

Tazria – Metzora

Sam Corman

My Parasha is Tazria - Metzora. It is about people living with skin disease being forced out of the Israelite Camp. They have a leprous disease that is contagious to other people therefore they were not allowed near the other people of the camp. However the camp wasn't just abandoning the lepers. They would send the most important man in the land, the High Priest to see them. He would check on the lepers to see if their skin was getting better or worse. *He* was the person who had to be near him because when you apply for a job as big as the high priest you have to face things that are not always the best. The bigger you are in a community the more responsibilities there are. It's important to be a role model and a good person and to help the *entire* community, not just the people that are more clean and fortunate. Everyone should be treated equally and get equal attention from the community.

For my Tikkun Olam project I donated basketball equipment to a home for children with special needs. I worked very hard on this project. I created flyers for every single child in the school district in Burlington and Harwinton as well as the kids at the Emanuel Synagogue informing them on this charity drive. I also made boxes for all 6 of the Burlington, Harwinton, and Emanuel Synagogue school communities to donate their basketball equipment. We sent the donations to the Bet Singer home for children in need of care in Israel. Thank you to all of the people who helped me benefit these children.

This relates to my life because I'm on a soccer team with kids who have all different levels of skills and strengths and weaknesses. I deal with *all* of these strengths

and weaknesses and my coach Mr. Greenwood and Mr. Sokol work with them to get better at them. This is like the high priest having to deal with the lepers and making them back to a healthy normal person.

My torah portion relates to this project because I am caring not for the people that have all their needs in this world but for the people that don't get a lot of attention *like* the lepers did when they were in the Israelite Camp. It is important to do this because it is 100% not right to just leave someone with a disability or disease unwanted or uncared for. If *anyone* is in serious need for help or attention they should get the attention needed to help them.

I would like to thank all of my supporting Hebrew School teachers that have taught me the values and history of Judaism. I would like to thank Rabbi Small and Cantor Cohen for helping me prepare for this day. I would like to thank Mrs. Fox for helping me complete this amazing D'var Torah. I would like to especially thank Rachel Holtman for teaching me how to read this *entire* service. Most of all, I would like to thank my Mom, Dad and yes even you Lillian for all the wonderful love and support that you have given me up to today. Now please turn to page 649 in the Etz Hayim Humash to listen to my parashah Tazria.- Metzarah