

AVODAS HASHEM IN THE PRIVACY OF THE HOME

- Society today tends to value matters proportionate to their publicity.
- Publicity is considered by many to be a goal in and of itself.
- According to the *Torah*, excessive publicity is actually detrimental¹ to a person.
- The spiritual value of a positive act is far greater when performed in private².
- Publicity can diminish the integrity of one's actions³.
- There are numerous instances in Jewish history where acts performed in total privacy were the catalyst for great things⁴.
- In "heavenly currency", *mitzvos* performed in private are just as valuable, if not more valuable than, *mitzvos* performed in public⁵.
- The fact that the majority of a woman's *avodas Hashem* takes place at home far from the public eye does not diminish in any way its importance.
- Homemakers should be cognizant that in heaven a detailed list is kept of every meal served, each article of clothing laundered, every detail is noticed and nothing is forgotten⁶.
- When receiving non-rabbinic visitors, the Amshinover Rebbe only stands up for homemakers.
- A woman's prayer at home can have more merit than prayer at *shul*⁷.



1. See *Rashi* (*Shemos* 34:3) where he explains that the great publicity surrounding the giving of the first *Luchos* caused them to be broken.
2. Rav Nosson Meir Wachtfogel z"l as heard from his son Rav Elya Ber Wachtfogel *shlita*.
3. See *Micha* (6:8) "*Vhatsnaya leches im hashem elokecha*". See *Shaarey Orah* by Rav Avigdor Miller z"l at length on this topic.
4. For example, the extra care given by Shifra and Puah to the Jewish babies in *Mitzrayim*, and the food given by Boaz to Rus. See also *Chulin* (99a) where it states that the merit from an individual who refrains from responding during a conflict causes the continued sustenance of the world.
5. Rav Shmuel Feivelson *shlita*. See *Daas Torah* (*Sefer Shemos*) by Rav Yerucham Levovitz z"l where he elaborates on the immense power of small actions.
6. Based on the *Medrash Rabbah* (*Rus* 5:6) which states that in biblical times a person's good deeds were recorded in the *Torah*, whereas today every good deed is recorded by *Eliyahu HaNavi* and signed by *Moshiach* and *Hashem*.
7. The *Vilna Gaon* in a letter to the women of his family. See the letter for the explanation.