

# THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

## THE TORAH OF LEADERSHIP

December 16, 2021 | Erica Brown | Leadership and Callousness

Becca Thomas: Erica's source sheet for today is available here:

[https://www.wexnerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/12-16\\_Gen-37-Callousness.pdf](https://www.wexnerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/12-16_Gen-37-Callousness.pdf)

Angie Atkins: <https://barbarakellerman.com/bad-leadership-a-disease-doomed-forever-to-be-incurable/>

Michael Neil: The expression on Joseph's face

Susie Sorkin: +1 Michael

Michelle Anfang: Joseph looks much younger than his brothers

Rabbi Paula Mack Drill: Lots of sheep standing around doing nothing

Michael Neil: The "surfboard" the left foot of a brother is standing on ;-)

elkaabrahamson: Pre existing pit

jamescumings: Buried alive

Susie Sorkin: yeah, Elka - I was wondering what the pit was doing there in the first place

Angie Atkins: I never made the connection before between this and the akeidah, that Isaac and Joseph are so much younger and stronger than their binders. And were they willing in some way? Or why were they so passive?

Jessica Semel: am i my brother's keeper?

elkaabrahamson: Its very Succession-esque

Searle Mitnick: It is no less of a lie. Whether by commission or omission, a lie is a lie.

Jacqueline Shelton: It felt celebratory to them

Susie Sorkin: very callous

Rabbi Paula Mack Drill: The essential callousness

Caryn Rosen Adelman: went on as usual

Jeni Friedman: It calls attention to the different levels of activity on the ground and below the ground

Caryn Rosen Adelman: one is circle of life and other is eating to eat

Angie Atkins: Well the 70 elders also eat after they see revelation at sinai. So maybe jews just have a thing about meals or maybe it's a way of marking time, and not about the meal

Caryn Rosen Adelman: what is different from callous and evil

Searle Mitnick: I wonder if prison was up to Helmsley's standards.

Jessica Semel: Sometimes we get an email at work announcing that "today wa so and so's last day. We wish them well." And then everyone is wondering what happened...

Tali Zerkowicz (she/her): I was wondering if these two words were connected, and if they do share a latin root: Being callous means like acting like a callus — hard and insensitive. The words share a Latin root meaning "hardened."

Angie Atkins: Better.com CEO Vishal Garg

Caryn Rosen Adelman: condo boards

Angie Atkins: I used to be callous about bad service. Then covid happened and now I appreciate people are really just doing their best.

Angie Atkins: I regret my callousness (to bring up another Erica theme on regret)

Alan Brown: callous behavior and power are often linked

Jessica Semel: Seinfeld.

Caryn Rosen Adelman: can be away to protect self from feelings

elkaabrahamson: Cant run away from facts. Is that still true?

Tali Zerkowicz (she/her): Agreed @caryn - I'm thinking of Brene Brown's "armoring up" as a way of avoiding being vulnerable, to avoid getting hurt, hardening (armor) can be really hard to avoid.

Jessica Semel: Very Mussar-ish to go out of your way to do the opposite.

Susie Sorkin: so beautiful - I saved it too

Tali Zerkowicz (she/her): <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/08/opinion/brooks-what-suffering-does.html>

Jessica Semel: Sit with me in my suffering.

Maxine Schwartz: Sympathy vs. Empathy. Brene Brown addresses this too.

Angie Atkins: See you all again January 6th <3