

Shailos with Rabbi Willig #161

Follow ups from last call

1) Did Rebbe have a chance to speak to Rav Schachter about the giving Bracha to children AFTER Kiddush on Friday night ?

2) A father asked me about his son who struggles waking up and going to minyan. Would it be advisable to take him daily to a minyan after z'man tefila at the minyan factory with the hope that he will "get into" davening b'tzibur and eventually daven in the right time? The alternative is that he may just put on tefillin late and daven at home or just put on tefillin. What about davening tashlumin by mincha- is the son categorized as מזיד or not?

3) Rebbe said that he never recommended ripping קריעה for a gadol because it could lead to machlokes. But Rebbe did not address the other part of the question- what about for his own rabo muvhak? And what if one has a rebbe that he asks all his hadracha questions to [but not psak halacha], should he rip קריעה when he is niftar?

4) Rebbe said that one should follow his father's minhag regarding when to give birchas habanim. What if his father was a baal teshuva and did not have a family minhag; he just is doing something because he saw it by his rebbe or his father in law or somewhere else. Does the son then have to follow his father's minhag? [The intention of this question is broader than just merely birchas habanim; what about other "minhagim" of his father? Is it only if his father was following his father? What if he found out from relatives about an old family minhag which was not kept for 2 generations because they were not frum?]

5) Rebbe said it was better to eat the yogurt after kiddush before hamotzi. But what if after her husband made kiddush and hamotzi on shabbos morning, a woman ate yogurt before eating fleishig [while everyone else is eating fish, which she does not like]. May she eat it during the same meal or must she bentsch before eating the fleishigs? Must she wait a half hour between eating milchigs and fleishigs? Exactly what must she do to separate between fleishigs and milchigs?

New Questions

1) Our shul wants to hold a lockdown drill on a Shabbos morning; they want to make it as authentic as possible within Hilchos Shabbos. We have an armed non-Jewish guard, as well as unarmed Jewish volunteers who carry radios and wear earpieces for use in an emergency.

The security team wants to pre-arrange with the non-Jewish guard to broadcast two messages, one signaling the start of the drill and the other signaling the end of the drill. The Jewish volunteers would hear the messages, but would not need to push any buttons, change any settings, or respond on the radio. Would this be acceptable?

2) A member of our shul is making aliyah. When he accepts the minhagim of Eretz Yisrael, does he need to do hataras nedarim? I know Rav Moshe writes (Igrot Moshe Orach Chaim 1:158) that a woman does not do hataras nedarim when she accepts her husband's minhagim; is this the same?

3) Someone used a pareve baking sheet to bake pizza bagels, but there was a layer of aluminum foil between the sheet and the pizza bagels. It was a full-sized oven. Is the baking sheet still considered pareve?

4) When an avel is m'shaneh makom in Shul, should his son join him in his new makom? Is sitting next to one's father kibud av? Depending on the age of the son, would it fall under chinuch? Is the son's makom a factor

5) May one bring a water bottle into a public restroom? What is the general inyan of food in a restroom? Would this apply to today's restrooms where the waste is flushed away?

6) A wedding this week in NY for 4pm and 5pm, and the chuppah will not start before shkia, what does one do about dating the documents and filling them out? I was recently at a wedding and the Mesader Kiddushin did not want to say the brachos under the chuppah until 40 minutes after shkia and he filled in vikanina and the eidim signed the kesuva under the chuppah. What does Rebbe recommend that one do in that circumstance.

7) In the very cold weather we are currently experiencing, some of my baalei batim told me that they leave the hot and cold water dripping so that the pipes won't freeze and burst. On shabbos, may one leave the hot and cold water dripping if he will need to use the sink to wash his hands? a. If there are two cold and hot handles, I assume it is muttar to turn on a strong stream of cold water since it will not reach yad soledes bo. But may one turn the cold water back to a drip which may reach yad soledes bo? b. What should he do if his kitchen faucet has only one handle and he leaves it dripping warm [so both cold and hot is dripping]? If he moves it totally to cold, can he move it back to warm? Or if he turns it higher still on warm, is that an issue of causing more cold water to be heated? And if that is okay, can he lower it back to a warm drip?

8) A rebbe was driving one morning on a two lane road and lost control because of black ice. The car slid across from the left lane he was driving in and crashed into a car that had pulled over to the side of the road [the other driver had gotten out and was standing on the side of the road, making a phone call]. The air bag deployed on the passenger side only, and the contact was all on that side of the driving car. The parked car was crashed into on the driver's side. Both cars were totalled by the insurance companies. The rebbe said that if not for that car, his car would probably have smashed into some poles that were on the side of the road, and the damage would have been even worse. Does the rebbe or the driver of the parked car have to bentsch gomel? In general, what are the guidelines for bentsching gomel in cases of car accidents?

9) a. On shabbos, is there any issue of walking in the cold with a handwarmer that was started from before shabbos? [there is an eiruv] b. May one make the chemical reaction that activates a handwarmer on shabbos?

10) a. Why do we take off our tefillin before mussaf on rosh chodesh? I heard a reason that had to do with those who say כתר יתנו לך, but what about for us regular ashkenazim?

b. When is the proper time to take off the tefillin: before or after the half kaddish?

c. If in a shul where they take it off after kaddish, and then bang to signify the start of שמונה עשרה, should you start מוסף with them immediately to have תפילה בציבור from the beginning or is it better to finish wrapping your tefillin?

11) I am learning with a boy and get paid per session. He wants to make a siyum for his bar mitzvah and as we are getting closer, we need more time. The parent suggested to learn on shabbos as well. Is this a problem of schar shabbos? What are possible ways to arrange this in a permissible way? I don't prepare at all during the week as I know this masechta well enough to learn with him.

12) a. On shabbos, may one mix mayonnaise and ketchup [and add some ground spices] to make salad dressing? b. On shabbos, may one mix mayo and horseradish from the jar?