



# A Prescription for Success

In the city of Minsk there was an unlikely trio of a doctor, shopkeeper and wealthy man. They were united by challenges they each faced and together they decided to travel to the Tzemach Tzedek for a *bracha* and advice.

The doctor had no patients, the shopkeeper had discovered that despite great sales he was coming away with a large loss, and the wealthy man had not been blessed with offspring.

They each had the opportunity to share their concerns and worries with the Rebbe and receive his *bracha* and guidance. The first to enter was the shopkeeper. The Tzemach Tzedek advised him to go to sleep at a later hour and rise much earlier than he was accustomed to at that time.

To the luckless doctor, the Rebbe instructed him to change his lifestyle. “You dress simply and don’t command respect. Get yourself honorable clothing, a horse and wagon and then when you are called to visit

a patient you will get paid respectfully.”

The rich man was told to spend a night with his wife at a hospitality home where the poor members of society would sleep.

The trio returned to Minsk prepared to do what was necessary to turn their lives around.

The poor doctor asked the shopkeeper for a loan with which he could buy a horse and wagon and a new wardrobe. “If I succeed,” he explained to his friend, “then I will return you the money. If I don’t do well then I will give you the horse and wagon.” The shopkeeper agreed to the deal and lent him the money.

Sure enough, when the doctor was summoned to see a patient, he would let them know that he will arrive in half an hour. At the appointed time he would arrive with his wagon and be received with honor and dignity. The payments he received in return were substantial and within a

month he was able to pay back his loan.

Meanwhile, the shopkeeper changed his schedule and began staying in the store later at night and arriving earlier in the morning. It was just a matter of time until he caught on to the scheme that had been robbing him of his merchandise and sanity. His workers had dug an underground tunnel into his store and had been sneaking into his store each night, stealing his goods! Now that he was there for longer hours he had caught them in the act.

When the wealthy man heard how the Tzemach Tzedek’s *brachos* and advice had bore fruits he decided to go ahead with the advice he was given.

One night, he and his wife entered the hospitality home and tried to make themselves comfortable for the night. All around them, paupers and homeless individuals settled down on the floor and fell asleep. The rich man, however, had a

very difficult time and spent most of the night tossing and turning.

In the morning, when most of the poor people had awoken they began talking badly about the rich and elite class of the town. Included in the barrage of insults was this very couple who, unbeknownst to them, was listening in to every word. The well to-do couple heard them saying how cheap and miserly they were. They went on to talk badly about the wife and how she never let a poor person cross the threshold of her home.

This was a bitter pill for the couple to swallow, however, it became apparent to them why they had not yet been blessed with children. With a little bit of self reflection and honest reckoning they could change their behaviour and bring blessing upon themselves. **1**

(Adapted from  
*Otzar Sippurei Chabad*  
vol. 17, p. 183.)