

“Raise Many Disciples”: A Lecture in Memory of Rav Yehuda Copperman,

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The greatness of Rabbi Dr. Yehuda Copperman ז”ל lies in his building an institution that provides a solid Torah education combined with pedagogical training; since its founding in 1964, Michlalah Jerusalem has granted academic degrees to many thousands of young women and men. His career is reflected in the saying in Mishnah *Pirkei Avot*, “raise many disciples” (*he-emidu talmidim harbeh*). In Jewish tradition, this imperative was interpreted at times expansively and at times restrictively. Beit Hillel interpreted the mandate expansively and Jewish tradition generally follows the opinion of Beit Hillel. There are four preconditions for realizing this mandate, set out by the Men of the Great Assembly:

1. *Hesed* – lovingkindness. The study of Torah must be accompanied by the desire to teach others.
2. *Tzni’ut* – modesty and humility. Teaching can be effective only if the teacher is unpretentious.
3. *He’emidu* - literally “raise up”; figuratively, instill self-confidence and independence in one’s students. The responsibility of the teacher to teach in such a way that students become independent learners.
4. *Masoret* – preserve and continue tradition. The responsibility of the teacher is to guarantee that Jewish tradition be perpetuated.

Rabbi Dr. Yehuda Copperman’s life was dedicated to these ideals. They characterized his very essence and his sense of responsibility to insure the preservation of Torah ideals and living.