

## Parshas Ha'azinu- Shabbos Shuva – 5785

At the beginning of our *parsha*, Moshe tells Klal Yisroel: יערוף כמטר (ל"ב, ב') (לי"ב, ב') - my teaching should drip like rain, and my utterance should flow like dew. Regarding the comparison to both rain and dew, Rashi comments that rain gives life to the world, but some may be annoyed, like travelers. Dew, however, pleases everyone!

The חתם סופר applies this message to תוכחה, rebuke. Reprimand which is done sharply, with blunt words, is called מטר, an acronym for מַשְׂאָכָם, טַרְחָכָם, רִיבָכָם, - contentious, burden, quarrel. While rain will be absorbed and benefit plowed ground, it will just pool and create a muddy mess on hard dirt. When a combative tone is set, harsh words of admonishment will usually be worthless and can oftentimes be detrimental. Indeed, some may be annoyed! However, rebuke that is given softly and calmly is called טל, an acronym for טוֹב לְכֹל, good for all. When reprimand is done with great sensitivity, and with gentleness, there is a greater chance of penetrating the heart! The recipient will recognize and understand the compassion and concern for their wellbeing. הכל שמחים בו.

While we all understand and agree to this concept, the challenge is applying it at the moment we see our children misbehaving or acting inappropriately. Training ourselves to pause for even two seconds can help ensure a more productive response that everyone will be happy with!

Wishing everyone a wonderful Shabbos Shuva, and a successful Yom Kippur!

*B'yedidus,*

Rabbi Tzvi Krigsman