



Project: Sermon Resource for Shluchim
 Distribution Date: February 27, 2007/ ט' אדר תשס"ז
 Parsha: Tetzaveh / תצוה

בי"ה

1

1. "Does your wife sell shoes?"



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בי"ה

2

2. This was my introduction to the American way - never wear the same outfit twice.
 People worry "How should I dress?"
 My answer, "As long you're dressed, it's all right."

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3

3. Dressing is infinite; you can keep changing forever- unlike eating where your stomach can only handle so much.
 Dressing also has an endless amount of rules for every occasion.



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בי"ה

4

4. In truth religious, even Chassidic Jews have this hang up, the black clothes and the long coats.



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בי"ה

5

5. In Jewish law everything connected to clothing.

- Your nice Shabbat clothing.
- Your even nicer holiday clothing.
- Prayer clothes - the Tallit.
- Even burial clothes - also the Tallit



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6

6. This week's parsha speaks about the priestly clothing:

- The regular Cohen's outfit, made of four garments;
- The High Priest's outfit of eight garments and on
- The High priest's Yom Kippur outfit in which he would enter the Holy of Holies.

Rashi: The uniform made the Priests fit to serve in the Temple.

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7

7. Judaism and Chassidus especially teach that being a *mentch* is the main thing. One's appearance should not really matter at all.



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8

8. G-d created the very first garment. Man had to figure out everything else but he didn't even have to *put on* his first outfit.



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בי"ה

9

9. The reason: Clothing is human dignity while bareness is for the beasts!
 By dressing Adam G-d said that dressing is not optional.



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בי"ה

10

10. Clothing has a very strong influence on us. The better we dress the better we tend to act.

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11

11. Therefore in Judaism, the holier the occasion the more we dress up:

- Shabbat we dress nicely.
- On holidays we dress even nicer.
- On Yom Kippur we wear a kittel
- For prayers we wear a tallit.



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בי"ה

12

12. Chassidim wear a *gartel*:

- To remind him that he is standing before G-d.
- To separate the higher organs from the lower organs.



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בי"ה

13

13. But the main lesson is: We must always strive to rise above the physical. Just as we need nice clothing to cover our bodily nakedness we need a refined cover for our natural instincts.



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בי"ה

14

14. On Purim we dress up to help break through our inhibitions. And on Purim that is the goal - *venahapoch hu*, to turn your world upside down.

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