CLARITY
By: Rabbi Yosef Vogel

BESHALACH
Shevat 14, 5773

We all experience moments in our lives when due to circumstances beyond our control we find ourselves in a "tight spot". The options that that are normally available to us do not seem to apply in the current situation in which we find ourselves and there don't seem to be any solutions in sight.

At the dawn of our history as a people, we experienced one of those moments. Just after we were liberated from Egypt we were confronted once more by our enemies who after entrapping us, threatened to destroy this fledgling nation.

As a result we became scared and confused. Particularly, because of the varying and competing opinions being offered by different factions. With no decisiveness and a looming fear of a potential calamity, we were further crippled in our ability to act.

It is at this critical moment that a flash of brilliant clarity emerges by way of G-d's message to Moses, imparting a vision that would transcend all solutions being suggested. The message was clear as it was simple; "Speak to the Children of Israel and tell them to go forward". It is these words that have served as inspiration and guidance to our people in our most challenging moments.

In difficult times we can get distracted by powerful forces or circumstances that surround us. It is at these moments that we lose sight of our original goals and objectives. Our vision becomes blurred and we are not sure which way is forward.

This lesson is perhaps most important to the survival of our people. Let not the negative forces out there distract us from our vision. Let not our enemies dictate our agenda. Let us stay clearly focused on the mission at hand; "Speak to the Children of Israel and tell them to go forward". One step at a time, one step closer to the Promised Land.

For when we are focused, even a raging sea blocking our path, becomes dry land upon which we can walk to reach our goals.

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25th Jan
Sedra: Beshalach

Shabbat Begins: 4.22pm
Shabbat Ends: 5.29pm

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