

1. You advertise that a Perek of Mishnayos can be studied in 10-15 minutes. Is that realistic ? I have struggled sometimes for half an hour on one mishna.

Obviously, there are easier Mishnayos and more difficult Mishnayos. The easy Perakim can probably be completed by most people in 15 minutes. The more difficult ones will likely take longer. At the same time, one is free to spend as much additional time on even the easier ones if one wishes. The 10-15 minutes can thus be viewed as a minimum.

2. What level of understanding can one hope to achieve in such a short time ? The 10-15 minutes certainly doesn't allow for any time to review.

Again, one is free to devote additional time, if one wishes to. But consider this to be similar to what generally takes place when people sign up for Mishnayos at a Shiva. Whatever level of understanding is acceptable for the Siyum to be held at the end of the Shloshim is sufficient here. Also, there is no penalty for "cheating", i.e. using a translation (e.g. Artscroll) , pictures, audio Shiur etc...

3. So if the most one can hope to achieve is a mediocre grasp of the Mishnayos, what is the point of the effort ?

I am not advocating a mediocre grasp of the Mishnayos. One should expend every effort to understand the words and concepts in every Mishna. Those familiar with Mishnayos will likely recognize a sequence and flow from one Mishna to the next. At the same time, every Mishna is a self-contained unit which can easily be summarized in a few sentences. This is an opportunity to gain a taste of the entire Shas in a relatively short time, and when one next encounters a Mishna that one had learned before, it will seem like meeting an old friend.

4. Isn't a Perek every day a little too ambitious ? Why couldn't it be 3-5 Mishnayos or half of a Perek every day ?

Certainly any and all Torah learning is worthwhile. A major accomplishment of this program B'Ezras Hashem, is the additional fact that all of Mishnayos will be completed each and every day. The Seforim praise highly the achievement of completing a Masechta or Seder and the Simcha that HaKadosh Boruch Hu experiences when we make a Siyum. That Simcha can easily result in additional Yeshuos and Refuos for all involved, that might not have been forthcoming just yet. A Perek a day is a manageable way to complete all of Mishnayos every day, and it contains just a little pressure so that participants will take it seriously. If 2 people wish to share/split a daily Perek between them, that can also be done.

5. What happens if someone misses a day ? Or if someone feels he can't manage it and he's already in the middle of the year ?

We are only human and HaKadosh Boruch Hu knows it. There will be no daily Siyum Seudos held anywhere to celebrate the daily completion of Mishnayos. The program will assume that all the Perakim are being learned every day. If someone misses a day, he should try to make it up at some point for his own benefit, so that he can make his own Siyum after 525 days for having learned all the Mishnayos himself. If someone needs to withdraw from the program at some point, I would expect him to notify the administrator who will hopefully find someone to take over, if the withdrawer himself cannot find someone. There may already be a "double", who also started with the same Perek as the withdrawer after the initial 525 people signed on, that automatically fills in.

6. How confident are you that this program will be a success ?

All I know is that it is a good thing and it should be a success. In addition to the daily completion of the Mishnayos, this program also represents participation by Yidden from all over the world learning together, much the same as Daf HaYomi and the various Dirshu programs do. I know that there are many daily agendas that encourage the study of small doses of Halacha, Mishnayos, Gemara, Navi, etc... and this program is just another one. There is an old schedule that aggressively advocated the completion of all Mishnayos in one year. What makes this program different is the daily collective completion of all Shas, which is something that at least I have never heard of being done before. It deserves to be at least attempted, and there are Baruch Hashem enough Yidden in the world to make it happen. I believe that Hashem may be watching to see how cordially Klal Yisroel welcomes this opportunity.