

The Berachos vs. Minyan for Megilla Reading: A Question of Priorities
Adapted from a *shiur* by Rav Chaim Weg for *Parshas*

Vayikra

Someone came to shul late on Purim and missed the *berachos* of the *Megilla* before the reading.

His *safek* was: Is it better to hear *Megilla b'rov am* (in a large group) without *berachos*, or read it alone with *berachos*? So he made a *tnai*:

- If it's better *b'rov am*, then he is *yotzei* with the *keria* now.
- If it's better with *berachos*, he will be *yotzei* later by reading himself.

He then asked a "*gaon echad*," who agreed with the *safek*, and said it is a *safek* if he is *yotzei* with the first reading, so he should read again without *berachos*.

- *Kuntres*

Yemei Purim, who brings this story, asks: What is the *safek*? *Berachos* is a *chiyuv*, while *rov am* is a *hidur*, since you can be *yotzei* alone.

- Possible answer based upon the Brisker Rav: *Megilla* is based fundamentally upon *pirsumei nisa* and *b'rov am*, so maybe it's more important.

Proofs:

- *Megilla* 3:

We are *mevatel talmud*

Torah for *Megilla*.

- Ritva: Although *Megilla* itself is *talmud torah*, we are *mevatel talmud Torah* even to read it *b'tzibbur*. This is because the *yesod* of *Megilla* is *pirsumei nisa*.
 - *Megilla* 5:
Machlokes if *Megilla* can be read alone.
 - Rashi: Issue is whether *pirsumei nisa* requires ten or whether it's achieved by each person reading individually.
 - We see that *pirsumei nisa* (which is the basis for *b'rov am*) is key to the mitzvah.
 - Tosafos: Even a *yachid* makes a *beracha*. The *chiddush* is that although *pirsumei nisa* is crucial, we still recite a *beracha* here.
 - This all demonstrates that *b'rov am* and *pirsumei nisa* are the basis for *Kerias Megilla*, and hence the basis for the *safek* above of which is better: The *beracha* may be required, but *b'rov am* is the basis of *Kerias Megilla*.
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