

## The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

**Episode:** *I Did It My Way, How About You?*

**Date:** 01/29/2021 **Length:** 1:10:21

### SUMMARY KEYWORDS

life, people, song, ancient jewish wisdom, vaccine, words, ezekeiel emanuel, polonius, listening, music, hebrew, children, man, world, countries, son, started, read, truth, hear

### SPEAKERS

Daniel Lapin

### TRANSCRIPT

*\*Transcripts are auto-generated and reviewed for accuracy, but there may be some errors in punctuation or words. Listen to the podcast at <https://rabbidaniellapin.libsyn.com/> for clarification.*

#### **Daniel Lapin 00:00**

Welcome you happy warrior. Welcome to the Rabbi Daniel Lapin show. You heroic men going to work early every morning regardless of whether you feel like it, disciplining yourself and improving yourself, watching over your spouse and children if you have them, and taking care of business, generating cash flow, and doing what your head tells you to do, when your head tells you it must be done. You who ignore your heart's desire to indulge the body's seductive whisper. Instead, you boldly heed the clarion call of responsibility to those who are strong enough to support and brave enough to care for you are the noble knights, defending the fortress of civilization, against the hungry hordes of scheming and surging savages trying to invade and conquer what you and your father's have built. Those barbarians know that even after they destroy the civilization you built, and as they wretchedly crawl through, it's wrecked and burned and looted ruins, they will still live better than anything they could ever have built themselves. Only you stand between the nightmare of socialistic slavery and the bright hope of tomorrow.

#### **Daniel Lapin 01:36**

And you beautiful and brave women resisting government's treacherous proposal to marry it rather than accepting a golden ring. From one clear eyed man dreaming of a shared tomorrow. You gorgeous and courageous women who smilingly and graciously carry the load of work marriage family, inspiring your man to greatness nurturing your young ones tomorrow, maturity as well as physical maturity. Yes, you men and women, you happy warriors who do all this and have done all this and do so much more. You are the natural audience of the Rabbi Daniel Lapin show. You are the audience I devotedly serve. Recognizing that every day that I can bring you the helpful, life affirming insights of ancient Jewish wisdom out of the Bible. Well, that is another day of privilege for me. Because you are not a tennis ball floating down the gutter of life. You have your hand firmly on the steering wheel of your life.

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**Episode:** *I Did It My Way, How About You?*

**Date:** 01/29/2021 **Length:** 1:10:21

### **Daniel Lapin 02:56**

Because you are not tennis balls floating down the gutter of life. It is indeed my honor to serve you all in my delight to welcome you to another episode of the Rabbi Daniel Lapin show where I your Rabbi reveal how the world

### **Daniel Lapin 03:12**

really works. Yes, that's right. This is the only show in the entire digital universe that reveals how the world really works. This is the only show in the world, which offers you calisthenics for the contemplative. And how about strenuous stretching for the soul? I'm going to stand beside you as you attempt speculative somersaults of the Spirit. Yes, this is how the world really works. A sad fact. truths have verified by time. It's sad because of limited human lifespan. So intergenerational contact parents, to children, grandparents to grandchildren, it's essential children who are not introduced to the culture of their parents, families and society ends up they all end up as tragic orphans of time. Under these sad circumstances, each child becomes an adult excruciating Lee isolated from all that when before, disconnected from his history, disconnected from all real knowledge disconnected from a timeless vision that has sustained his people for generations, above all, disconnected from the slowly accumulated wisdom of the ages.

### **Daniel Lapin 04:47**

That is the dangerous and tragic fate of a frighteningly large proportion of today's teenagers in many countries, orphans of time, thus they become terrifying. vulnerable to the lies distortions and propaganda promulgated by their elders for their own reasons. For instance, culturally connected young people who could add the life experience of their parents and their grandparents to their own far shorter set of life life knowledge. Well, they would never fall prey to the nonsensical notion that say skin color is destiny, or the equally pure I'll proposition that you can change your gender. Young people who get how the world really works, would know that the deal offering up to offering you equality imposed by tyranny is not nearly as valuable as freedom with equality inequality, they would burst out into hysterical laughter at any college professor who tried to teach them that equality is the ultimate value, or that the biggest threat facing America at the moment is inequality. Time tells the truth. Imagine if you would, some self anointed expert, pointing to the waning moon in the nighttime sky. Teaching that once the moon finally shrank to a tiny sliver of a crescent, it would then vanish forever. Now for two weeks, he students might believe him. But no sooner than that get accustomed to the dark skies, then the new moon would appear as a tiny sliver, and grow to its full size disk brilliance. In a timeless repetitive cycle of growing moon and shrinking moon. Two weeks isn't long to wait for a false theory to be debunked. But other equally spurious ideas can take far longer to debunk. And if you have no veneration for knowledge of the past, you are condemned to make some of the most important decisions in your life, on the basis of fake ideas and false assertions. It was once believed that removing blood from a sick person couldn't they even used repugnant insects called leeches. I'm not sure they're insects, maybe they're animals. But, I mean, they're repugnant. They are whatever they are. And they performed a procedure called capping, where they used hot glosses to draw blood out of a piece of a little part of your skin where cut was cut. But it didn't last for long. With the passage of a little time, it became obvious that this medical strategy achieves nothing at all. It was once believed that uranium radiation

## The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

**Episode:** *I Did It My Way, How About You?*

**Date:** 01/29/2021 **Length:** 1:10:21

was healthy. But again, within one generation or less, it became blindingly obvious that what was previously believed to be true was in fact, just plain wrong. passage of time helps. problem is that we have to live our lives in a timespan that is often shorter than the time necessary to reveal many beliefs is false. For many years, American teachers insisted on teaching children to read the whole language approach. Up till then, parents always taught their kids to read phonetically at spells cat. Now I am somewhat prepared to struggle through the word cat log yeah catalogue.

### **Daniel Lapin** 08:37

The teaching establishment wanted to distinguish what they saw as their higher high level of credentialed professional expertise from what parents have done for generations care at, namely, taught their children to read. And if even an untrained and educated uncredentialed mum can teach her child to read, which they can. Why do we need such highly paid teachers? highly paid teachers, you might ask, says who will actually the marketplace, no shortage of people eager to become teachers? And so as a result, in came whole language reading, which didn't work, of course, anyone open to the wisdom of the ages would have known that it was a doomed experiment. And when, after some years had passed, they abandon the whole language approach to early childhood education. Everybody was relieved, except, of course, the children and their families who are the casualties of that cruel and callous experiment. To this day, when I meet an adult with serious reading difficulties. A man or a woman who doesn't enjoy your reading doesn't do more of it than absolutely necessary. Someone who experienced challenges during his or her education. I sadly guess has you attended elementary school, probably in California during the 70s and 80s. Right. So again, it was time passing that proved that whole language teaching was a false and damaging way of teaching children to read. Unfortunately, just too much time to hit laps to have been helped to those whose entire lives were impacted by this needless and destructive experiment. changing how people are always learned to read, and those people would happily do it again today, in almost every area, socialism, leftism, secular fundamentalism, progressivism, whatever identifies itself by ignoring and mocking and ultimately rejecting all wisdom of the past. It is only in a left wing environment, that young is a positive adjective as in a new young face in the US Congress. In other cultures, less enthralled by progressive progressivism. Leadership comes from the elders, even the word senator is related to the word senile and set aside. Also the word senior. The idea is that senators would be older and wiser people who have gathered the wisdom of the ages, good luck that there was a perfectly sensible and normal preference for older leaders, more likely to gain some knowledge and real world experience, less likely to be susceptible to the foolishness we find in so many politicians, particularly the younger. Ambition may be a little less vast bottom line. The older you are, the more you've seen, and the more wrong turns, you've seen the band. It's for this reason only. The Bible in Leviticus chapter 19, verse 32, says, You shall rise before the aged and show deference to the old usual fear your God, I am the Lord. It's not claiming that older folks are brainy and never make mistakes. And they're smart and wise. Some older folks are and some conspicuously are not. No, it's just telling us that regardless of anything else, the older person is, the more opportunity is had to see folly get its Jury Award, the Bible accords an old person this honor and respect, only because of the passage of time, it's really useful. I think that we've all become so obsessed with young and pretty people. So intoxicated by the newest and latest technology, that we utterly, utterly ignore some of the wisdom of the ages, you want to do something

## **The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast**

**Episode:** *I Did It My Way, How About You?*

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really interesting, he has an idea, take your best friend, take your spouse, take your children, go find an old person to talk to. Initially, you'll have to persuade them that you really are interested. They've had years getting used to being made to feel useless, I think you'll unexpectedly enjoy a few of these kinds of encounters, passage of time helps learn the truth and become wiser. Look, here's the bottom line. If we could all live for 1000 years. Well, by the time we reached middle age, we'd start becoming pretty smart and fairly wise.

### **Daniel Lapin 13:26**

I'm telling you all this to try and convey to you the value of ancient Jewish wisdom. ancient Jewish wisdom is a way of learning the gathered wisdom of the ages without having to live for 1000 years. And that is why it is that I'd recommend that when you have a moment, go to my website and take a look at something I call scrolling through Scripture. It's really the most profound thing that I've done. It's the most significant resource that I've made available when I say profound and significant. That is because it's what I started doing when I began a synagogue in Southern California in the late 1970s. It was basically we started in somebody's living room and just the way that many synagogues and churches are planted from nothing. And it grew into a large, vibrant, dramatic, well known congregation, who at different times included extremely well known people within its membership. And I hesitate to include the name Barbra Streisand, whose son had his Bar Mitzvah in my synagogue. But yes, she was involved for a period of time and and many other people were what

### **Daniel Lapin 15:00**

They involvement, what stimulated them, what brought about substantial change in their lives, what brought them to review how they viewed marriage, family, politics, finance, business, money. It was nothing but a series of weekly classes, where we went through Scripture, starting with Genesis chapter one, verse one, and going through the text, go showing it in the Hebrew original, in spite of the fact that nobody actually then was able to read the Hebrew language and only came later that we taught that as well. But I realized that it was possible even for people who don't read Hebrew at all, provided they are guided correctly, to see the ancient Jewish wisdom embedded within the letters and the words of the Lord's language. And I realized that this needed to be made available for a wider audience. And that the same that it accomplished in the lives of hundreds of young Jews in Southern California in the 70s, and 80s, it was able to do for all people in all times, and hence, we've started a program, a learning program, a program that brings you ancient Jewish wisdom, not told to you, but in a way you can see yourself jumping right off the pages of the chapters and verses. So whether or not you are a Bible enthusiast whether or not you know any Hebrew, whether or not you even know that your life really does need a reset, that you have a way here of truly making tomorrow, the first day of an entirely new part of what you're going to achieve, and what you're going to accomplish as you move towards a deep and meaningful happiness, understanding how to have your hand on the steering wheel of your life. It's called scrolling through Scripture, and we've deliberately kept it at a lesson a week, because we don't want you to go racing through it, we want you to take a lesson. Enjoy it, savor it, watch it more than once, at your own time and at your own pace. And then whenever you're ready, move on to lesson two, as long as it's more than a week that you've devoted to it. And it's called scrolling through Scripture, as I've said, and you can find it at [RabbiDanielLapin.com](http://RabbiDanielLapin.com). So head over there and take a look at it

## **The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast**

**Episode:** *I Did It My Way, How About You?*

**Date:** 01/29/2021 **Length:** 1:10:21

RabbiDanielLapin.com, look at Scrolling through Scripture, and join me on truly one of the most exciting journeys I'm currently taking, that I walk along with hundreds of other people who are excited about this program. And I hope you too, will be joining us soon. And speaking about how susceptible people can be to untested ideas, and to novel notions that have no foundation in truth or in reality. I think sometimes of how easily people can be swayed, and all by sweet sayings and popular songs. And there was one popular song in particular that I wanted to bring to your attention well, because it came to my attention at the present time and it played a role.

### **Daniel Lapin 20:12**

And I felt that in order for me to critique Paul Anchor's work, I have to confess something which I absolutely recognize. And that is that the critic is never as good as the creator.

### **Daniel Lapin 20:31**

I mean, I accept that the critic is never as good as the creator. And I'm going to remind you of something that was up on the wall of my son's room for all of his adolescent years. And that is a quote from Teddy Roosevelt. And here's what he said, It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the

### **Daniel Lapin 21:00**

doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who airs who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error, and without shortcoming. But who does actually strive to do the deeds, who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls, who neither know victory, nor defeat. And how beautiful is that? And so as you can imagine, it is with considerable trepidation that I now embark on a critique of the pole anchor song, I did it my way. Now, why am I going to critique it, I'm going to critique it, because I don't believe that we fully appreciate today, the extent to which song and music shapes a people's culture, song and music goes back a very long time. In fact, if we go all the way back to the book of Genesis, chapter four, verse 21, we encounter a guy called evil, often called Jew Bell, whose occupation in life was making musical instruments and teaching people how to play music. And so music was a part of the human cultural experience all the way back. I will tell you that every day, Jews who worship every day in the prayers, they recite the most famous song in the five books of Moses. And this is the song that Moses and all of Israel sang on the banks of the Red Sea, after they were rescued from the pursuing Egyptian army. And as they watched their Egyptian tomentose, drowning in the raging surf. And that song starts off it's chapter, Exodus chapter 15, verse one, and it starts off, and then sang Moses and the children of Israel. And you go through the song that details the deliverance that they experienced. And I've got to think that my approach to life is considerably sculpted by the fact that I start off every day. I'm not going to say singing because out of courtesy to my neighbors, I don't sing. But at least reciting this most famous of all songs in the five books of Moses. I also speaking to my United States, listeners, I don't for one moment, I doubt that America would be a different place today. If every school child from grade

## **The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast**

**Episode:** *I Did It My Way, How About You?*

**Date:** 01/29/2021 **Length:** 1:10:21

school, started the day with a pledge of allegiance, and then singing the Star Spangled Banner, or perhaps America, the beautiful. There was a time that that happened. And America used to be a much more of a normal place back in those days. But when I talk to you about the early 1960s being the epochal shift in American culture, one of the huge changes was eliminating those few minutes early in the school day of every American child. It really As I make a difference. And so, I say to you, that the kind of culture we are raising in America today is very much shaped, very much shaped by the songs that people listen to, by the songs children sing by the music they play. And you know, you're gonna see many people today walking down the road or getting on and off passes or trains with air pods in their ears, and they're listening to music. And what are they listening to? Well,

### **Daniel Lapin 25:36**

let's just say that based on my few dives into contemporary music, what they're listening to is even worse than what your what their parents generation was listening to parents generation, were listening to songs like the Beatles singing, all you need is love. Now, look, advertising works, you can change people's thinking by means of repeated messages. If that were not true, then the billions of dollars that smart and careful companies spend on advertising would be a complete waste when a message is repeated. And it is a simple message and it is repeated again. And again. It really does have an impact. And so I do believe that a generation was raised on all you need is love sang the Beatles, and many other copycat bands had similar songs. And as a result of that, I virtually choke on amusement when I hear politicians who are supposed to be sage, and wise and deliberate leaders of society. And I hear them making speeches saying, if only we all practice love, really, I thought that was the Beatles. Well, it's spread. It's everybody. And does that actually mean anything? If a boy says to a girl, Oh, I love you. And she said, Oh, I love you. Also, I love you even more. No, I love you more. And so anyone by standing wants to gag. And they think that all they need is love. And there's absolutely no reason why they should not embark on what we all know is an absolutely doomed marriage venture songs really do matter? Or how about when you might remember John Lennon's song, an entire generation of people are brought up on this imagine. And it's got lyrics like, imagine there are no countries it isn't hard to do. Well, let me tell you Imagine there's no countries it isn't hard to do, right? Nothing to kill or die for, and no religion to Imagine all the people Living in peace. You may say I'm a dreamer. But I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us And the world will be as one. Imagine that there are no countries. So I'll tell you an example of somebody who was raised on that song and actually believes it. He's integrated into his entire worldview.

### **Daniel Lapin 28:40**

His name is Ezekiel Emanuel. He is a Jewish doctor. Why do I tell you is a Jewish doctor, because I can't really tell you about good things that Jews have done, if I don't also tell you about bad things that Jews have done. And of course, there are attempts to label as a bigoted anti Semite, anybody who suggests that anything bad is ever done by Jews. But of course, this is complete and utter nonsense. And so is Ezekiel Emmanuel did an article in what used to be a prestigious and worthwhile journal called the Scientific American. And this journal did the piece recently on what is the most ethical way to distribute the Coronavirus vaccine. And I am preparing this particular podcast in January of 2021. And

## **The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast**

**Episode:** *I Did It My Way, How About You?*

**Date:** 01/29/2021 **Length:** 1:10:21

so I want you to hear how effectively is Ezekiel Emanuel, who by the way, was one of the architects of so called Obamacare

### **Daniel Lapin 30:00**

I want you to hear what he thinks is the way to do it. And the the, the I'm now reading your very specifically from his words. This is why it is important to have an ethical framework for vaccine distribution that supersedes nationalism. Now, this is now back to me talking. nationalism suggests that if an American company develops the vaccine, then all Americans should be the first to benefit from

### **Daniel Lapin 30:37**

that vaccine that would appear to be fairly straightforward. But Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel says no, it's important to have an ethical framework for vaccine tribution that supersedes nationalism. You see, nationalism is a bad word, because nationalism suggests that they all countries, not john Lennon's view of imagine, but that they really are countries. And so let's go back to Ezekiel Emanuel. This is pretty remarkable stuff. From an ethical standpoint, says Dr. Emanuel, there is not a good reason for absolute partiality where a country covers every one of its citizens, before giving any vaccine internationally. Now, back to your rabbi, really, why not? I thought that the job and function of the American government is for the benefit of American citizens. That's kind of what the Constitution says actually, but is equal. Emanuel says no, no, no. Ethics supersedes mere nationalism. And, and he says there's a good ethical reason not to have absolute vaccine nationalism. And many governments are arguing for fair and equitable distribution of vaccines. Back to your rabbi, I bet there are I bet there many governments the same governments who insisting on increased handouts from the United Nations and governments that are insisting on more foreign aid from the United States of America. I bet there many governments are arguing for fair and equitable distribution of vaccines. You know, I'll leave you to to boggle your mind over number one, what is fair and equitable distribution of vaccines? And number two, who should decide that? But fortunately, you don't have to boggle your mind very long, because Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel is actually going to tell you, who should be in charge of deciding what is a fair and equitable distribution of vaccines. And so the, he says, and now he goes on to say, the problem is there's almost no definition of what fair equitable means, specifically in terms of extra distribution. Yes, hello. And when your Rabbi read those words out, oh, good, there's hope. The man recognizes that up till now, he's been talking unadulterated bilgewater that they must decide on a fair and equitable way to distribute the vaccines. But how about the country that invented them? Right makes them available for sale in that country. What's so hard to understand about that? But Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel continues in the Scientific American.

### **Daniel Lapin 33:31**

And now he's talking about himself and some other people. And this is so breathtaking that I strongly recommend that since we are concerned with public health care, your Rabbi recommends you take a good deep breath of oxygen right now, because you are going to be breathless for a few moments after you hear what Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel writes in the Scientific American. Alright, I'm quoting being ethicists, public health people and political scientists. We thought that we were best suited to try and design such

## **The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast**

**Episode:** *I Did It My Way, How About You?*

**Date:** 01/29/2021 **Length:** 1:10:21

a definition. What board you want, that is, you know, there is no there is no word for this other than the Hebrew word chutzpah - unmeasured impertinence.

### **Daniel Lapin 34:22**

Can you believe this? This gives you an example of America now moving into a new era of being governed by bureaucrats and introducing a new

### **Daniel Lapin 34:38**

era of public policy shaped by medical mandate. I'll say it again, says Dr. Ezekiel. In the early part of his article on the topic, since we're all ethicists and public health people and political scientists, we thought we were best suited to try and design the definition of what would be a fair

### **Daniel Lapin 35:00**

and equitable way of distributing the vaccine, you won't be shocked to hear that they end up deciding that it must be distributed to all countries and all nations. It should not be the consequence of vaccine nationalism. Yes, that evil vaccine nationalism. And so songs are really important. And I did it my way, is an example of a song that it is truly worth while exploring. It's truly worthwhile analyzing. And what I recommend is that you get into the practice of routinely evaluating popular culture features such as music, in terms of what you know, to be the timeless truths and the permanent principles, because songs are seductive. Let's, let's acknowledge that songs are really, really seductive. And so with all the caveats of Yes, I am not the creative equal of Paul Anka, who wrote, I did it my way in 1968. And I'm certainly I can't sing like Frank Sinatra, or anything, anything even remotely approaching it. And granting all of that, I do believe there is value in analyzing a song, which has shaped so many people. And I'll give you an example. It's so fascinating, that on January the 20th, in the year 2021, President Donald Trump departed the White House, with the music playing in the background, and you know, what the music was? I did it my way. And Heaven knows, I mean, yes, I see the appropriateness of it. You know, I watched it, I listened to the song playing, I watched the president and his wife walk away. And I thought, my goodness, how eloquent that is, and how apt and appropriate that is write a terrific song. But it goes further than that. Because, interestingly enough, exactly four years earlier, there was an inaugural ball. President Trump became president on January the 20th. On in the year 2017. And that night, there were several balls, but the main inaugural ball aware, President Trump and his wife, Mrs. Trump dogs, the official dogs of the President and the First Lady, which is a time honored tradition, guess what the music was? You're right. I did it my way. And I thought, How fascinating that the this most extraordinary four years, the Trump presidency is bracketed by the song, I did it my way at the beginning of the four years. And the song I did it my way came back to close off the four years at the very end. And I realize that not only did President Trump feel that it spoke to him, but so many guys I've spoken to over the years, and I bring up this topic. So many guys nod agreeably, and they say, yes, that's my song. That's really the slogan of my life. And I understand, I do

### **Daniel Lapin 39:00**

understand how seductive it is. And so that's why I thought that in spite of the fact that I am now going to be a critic, nowhere near the equal of the Creator, I am nonetheless going to appraise the song I did

## **The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast**

**Episode:** *I Did It My Way, How About You?*

**Date:** 01/29/2021 **Length:** 1:10:21

it my way, in the light of ancient Jewish wisdom, in the light of those permanent principles, by means of which we can all far more reliably shapes our lives, then we can by shaping our lives to a popular song, whether it's all you need is love, or whether it's like

**Daniel Lapin** 39:41

whether it's like is the Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, who obviously very much likes those lines. Imagine there's no countries, nothing to kill or die for everybody living in peace. I hope someday you'll join us in the

**Daniel Lapin** 42:35

"Nobody knows when the end is." And we certainly should not be thinking to ourselves, oh, the end is near no matter what. Because as long as there is breath in the body, there is hope. As long as the business lessons doors open, there is still hope. And so the very phrase and that it starts off on, and it's musically very evocative On that note, and "now the end is near."

**Daniel Lapin** 43:07

But nobody should say that. Don't ever think the end is near ever. "So I face the final curtain?" No, no, don't don't think like that. And then he goes on, and I'm not going to do every word, but I'm going to jump ahead four or five lines. And he says, "I've traveled each and every highway."

**Daniel Lapin** 43:30

Alright, well, one of the reasons that I emphasize how important it is to make sure that you educate your children, sons in particular. And those of you who are regular listeners to the show, will know that I have in the past addressed the monumental differences that exist between raising great boys and raising great girls, making sure that your daughters grow up to be successful young women, and your sons grew up to be successful young men. They are very different challenges. And many of the challenges are more severe when it comes to your boys. And that's why I've spoken in the past. One of the most popular podcasts I did a while back was a podcast in which I focused on the work you should be doing in raising your boy between the ages of 13 and 23.

**Daniel Lapin** 44:35

And the the emphasis there is very much on not making mistakes, not going down wrong paths, because going wrong down wrong paths. I know what people in California often say to Well, it was a learning experience as if there was no problem with it. Going down a wrong path consumes time and energy and it leaves you scarred. You are doing your son a huge favor, if you make sure he does not go down any wrong paths. And so the person who's singing, I did it my way. He sings "I've traveled each and every highway." I don't want my son to travel each and every highway. There are many highways that have dangerous signs clearly marked on them. There are many signs on dangerous highways. That's that show where accidents have occurred. There are many highways in life that should not be traveled. And so I look at that line. "I've traveled each and every highway." And I say, Yeah, thank you. But no thank you don't travel each and every highway. And then of course it goes "I did it my way." Now, this is where it gets very interesting. Because

## The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

**Episode:** *I Did It My Way, How About You?*

**Date:** 01/29/2021 **Length:** 1:10:21

**Daniel Lapin** 46:11

it sounds so appealing. And it sounds so intrinsically American, doesn't it? I did it my way. Isn't that terrific? All right. I'm beholden to nobody. And I'm independent. I'm so different. This is part of American exceptionalism. so different from being a European, or being anyone anywhere else. Because we don't march in lockstep. We are Americans, we do it our way. But here's the problem. You see the book of Judges and and take a look at this by the way, you might want to make a note of it. It's Judges chapter 17, verse six. And here's what it sounds like in the Hebrew, [Hebrew spoken]. And here's what it means. In those days, there was no king in Israel, meaning there was no system of effective government and diverse finishers. Each man did that which was Yashar,

**Daniel Lapin** 47:19

the best translation I'm going to give for Yashar is...right.

**Daniel Lapin** 47:27

And so it translates there was no effective system of government in Israel, judges 17, six, each man did that which was right in his eyes.

**Daniel Lapin** 47:39

Do you hear? That's another way of saying each man did it his way right? This guy in Judges could have sung "I did it my way". And obviously now really bad things are gonna happen in judges. And by the way, this gets emphasized again, in the closing words of the book, Chapter 21, of Judges, verse 25, closing verse of the book, [Hebrew] is repeated these baleful and, and sinister sounding words. "In those days, there was no effective government in Israel, each man did that which was right in his own eyes." You see, my friends, you cannot have a society if everyone does that, which was right in his own eyes. I am sure in your family, you have family meetings in which you discuss what family values are, what your family's values are. And you do that specifically, because you are trying to inculcate a culture in your family, where nobody in your family does that which was right in his own eyes. We all do, right, according to an objective reality. And just as you know that that really exists. I'm going to refer you to the Book of Kings. And this is the first Book of Kings, chapter 15, verse five,

**Daniel Lapin** 49:05

[Hebrew spoken] .."For David had done that which was right in the eyes of God." Do you hear the difference? It's not each man did what was right in his own eyes. That's terrible. King David did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord. Or how about the second Book of Kings, chapter 18, verse three, and here we're talking about King Hezekiah. And it says [Hebrew spoken]. "And has acquired that which was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father David had done."

**Daniel Lapin** 49:53

There's a big difference isn't that doing that which is right in your eyes and doing right in the eyes of God, what do you want your children to be doing? What do you want to be doing yourself? And so to glorify the song I did it my way, is incredibly self destructive. And you really want to make sure that

## **The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast**

**Episode:** *I Did It My Way, How About You?*

**Date:** 01/29/2021 **Length:** 1:10:21

neither you nor your son nor your brothers nor your friends, run their lives on the basis of John Lennon's imagine or the Beatles, "all you need is love". And Paul Anchor's, "I did it my way".

### **Daniel Lapin 50:36**

And then it continues. And by the way, there's some very nice things in the song as well. "Yes, there were times I'm sure you know, when I bit off more than I could chew." Yeah, don't we all do that? Doesn't anybody with ambition, attempt more or less, okay, shoot for the stars, you're not going to make the stars, but you are going to get higher than you would have. And so let me tell you a lie that is all lie is not that dangerous, because most of us can see through things that are all lies. The most perilous lies, and the most dangerous and destructive, and truths are those that wrap up in them an element of truth as well, because that becomes much more difficult to discern. And so when I hear the song, when I hear the words, when I bit off more than I could chew, I say, Yeah, he's got me. That was me, I bit off more than I could chew more than once I crashed in flames. "But through it all, when there was doubt, I ate it up, and I spit it out. I faced it all and I stood tall, and I did it my way." That my friends is so very appealing.

### **Daniel Lapin 51:54**

So whether it's popular songs or statements by political leaders, or slogans, in marketing, whatever it is, it's always a good idea to wire it up in terms of real truth. You know, in Shakespeare's play Hamlet, there's a famous section. In the first act, where a guy let me just say his name first. His name is Polonius. He's a character in the play Hamlet. And he makes a long speech in which he's giving advice to his son Laertes, who's going off. And it's one of the speeches that contains several phrases that Shakespeare inserted, that have become enormously popular. So for instance, Polonius says "neither a borrower nor a lender be." And, yeah, of course, it's just a matter of truth in that, he goes on and says "for loan off loses both itself and friend, and borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry." So you know, what is he talking about? The, of course, there's an element of truth. It often does happen, that you lend somebody, and he turns, it turns out to become something that damages the relationship and hurts the friendship. So there's considerable truth when Shakespeare says, neither a borrower nor a lender be, because lending can sometimes lose friendships, and how about being a borrower and he says, well, borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry. And there are a number of explanations as to what Shakespeare means there. But it's taken out, it's very simple value. When he says, borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry. He's what he's really saying is borrowing, diminishes a man's virility in many ways, both abstractly and metaphorically as well as in as literally being a debtor to somebody is very, very damaging to a man it's not a good thing, so much to be said in the value of of Shakespeare's point there. However, as a blanket rule, never be a borrower or lender, that means somebody is probably never going to buy a house because you know, overwhelmingly, we do borrow money for a mortgage on a house and, and and it is usually under the right circumstances the right thing to do. So again, it's not possible to run one's life by slogans, even if they come from Shakespeare, let alone if they come from Paul Anchor or Frank Sinatra. Polonius continues "this Above all", and this is as he comes to the finale of his speech. " This Above all, to thine own self be true."

### **Daniel Lapin 55:03**

## The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

**Episode:** *I Did It My Way, How About You?*

**Date:** 01/29/2021 **Length:** 1:10:21

And there again, this is clearly something which is tremendously damaging and, and destructive, it's not a good thing. Because being true to yourself is a very unreliable way of running your life, you have to have external monitors, you've got to be able to say, am I right? And sometimes the external monitor is a trusted adviser, a person who's experienced more in life, a person who knows more. Other times, it might well be your faith, you know, what would my faith say about this? And what does the Bible say, in other words, to say to your own self be true, is just very destructive, because there's not a single one of us whose conscience is not elastic enough, in order to justify whatever we do, and on some level in some way or another, I'm sorry to say it's something that each and every one of us does, we weigh up something and then we'll say, Well, I'm sure I'm right about this, to thine own self be true. Well, I guess you're being true to yourself. And it's really appalling advice. And, and it gives us a little bit of a clue of what Shakespeare is doing in this entire speech of Polonius, because it's then when you begin to realize that this, Polonius is not a good person, you know, and indeed, he comes to a bad end, he gets killed in an accident or homicide because he was doing something he shouldn't have been doing. And so Shakespeare is really, I think, making clear this very point that I've been talking about, which is just because something sounds pretty, just because a politician mouths a platitude or a sentiment that just sounds appealing. It doesn't mean anything at all that you can rely upon.

**Daniel Lapin** 57:00

And many leaders are guilty of this statement just recently came out of the White House, and I'll read it to you. And again, this is not necessarily unique to this president. It's something that that is fairly common his his what came out of the White House, quote, "to combat the climate crisis and power clean energy revolution, President Biden will: tap into the power of American workers conserve and leverage our natural resources, create good paying union jobs, deliver environmental justice."

**Daniel Lapin** 57:39

Now, what I tend to do, is I try and divide political statements into two categories. They're sometimes sentiments, and they're sometimes policies. And sentiments are completely meaningless. And we should avoid them, we should avoid them. When we deal with our families, we should avoid them when dealing with our business and professional lives. Because think about this. I mean, this sounds pretty and and tragically, I think a very large number of American citizens are going to enthusiastically nod their heads and say, Yeah, that's right. This is the president we finally needed to combat the climate crisis and power a clean energy revolution. Well, who wouldn't want that? Right? I mean, I didn't even know there's a climate crisis. But if there is one, let's combat it. And who wouldn't want a clean energy revolution? President Biden will tap into the power of American workers. Well, that sounds terrific. What does that actually mean? What's the policy that will flow from that sentiment, conserve and leverage our natural resources are at Well, one of our natural resources is oil. Another one is coal. and other one is nuclear power? How are these going to be conserved and leveraged? Those seem to be contradictory statements. And at any rate, it's a sentiment pretty words, meaning absolutely nothing. Create good paying union jobs? Well, Susan Lapin would have rewritten that to read create well paying union jobs. And then she would obviously have said, but what does that mean? Again, another sentiment.

## The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

**Episode:** *I Did It My Way, How About You?*

**Date:** 01/29/2021 **Length:** 1:10:21

### **Daniel Lapin** 59:24

Deliver environmental justice. Again, I thought I know what justice means. It's it's a word I recognize and understand. But what does environmental justice mean? It's a pretty phrase. But I'd like to know the policies that will flow from that. And that's another story all together. So if there's a single lesson that summarizes what I've been trying to share with you, during the last 59 minutes, as I begin to bring the show in for

### **Daniel Lapin** 1:00:00

Landing, it is that it's so powerful, to begin to recognize that we ourselves are not always completely reliable. And this is because we are in essence, divided we are two entities we are body and soul, if you like, we are horse and rider. The We are the intellect, and the rest of us. And it is so easy for people who have no access to this fundamental truth, which you can get from ancient Jewish wisdom. And you can get it from Scripture. And you can get it from your grandparents maybe or your parents or your great grandparents, or the old man who lives down the road. There are people who get this. And getting it early in life is much better than getting it late in life. You remember that a very exciting podcast I did a while back in which I discussed the years from 13 to 23, those 10 years in the life of a young person. And I said that if you allow me to watch

### **Daniel Lapin** 1:01:22

what a young boy or man does, from the day, he turns 13, to the day, he turns 23, you give me insight into those 10 years, I will paint for you a pretty accurate picture of the rest of his life. And that's a startling thought. Because we all like to think that, you know, you can always make a fresh start, make a mistake yesterday, start again today. But it's not the same as making no mistakes or making fewer mistakes. And today in the world, whether it's in North America, or in any of the other countries in which you so many of you are listening, and I've received so many terrific notes and comments lately. Guam got somebody listening in Guam. And we here's an interesting one. I just met somebody who's been a longtime listener of this show. And to my enormous pleasure, he informed me where he was listening from, and he said he was pretty sure that I do not yet have a pin in my map to represent the location he listens from. Well, he was right, but he's not right anymore, because now there is a pin. He's listening from Prince of Wales Island. Now, if you don't know where Prince Wales Island is, you should be ashamed of yourself. It lies off the coast of Alaska. And if you go to catch a can, Alaska, a fascinating town, and you travel about 100 miles or so West, out towards the setting sun, you'll come to Prince of Wales Island. And they're my new friend. Well, uh, my old friend, in a way, is listening. And I appreciated meeting him very much indeed. And so it doesn't matter wherever you're listening, wherever you're living. One of the the problems today is that people, particularly younger people, are frighteningly susceptible to ideas that are not rooted in reality, and facts that are without foundation. And so the trouble is that that means that one tends to do it your way, you tend to think that I'm right. This is my view. And I'm right, I'm entitled to my view. Yes, of course you are. But that doesn't mean you're right. And it's an enormous advantage in life, to understand that each of us is made up of these two parts. And there's one part of us that really wants to believe what we want to believe. And the other part, rides herd on that. The other part brandishes the reins and says, whoa, hold it there. How do you know that that is true? What makes you so sure that your conviction on this is well founded? And so

## **The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast**

**Episode:** *I Did It My Way, How About You?*

**Date:** 01/29/2021 **Length:** 1:10:21

developing your own Northstar? developing your own compass, finding something that allows you to test your suppositions against reality and truth is incredibly valuable. This is a role of course that we are all intended to play for For our own children, we're expected to play it for anybody we mentor. But it's not always easy today, particularly for people raised on popular entertainment, to recognize the value of that. And so that is what I've tried my best to bring across to you during this show that I think of is really one of the truly important ones in my mind. So I hope that you've enjoyed it. And that I also hope that you will be lavish in your spreading of it, because I think that can only do good, the more particularly young people who at least become open to the idea of Wait a second, maybe the way I do it my way, hey, maybe that isn't the best way. And particularly people who are still young enough to lay out the course of the important years of 13 to 23. These are really important, you're so important, by the way, that I would never recommend wasting any of them at a college or a university. You know,

**Daniel Lapin** 1:06:17

you're you know, you're an 18 year old, you finished high school, you're now thinking or you're about to finish high school, you're thinking of going to college or university. Here is what if you would have asked me, here's what I would tell you to seriously consider. What I'd seriously recommend is that you find a job. That's right, you're 18 years old, you finished high school, you've done well, maybe you haven't done well, doesn't matter. It's all irrelevant, because now you get a job and get the best job you can not necessarily the job you'd enjoy doing. Yes, I know that you'd like to become a park ranger in Yellowstone, I get that. But don't do that. For now it's going to take you're going to waste several years, even trying to get that position, just get a job that pays you more than anything else that you could get a job doing. Because that's one of the ways of measuring how much that job, what you would be doing helps gods are the children helps other human beings helps your fellow citizens. And just do that for a few years. And then if you still want to go to university wonderful go. But by now you've actually learned a little bit about how money works. You've learned about how the world really works. And you will tackle college or university in a totally different a, you may even be married between 18 and 23. Get married. As long as you know what you're doing. As long as you don't think all you need is love. No, that's not true. But if you get all this right, oh, my goodness, what value you can give to your life into yourself into the future people who are going to be parts of your family. So that is what I would like to encourage you to, is to spread and, and encourage others to listen to the show. Because at the very least, it will raise crucial questions that can have a dramatically positive impact on the direction of people's lives. And help people direct people to my website, and what I'm encouraging you particularly to take a look at them if you really want material that will speak not just to your brain but also to your heart. If you want material that will speak not just to your body but also to your soul.

**Daniel Lapin** 1:08:48

Look at Scrolling through Scripture. And I think it's something that you'll enjoy reading about and you'll enjoy discovering about

**Daniel Lapin** 1:08:59

you can go to [wehappywarriors.com](http://wehappywarriors.com) and join our little band valiant but happy warriors. And there you can explore Scrolling through Scripture. I'd love to hear from you. After you've done that. I think it's

## **The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast**

**Episode:** *I Did It My Way, How About You?*

**Date:** 01/29/2021 **Length:** 1:10:21

something you're really going to find incredibly moving and incredibly impactful in making decisions as to how you are going to maximize well the rest of your life really. But meanwhile, this today is one show and it's till next week when I bring you God Willing a another show of the rabbi Daniel Lapin show series. I want to wish you a really great week as you focus on

**Daniel Lapin** 1:10:00

Your five F's, as you focus on developing your relationships with your faith, with your family, with your finances, with your friends, and with your own personal physical fitness. I'm Rabbi Daniel Lapin. God bless