Just a Little Something…

By HaRav Ariel Bar Tzadok

“If I am only for myself what am I.”

An old Rabbi spoke these famous words a very long time ago. This ageless wisdom speaks very much to us today.

With all the emphasis we place today upon pleasing and fulfilling our own personal needs and desires, we more than not forget that life is a team sport.

There are others around us whose needs and desires are as important as our own.

When we take care of our own, we must include them within the equation.

Indeed, we take better care of ourselves when we take care of those others around us.

No individual is an island unto himself or herself.

We all exist in groups and it is the betterment of our group that best serves our individual needs.

Therefore the words of the old Rabbi ring clear, if I only serve myself I am missing the point and not truly fulfilling my own needs in the best ways they can be addressed.

When I reach out and provide for others, I am best fulfilling myself.

Fancy that, by being self-less, one is being most self serving.

This is indeed a funny contradiction, but in the end, it makes the best sense and serves to benefit everyone.