



Toras Avigdor

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

By: Pinchas Ben-Ami

Junior

כרשת מטות מסעי

**Every Child
is Worth the World**

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Every Child is Worth the World

A tzaddik was once walking on the road traveling from one city to another. This was a long time ago, before there were cars, and this tzaddik didn't have enough money to buy a donkey, so he had to travel by foot.

Suddenly there was a loud boom of thunder and rain began to fall. It was only a drizzle, but he knew that very soon the drizzle would become big drops of rain and he would be drenched. He didn't want to get soaked and catch a cold. So he looked for a place where he could take shelter from the storm.

All of a sudden the tzaddik saw an old castle in the distance. And he began running toward the castle. "Boruch Hashem," he said happily. "There must be an awning or a doorway in front of the castle, and if I could make it there quickly I'll stay dry!"

And that's what happened — he managed to get under the old doorway in time and he was protected from the downpour.

When the Rambam heard this story, he said something very interesting. He said that this million dollar castle, which took many years and many hundreds of construction workers to build, was built for one purpose only. It wasn't built for the king and the queen and their family. And it wasn't built for the many servants who lived there either. It was built only so that one day, hundreds of years later, a place would be waiting for a tzaddik to stay dry. All of that work was planned by Hashem for this one tzaddik.

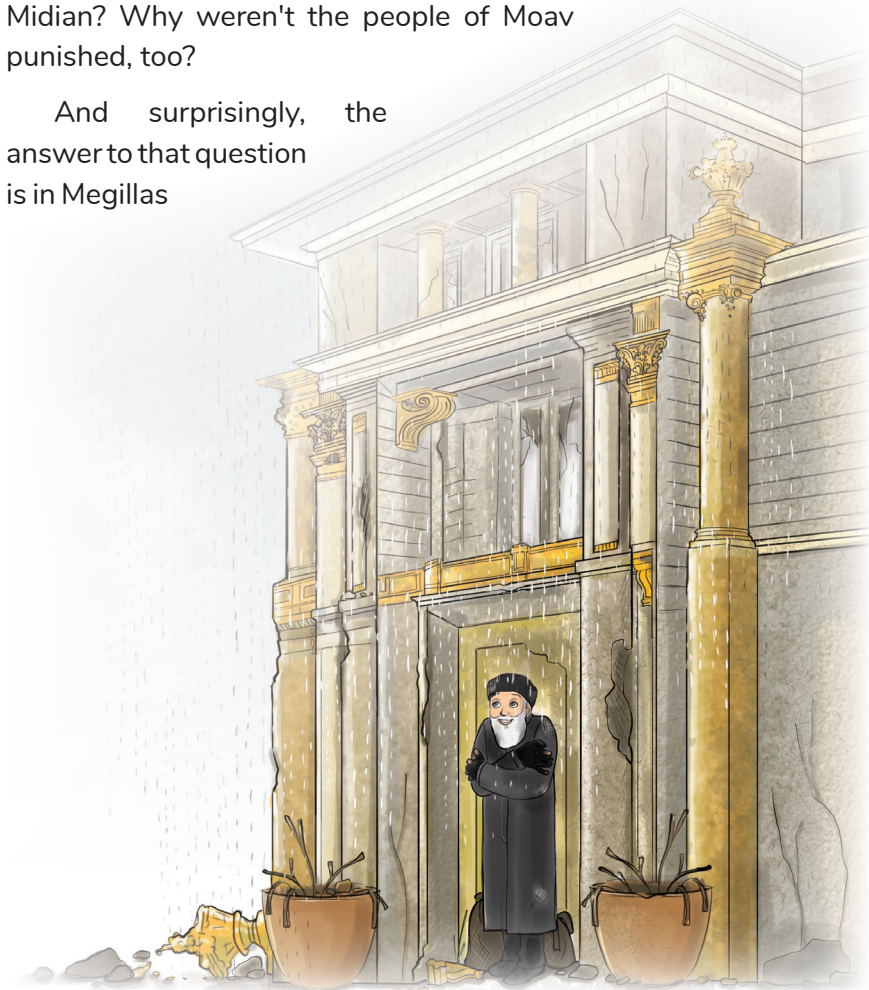
And that's something we can learn from our parshah, Parshas Mattos. In last week's parshah, we learned that the people of Midian joined together with the people of Moav to try to get the Am Yisroel

to do aveiros. And they succeeded. Many Yidden sinned, and Hashem was very angry with us.

But Hashem was even more angry with the people of Midian and Moav. They did their best to make us do aveiros, and when we did, it was really their fault. And so, Hashem told Moshe that the people of Midian must be punished, and the Bnei Yisroel went out to war against Midian.

But the question is: What about Moav? Why only Midian? Why weren't the people of Moav punished, too?

And surprisingly, the answer to that question is in Megillas



Rus. Who was Rus? Rus was the grandmother of Dovid Hamelech, and that means she's the great-grandmother of Moshiach. But who was she? Was she the daughter of a Navi? Or maybe a Kohen Gadol? The answer might surprise you.

Rus grew up in Moav — the same wicked Moav we are now discussing. She lived among these resha'im, but later in her life she became a Jew and a big tzaddeikes. Eventually she became the grandmother of Dovid Hamelech.

When Hashem told the Yidden to punish Midian, He really should have told them to punish Moav, too. They did the same aveiros as Midian! But Hashem knows everything that's going to happen, and he knew that one day, many years later, a tzaddeikes named Rus would come from Moav. And therefore, the nation of Moav had to be saved.

They all deserved a terrible punishment, but they were saved because of one tzaddeikes who would one day be born in Moav.

One tzaddik or one tzadeikes is worth the world! Hashem is running the whole world — He's doing millions and billions and trillions of things every second — but everything that He's doing is for the tzaddikim.

And it doesn't have to be a famous tzaddik with a long white beard, or a rebbetzin who gives Torah classes to hundreds of women. The passuk says: **וְעַמּוּד בְּלִים צְדִיקִים** — The whole Am Yisroel are tzaddikim. As long as you're doing your part to serve Hashem, if you're doing mitzvos and working on your middos, then in Hashem's eyes you're a tzaddik. And Hashem is running the whole world just for you!

Have a Wonderful Shabbos!

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