



# דער רבי וועט געפינען א וועג...

לזכות  
הרה"ת ר' יוסף יצחק  
וזוגתו מרת ח' שצערא  
ומשפחתם שיחיו  
שפאלטר



# The Shabbos Deal

AS TOLD BY ROSH LOWE (MIAMI BEACH, FL)

I grew up in Westchester, NY in a very secular environment. As children we had minimal exposure to the basics of Yiddishkeit.

In 1987 my family was going through a very difficult time and one Sunday Rabbi Reuven Flamer showed up at our home. Upon hearing my father's tale of woes, he drove him to 770 to receive a dollar and a *brocha* from the Rebbe. This meeting with the Rebbe had an indelible impression on my father and he started to grow in his commitment to Yiddishkeit and encouraged us to connect as well.

I was a child actor on Broadway and after graduating high school I moved to Los Angeles hoping to pursue a career in Hollywood. I married shortly after I arrived but

my acting career did not take off as I had planned. My father encouraged me to visit the Chabad House in S. Monica and at the Shabbos dinner we experienced there, the first seeds of our return to Yiddishkeit were planted by Rabbi Levitansky *a"h*.

After college I attended the Columbia School of Journalism and got my first job as a news broadcaster in Naples, FL in 1997. At the time there was one Reform Temple in Naples and that year I decided I would attend Rosh Hashanah services. My wife and I arrived at the Temple on Rosh Hashanah morning and we were greeted at the door by a man with a portable credit card machine.

He asked us if we had tickets to attend the service and we answered in the negative.

“Not a problem,” he said. “You can purchase your tickets right now. \$350 each ticket. It includes Yom Kippur services as well.”

My salary at the time was quite small and I did not have \$700 to dish out on a whim.

“I cannot afford the tickets,” I told him.

“Well, without tickets you cannot pray here today,” he replied.

We walked away deeply insulted and hurt, but it was the greatest blessing. I started to become hungry for greater involvement in Yiddishkeit and I resolved to move to a larger Jewish community where I could get more.

There was one problem. I was working in a second-tier news station in Naples and all the large Jewish communities are located in the highest media markets in the country. It is nearly impossible to transfer to the higher markets in such a short time. I needed a miracle.

My father went to the Ohel and requested a *brocha* on my behalf. This is what he wrote:

*Dear Rebbe. Please bless my son Roshi with a job at WSVN in Miami. In exchange, Roshi will not work on Shabbos.*

WSVN is one of the top news stations in the country and it is located ten minutes from The Shul of Bal Harbour. My father wanted me to live in close proximity to the community best suited for my growth in Yiddishkeit and to have a great career. He was so sure that the *brocha* would materialize that he sent me a copy of the letter.

At first I was flabbergasted. How can I agree to not work on Shabbos in the 24/7 television business? But I figured that the odds against me actually landing the job at WSVN were quite high, so I agreed to the deal.

Six weeks later I was asked to join the team at WSVN! This was an incredible leap up from the second-tier station in Naples, and I kept my part of the deal. It was very tough but I strongly believe that my career successes since then are due to my commitment to Shabbos.

For years, my wife and I struggled to have children and we finally decided to send a letter to the Ohel requesting a *brocha* for healthy offspring. Our son Yeshaya was born, hearty and healthy, nine months later!

The Rebbe’s leadership continues. I am a big believer that when you attach yourself to a righteous person, miracles can happen. I’ve see that in my own life. **T**

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