Parashas Vayigash • December 27th • 7 Teves 5786
לע"נ לאה בילא רבקה בת ר' שמואל אליעזר ע"ה

NOAM HASHABBOS נועם השבת

Angels Are Right in Front Of Our Eyes

R' YY JACOBSON

I once was invited to do a Shabbaton in Sedona, Arizona. The other guest speaker was the unforgettable Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis, of blessed memory, and I still recall an amazing story she shared at her Friday night address in Sedona. She said they were little children in Bergen-Belsen, in the Bergen-Belsen Nazi concentration camp. In some of the camps, the Nazis allowed families to be together and the Jews were treated a little better than in other camps. They were from the lucky ones who survived Bergen-Belsen under very, very difficult conditions.

She recalled a memory when she was a little child in Bergen-Belsen. The family was together, they had a few scraps of bread, and her father, Rabbi David Jungreis, started to sing Shalom Aleichem on Friday night as they would sing in their home, in their shtetl, before the Holocaust, welcoming the Malachim, the angels that come to our home on Shabbos. And Rebbetzin Jungreis said her brother turned to her father and said, "Tatte, Father, I don't see angels. Where are the angels? I see SS monsters, I see Nazi animals, Nazi beasts. I don't see angels. Where are the angles of Bergen-Belsen?" And her father turned to her brother and said, "You. You children, you are the angels. You are the angels that are here."

The story remained with me because really there's a very deep message here. You know, people often ask, "Where are the angels? I don't see angels." Okay, so first of all, we don't see everything, but there's also something else here, and that is, you know, all week we're stressed, we're overwhelmed, there's a lot of anxiety. People have deadlines, they have to make ends meet, there's a lot of dysregulation. Shabbos is the day focused on regulation, on tranquility, on Menuchas Hanefesh, on Menuchas Haguf.

When we come home from davening Friday night, we sing Shalom Aleichem, we sing Eishes Chayil, and then we look at our wives and suddenly we see they're angels. We look at our children and suddenly we see they're angels. Maybe middle of the week we didn't have the capacity, or the sensitivity, or the depth, or the tranquility to be able to see that reality. But with the holiness of Shabbos, we look at all these people in our lives and we say, "Ah, my wife is an angel. My children are angels. Shalom Aleichem Malachei Hashareis, welcome to the angels of my life."

Watch the video
Scan the QR code or visit
www.noamhashabbos.org

Join our WhatsApp Group
Scan the QR code to get weekly
Shabbos inspiration!