

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



June 20, 2026  
 5 Tamuz 5786  
 Shabbat Korach



**Candle Lighting**  
**Shabbat - 8:12 pm**  
**Kabbalat Shabbat – 8:22 pm**  
**For week of 06/20/26 - 06/26/26**

**PARSHAT KORACH**  
 Servant Leadership

*“You have gone too far! The whole community are holy, every one of them, and the Lord is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above G-d’s congregation?”*  
 (Num. 16:3).

What exactly was wrong in what Korach and his motley band of agitators said? We know that Korach was a demagogue, not a democrat. He wanted power for himself, not for the people. We know also that that the protestors were disingenuous. Each had his own reasons to feel resentful towards Moses or Aaron or fate. Set these considerations aside for a moment and ask: was what they said true or false?

They were surely right to say, “The whole community are holy”. That after all, is what G-d asked the people to be: “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Ex. 19:6), meaning, a kingdom all of whose members are (in some sense) priests, and a nation all of whose citizens are holy.

They were equally right to say, “The Lord is with them”. That was the point in making the Tabernacle: “Have them make My Sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them” (Ex. 25:8).

What was wrong was their last remark: “Why then do you set yourselves above G-d’s congregation”? This was not a small mistake. It was a fundamental one. Moses represents the birth of a new kind of leadership. That is what Korach and his followers did not understand.

In a social order in which everyone has equal dignity in the eyes of Heaven, a leader does not stand *above* the people. He serves the people, and he serves G-d.

Sometimes the worst mistakes we make are when we project our feelings onto others. Korach was an ambitious man, so he saw Moses and Aaron as two people driven by ambition, “setting themselves above G-d’s congregation”. He did not understand that in Judaism, to lead is to serve. Those who serve do not lift themselves high. They lift other people high.

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



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

- Alice Laby
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