



The Joy of Torah - For Life

Parshas Korach - Blaming Leaders!

Shmuz by Rabbi Yehoshua Fromowitz

Written by Moshe Reuvein Sussman

The Ramban at the beginning of this week's parsha discusses the timing of Korach's rebellion, and why he waited until this point. He explains that until now everyone had an extreme love for Moshe, so if anyone would have rebelled they would have been stoned by the people! But after the complainers from two weeks ago's parsha, and the incident with the slav, and then the incident with the spies and Moshe didn't daven for them and save them. So therefore the soul of the people was bitter, and they said that in Moshe's words were "pitfalls".

This is very difficult to explain. The first two incidents mentioned were actual rebellions against Moshe's wishes. Regarding the incident with the spies, Moshe did daven, and Hashem actually only forgave Klal Yisrael at all because of Moshe's tefillos! And with Moshe's great love for Klal Yisrael, how can anyone think that he didn't try his absolute hardest to save them entirely! Another thing one can ask, is this was a termen dous argument Korach was making. He was questioning Moshe's authority and the transmission of the Torah. How can these small feelings of resentment make such a difference.

We see from here 2 things - Firstly how far people will go to blame someone else - especially a leader! People blame leaders for their own failings because they someone expect a leader to correct their mistakes. And we also see how powerful a small feeling can be. Even though if you would've asked them if they loved Moshe, they would've definitely said yes. But now, in their bitterness of their failing and being told they couldn't enter Eretz Yisrael was channeled into blaming Moshe, and so much so that they actually rebelled against him in such an extreme way. So even a small feeling can have huge results!