

This Week at
Temple Israel of Long Beach
Experiencing the Warmth of Tradition



June 7, 2025
11 Sivan 5785
Shabbat Nasso

Candle Lighting 8:07 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat – 8:17 pm
For week of 06/07/25 - 06/13/25

PARSHAT NASSO The Politics of Envy

Few things in the Torah are more revolutionary than the concept of leadership.

Leaders need to be aware of the perils of envy, especially within the people they lead. This is one of the unifying themes of the parsha of Nasso. In it we see Moses confronting three potential sources of envy. The first lay within the tribe of Levi. Its members had reason to resent the fact that priesthood had gone to just one man and his descendants. The second had to do with individuals who were neither of the tribe of Levi nor of the family of Aaron, but who felt they had the right to be holy in the sense of having a special intense relationship with G-d in the way that the priests had. The third had to do with the leadership of the other tribes who might have felt left out of the service of the Tabernacle. We see Moses dealing with all these potential dangers.

First, he gives the Levitical clan a special role in carrying the vessels and furnishings of the Tabernacle whenever it journeyed from place to place. Next Moses deals with the individuals who aspire to a higher level of holiness by them becoming Nazirites, a way of temporarily assuming a voluntary extra degree of holiness. Lastly, he turns to the leadership of the tribes itemizing the offerings of each tribe thus allowing each to acquire their own share of honor.

Even when people accept in principle the equal dignity of all, and even when they see leadership as service, the old dysfunctional passions die hard. People still resent the success of others. They still feel that honor has gone to others when it should have gone to them.

There is no way of eliminating the danger entirely, but Moses in Parashat Nasso tells us how to behave. Honor everyone equally. Pay special attention to potentially disaffected groups. Make each feel valued. Give everyone a moment in the limelight, if only in a ceremonial way. Set a personal example of humility. Make it clear to all that leadership is service, not a form of status. Find ways in which those with a particular passion can express it and ensure that everyone has a chance to contribute.

There is no fail-safe way to avoid the politics of envy but there are ways of minimizing it, and this parsha is an object lesson in how to do so.

Excerpt from:
“Lessons In Leadership”
by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks



We thank the following donors for their generous contributions to Temple Israel this past week.

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Gus Wurman
Alice Laby
Marsha Tannenbaum



Temple Israel wishes Mazel Tov
to grandparents (savta & papa)

Revi & Ian Spinks
on the birth of a granddaughter
Zinnia

Congratulations to the proud parents

Alison & David
and siblings
Lucca & Ophelia

*May The Families Continue To
Have Much Joy and Happiness*



Marcie Livingston	Amos Pinchasin
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