternal always – past, present and future.

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True greatness begins with becoming great in small ways. It may be seem like a small mitzvah to focus on Hashem's Name, but it demonstrates that we love Him.

Yoseif the Righteous One became one of the greatest people in history because he always kept Hashem's Name in his words. To develop a high level of love of Hashem, we need to focus on the many hundreds of gifts Hashem keeps showering upon us. He makes it rain to provide us with water which makes food grow to enable us to live.

He also sends us the sun's rays to provide us daily with sunshine that makes food grow, warms us up and illuminates the world, etc., etc.

Saying #3 -

Thank You, for the 100 blessings You provide us with daily.

#### 4. Gift of Shabbos

The Talmud says that Hashem told Moshe to inform the Jews of the great day called Shabbos He was giving them. The Torah tells us to think about it, celebrate it and make it special. We receive this unique vacation gift from Hashem every week!

Imagine if your boss gave you a paid vacation once in a while. You would be excited and make the best of it. Part of this grand gift is that the Boss, the C.E.O. of the universe, comes to spend more time with us, to join in celebrating Shabbos, "He created the world in six days and rested on Shabbos!"

Thus He wants us to be like Him! What a promotion!

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One of the greatest lessons of Shabbos...take care of yourself! Take the day off. [If you don't take care of yourself, your business may also be in trouble.]

Putting it simply, your whole week will be better when you celebrate Shabbos properly.

Saying #4 - Rest on Shabbos to recharge your batteries for greatness.

5. Honor Parents

Honor those who gave you life, and you will be granted more life from Hashem.

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This mitzvah is one of the best ways for us to develop our deep attitude of gratitude. When you concentrate to appreciate what you have, Hashem always gives you more!

When you practice being grateful daily [thank the mailman for bringing you this booklet in the mail], you will feel more alive, and your joy will increase in the many gifts Hashem provides.

Appreciate that you had delicious food to eat today, and enjoyable air to breathe,

- You had good family and friends to interact with,
- Your body is functioning,
- You have good customers,
- You have great insights you keep on learning and enjoying.
- You have two of the greatest life-coaches, your parents.

Saying #5 -

Thank and appreciate your parents for the nine months they carried you before birth, and the years they did everything for you, etc...

## 6. Do Not Hurt People

The word 'Rotzach' has in it the word 'Rotz.' As you run to accomplish and achieve, be careful not to step on others who may be in your way. Don't kill or hurt others.

Hashem created each one of us. We are instructed to love each other as ourselves.

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Included in this mitzvah is the concept of not to kill oneself. Don't put yourself down! You have very great potential as a unique individual. You should be saying daily, "Hashem created the world because of Me!" Sanhedrin 37a.

You get to choose what you say and think about yourself, and your relationship with your Father in Heaven, Who created you as an individual who can earn remarkable eternal rewards.

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"On the path one desires to go, Hashem will lead him," Makos 10b.

Saying #6 -

You need a burning desire to run to achieve greatness. Each person you honor and respect will help you grow. "A wise person learns from every person." Avos 4:1.

## 7. Don't Waste Your Strength

The Torah has many ways of teaching us to do our best to develop our potential. Don't allow bad habits such as transgressions ruin your life.

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We learn that Hashem gave the 10 Commandments on two stone tablets, to demonstrate that the first five are parallel to the second five. Thus, not to commit adultery corresponds to "There is no other, Hashem is the One and Only One."

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One of the greatest mitzvos of the Torah is 'Choose life.'

Included in this is the mitzvah to choose to honor yourself, as we learn in Avos 1:14, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me?"

This includes showing respect for one other as well as a special respect for one's spouse.

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Three of the Ten Commandments consist of short, two-words-each mitzvos. This reinforces the fact that seemingly small words matter in life in great ways! If we don't do small things right, how will we accomplish the big things?

Saying #7 -

Don't think saying 'I love you' to your spouse daily is only a small mitzvah.

8. No Stealing

- The 10 commandments encompass all of the teachings of the Torah and all the steps that can lead a person to succeed.
- Not stealing means we realize that Hashem, Who created all, also designates who receives what and for what purpose.
- My pen, for example, is a gift to me for today to utilize to write words of Torah or words of encouragement, etc.
- One who steals does not appreciate that Hashem created everything, and that He teaches us how to acquire what He will help us get for our use.
- We need to learn that there is no other way without working with Hashem's guidelines.
- Hashem's name teaches all these lessons.
- He gave us the best parents to help us become the greatest we can become.
- Hurting people is a form of theft.
- Hurting one's spouse is a form of double theft.
- Hurting one's reputation is a form of theft.
- Desiring to get things from others is also a form of theft. But the greatest loss is to the person who wastes his precious time looking at what others have. Hashem gave each of us tremendous qualities for us to develop and achieve greatness.

Saying #8 -

Learn who you are, don't steal from your precious treasures.

9. No False Testimony

The Talmud teaches, "One who defames others, usually reveals their own inner faults."

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The way to become truly great is by appreciating the greatness of everyone you meet.

"Who receives honor? One who honors others." Avos 4:1. Thus if you have read this booklet so far, we honor you for learning nine steps so far to fulfilling the 10 greatest sayings in history. We want to learn from you! Please write us a note as to which of these 10 you feel you can add some insights into. We will cherish your note and learn from it.

This concept fits also with the first lesson in Avos 4:1, "A wise person learns from every person."

Saying #9 -

Don't testify against others...learn from their greatness instead.

## 10. Know Who You Are!

One who knows how special they are does not look elsewhere for validation. Concentrate on who you are and the greatness Hashem gave you already, and He will always give you more.

Have you thanked Hashem yet for the huge gifts He gave you today that you are alive and reading this? You and I have so much to be grateful for...

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When we change and improve our character, others will also grow in our eyes because we will see how special they are and appreciate them more.

Right now, think about one person, such as your spouse or another dear friend, and think "Wow, look at this special dear person Hashem made. Let me learn something from him or her now!"

Saying #10 -

Don't desire what others have; Hashem has given you much more. Rejoice with your super-portions!