

Marriage: Finding the Right One

By: Yosef Vogel

In trying to find the “right” one in marriage, we are faced with perhaps the most important decision in our lives. We have to make a judgment on the character of an individual with whom we will spend the rest of our lives.

The first such instance in Jewish history is recorded at great length in this weekly portion involving Isaac and Rebecca. There’s is the first Jewish wedding in our people’s history and we the Jewish people are here today as a result of that marriage.

When we look for the “right” person the list of qualifications are great and therefore it’s important to focus. In Isaac’s search for the right women he took that even further. There was one thing above everything else that was going to convince him that he had met his future wife. It was something that reveals the true good nature of an individual, a person who would be both a good wife and mother.

In fact this trait was most fundamental and which permeated the life of his parents and one that he wanted to pass on to his children. It is the one value more than any other that sums up who we are as a people and the great gift we in turn shine by way of example to the nations of the world.

The word is kindness. Genuine kindness. Kindness, as Rebecca demonstrated, to a stranger and to his animals. This is the trait that our matriarch demonstrated thousands of years ago. This is the trait that defines us as Jews. This is the trait that if we incorporate in our own lives would make our mother Rebecca smile.

18 November

Chayei Sara

Shabbat Begins: 3:52 pm

Shabbat Ends: 4:57 pm