

Parshas Pekudai

In the past few weeks, the *Torah* discusses the construction of the *Mishkan* (Tabernacle). In this week's *Parsha, Pekudai*, we learn that the *Mishkan* was dedicated on *Rosh Chodesh Nissan*. However, the *Midrash* explains that although the dedication occurred on *Rosh Chodesh Nissan*, the *Mishkan* was actually ready to be used *Chanukah* time, more than three months earlier. The question then arises: Why was it necessary for *B'nei Yisroel* to wait an additional three months to use the *Mishkan*?

The commentaries explain that the building of the *Mishkan* is a symbol of *Hashem's* forgiveness to *B'nei Yisroel* for the sin of the Golden Calf. Close examination of the construction of the Golden Calf reveals that its cause was due to the *B'nei Yisroel's* impatience. When *Moshe* did not come down from the mountain at the expected time, the *B'nei Yisroel* panicked. Their need to have a physical liaison between *Hashem* and themselves propelled them to act impetuously resulting in the Golden Calf. Hindsight teaches us had *B'nei Yisroel* taken a few moments to step back, reflect, and think things through, a different conclusion might have ensued. They could have come to the realization that they should have considered the consequences of their actions before acting so quickly.

Hashem established a three month waiting period to teach *B'nei Yisroel* an important lesson. He makes them wait to emphasize that it is not enough to acknowledge the sin, but in order for it to be a true learning experience, it is necessary to determine the problem's root and learn from that. As parents, it behooves us to teach this valuable lesson to our children. We must model reflective behavior and not jump to conclusions, and when we do, we must first understand the cause of the problem in order to solve it completely.