

One Hour of Preparation

It has been clearly established that every father must be at home with his children and his wife during one hour of preparations before every minchah! If a man is faithfully spending this time with his children (not with anyone else in the community — just his own family), then he is obedient to the anointing and our Abba will reward him. During the preparation hour EVERY man in the community is to be home. During this time a man can teach his children, exhort them, tell them stories, deal with their sins, etc. This is not just a time for dressing and showering, but for preparing of the soul. That is why there is the hour shofar before every minchah. If a man is keeping this faithfully a wife has no right to complain. If he must take care of problems in theedah during this time, he must know that he must tell people who come to him during the hour of preparation that this is the time specifically designed for saving families in theedah, and that he would be sinning to leave his family at this time. Usually the needy sheep will be able to find another time to talk or be able to just take a long walk and cry out to the only ONE WHO CAN SAVE. We got a very nice letter from one of the women expressing that she feels that as a father is with his children at bedtime it will be a great help in bonding with them, for bedtime is a special time. This is very true, and if a man has a good character he can say to his children right after the minchah, “All right all of you come with me up to bed.” He should put his children in bed early and spend some time with them. But in our lifestyle of many needs this time after the Erev minchah is sometimes required. The imma should cover her husband if there is a pressing need for him elsewhere. But the husband should also have the confidence to say to those who are needing to talk, “Can’t this wait for half an hour? I will meet you at the cafe in half an hour to talk. Please give my children their abba’s attention at bedtime.” This is a very acceptable thing to say, and will even engender respect in the sheep for the family, and also teach them priorities when they too become parents.