



Parashat Vayakhel

March 2023

2 Conversations

A group of people was standing near a house and they were Vayakhel a gathering so I approached them and asked them about Parashat Vayakhel. One of the group immediately began to tell what the Sfas Emes rabbi said about Parashat Vayakhel, that the men gave more gold for the Mishkan than the women did. The importance of this is the large change it represents from a previous situation, that earlier the men had given more of the gold for making the Golden Calf. With the phrase "make His will your will" the men became more righteous in that they changed their ways from their previous act and now gave much more gold for the holy Mishkan.

A man who identified himself as a Baal Koreh a Torah reader said that the text in this week's portion is in many places almost identical to the text in a prior portion, and he considered two ways of understanding this - either see what are the differences and learn especially from the differences, or emphasize the similarities and relate to them as praising Betzalel in showing how he did exactly what it was planned he would do. The man said he's inclined to learn from the differences, one of which was what was built first - the aron or the housing for the aron. It was earlier said to build the aron first, but then Betzalel in his wisdom said he couldn't build the aron if the housing isn't ready to accept it so he switched the order of the work. So the man took this change from the instructions to be greatly to Betzalel's credit.