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Communal Responsibilities

Our Synagogues and communities abound with opportunities for the individual to step up and offer his or her services for the needs of the many.

But many communal tasks are often menial and bothersome bearing little prestige or recognition. How many of us aspire to collect siddurim in our Synagogues?

Rabbi Yossi, who was charged with the task of appointing managers of charity was often unable to find anyone to take the responsibility upon himself.

Rabbi Yossi would point out that Ben Bivi who was responsible for nothing more than servicing the wicks of the Candelabra in the Temple is listed in the Mishnah (Shekalim 5:1) together with the *Gedolei Hador*.

If the seemingly meager task of servicing the wicks was significant enough for someone of such calibre, definitely managing charity which is responsible for the well-being of the poor should be significant enough for everyone else (Y Shekalim 5:1)

The lesson that the Talmud Yerushalmi teaches us here is that when it comes to the service or well-being of the community no task is too meager nor insignificant for one to take responsibility for it. The lowliest of tasks (or at least how we perceive them) are in fact quite lofty! .

May we take greater interest in our community and the needs of the many setting aside our own pride and merit us with greatness!

SHABBATH SHALOM TO ALL OUR READERS!

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