



Yom Kippur Discussion 2021/5782

Would you go to Nineveh?

'Arise, go to Nineveh that great city and cry out against it, for their evil has come up before Me.'

God – in the Book of Jonah

'In forty days Nineveh will be overthrown.'

Jonah – in the Book of Jonah

People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true. I was not tired physically ... No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything. Today's mighty oak is yesterday's nut that held its ground.

Rosa Parks (who refused to move to extend the 'Whites' section on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama 1955)

Climate crisis is the greatest ever threat to human rights. The economies of all nations, the institutional, political, social and cultural fabric of every state, and the rights of all your people, and future generations, will be impacted.

Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.

James Baldwin (American Essayist)

In a place where there is no humanity, strive to be a person.

במקום שאין אנושים, השתדל להיות איש :

Hillel, Mishnah Avot

Judaism, writ large, is about resilience. Across the span of Jewish history, Jews have experienced extensive trauma, even catastrophe, and we have survived – as a people and as a civilization. After each catastrophe, the prevailing paradigm was inoperable: we no longer knew how to understand ourselves in relation to God, to other Jews, and to other peoples. And, throughout our history, Jews have ultimately transcended catastrophe after catastrophe. We have repeatedly breathed new life into the Jewish people and the Jewish civilization and we have found pathways toward repair. From trauma, we have had to heal. We have had to recover and re-vision, regenerate and re-seed vital Jewish life. We have found ways to cultivate resilience, both individually and collectively.

Rabbi Deborah Waxman, President of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

It came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brothers, and looked on their burdens; and he spied an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brothers. And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand. And when he went out the second day, behold, two men of the Hebrews struggled together; and he said to the one who did the wrong, Why do you strike your fellow? And he said, Who made you a prince and a judge over us? do you intend to kill me, as you killed the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Certainly this thing is known. And when Pharaoh heard this matter, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.

Exodus Chapter 2

Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.

Nelson Mandela

Trust yourself. Create the kind of self that you will be happy to live with all your life. Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny, inner sparks of possibility into flames of achievement.

Golda Meir, Prime Minister of Israel

I don't have the education of a politician, many on Twitter have made that clear today, but I have a social education having lived through this and having spent time with the families and children most affected. These children matter... And as long as they don't have a voice they will have mine.

Marcus Rashford, Footballer and food campaigner

When haters go after your looks and differences, it means they have nowhere left to go. And then you know you're winning! I have Asperger's and that means I'm sometimes a bit different from the norm. And - given the right circumstances -being different is a superpower."

Greta Thunberg, Environmental campaigner

All the world is a very narrow bridge

And the basic principle is not to be afraid!

Rebbe Nachman of Bratslav