

## Parshas Vayeishev

Shmuz by Rabbi Shimon Max

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When *Yakov* sent *Yosef* to check on his brothers, the *pasuk* says he went from the valley of *Chevron*. Why do we care where he went from?

*Ramban* says two explanations-

A. The brothers were only willing to kill *Yosef* because they were so far from the father.

B. *Yosef* made himself courageous to go to a distant place, and he didn't say, "How can I go to my brothers who hate me?"

3 points-

1. Did *Yosef* really need to make himself courageous and pump himself up to do a *mitzvah* of honoring his father? *Yosef Hatzadik* had to pump himself up to rid himself of laziness and fear?!

We see how important this strategy is for helping us in our *Yiddishkeit*. Giving yourself *Chizuk* (strength) and encouraging yourself is a very big help. If even *Yosef* needed it, of course we should use it. We need to be *misametz* (embolden) ourselves for the right causes!

2. It also seems from the *Ramban's* terminology of, "and he didn't say..." that of course *Yosef* would've gone, but he would've expressed even a slight reluctance. We see from here that even showing reluctance at fulfilling your father's command is still a lack of *kibud av v'aim*.

3. How could *Yosef* have had a fear about going to his brothers? Didn't he trust in *Hashem*?! We see from even *Yosef Hatzadik* having fear that of course having fear isn't necessarily a lack of *bitachon*. Overcoming the fear is *bitachon*! One of the reasons we are on earth is to overcome fears that everyone (even a *ba'al bitachon*) has, and do the *mitzvos* despite them.