

Rabbi Matthias taught that **You should always be quiet when you receive a good grade on a test, but should talk about it when the grade is average or poor.**

מאי טעמא

If you go around saying that you got an amazing grade, then people will think you are a bragger and won't like you. Likewise, when you do poorly or average you should let others know, in a loud voice, and they will be supportive of you.

איני?!

You should say your poor grades in a loud voice!?! challenged Rav Seder ben Plate. If you went around stating your failures in a loud voice, everyone would make fun of you and think you are stupid.

(kal v'chomer)

דתנן Rabbi Shimon ben Yochai: "A man must say his improvements in a low voice and states his shortcomings [leprosy] in a loud voice. **ומה** one says his shortcomings [of leprosy] publicly, which is redundant as it is obvious, **אינו דין** he should say his bad test grades in a loud voice, as they are not obvious to the public. **Kal v'Chomer**

(shaklah vetaryah)

How is stating one's shortcomings of leprosy redundant?

Because leprosy is obvious to the public, so one wouldn't have to shout it out for it to be known.

What if the leper is clothed?

The clothing of someone with leprosy is very distinct in and of itself.

דכתיב, "הנגע בגדיו ויהו פרמים וראשו יהיה פרוע ועל-שפם יעטה"

Prooftext

How are bad test grades worse -"even more so"- then leprosy?

A bad test grade not only effects your future class grade, and future school, but also effects your social life.

Leprosy is a serious illness, while a test grade is just one thing. One test grade can be reversed with 2 more good ones.

דכתיב, מרים מחוץ למנחנה שבעת ימים,

which shows that it only took 7 days for Miriam to recover from leprosy. That doesn't make it that serious.

גופה:

Rav Tov ben Yafeh said: "and they will think you are a bragger":if all you ever talk about is your failures, then your friends might start to doubt your sincerity.

(mashal)

היכי דמי? Rav Gold ben Stien added on in the name of Rabbi Lev, "There was a man who owned a grove of peach trees. Every week he would go to the inn and complain that his trees only produced a small amount of peaches. Everyone would pity him and give him money, and the man would smile as he walked out because everyone helped him. As his trees grew older, they started to bear more fruit. The man would keep saying they gave few, however, because he remembered how nice everyone was. Later, the other villagers began to suspect that the man was lying. To prove so, the innkeeper went walking through the grove and he saw how many peaches the trees gave. He told

the rest of the town, and when the man came in and started asking for money, the innkeeper told everyone the truth, and they kicked the man out of the inn.”

Rabbi Lev taught that because the man only said his shortcomings, people started to be suspicious. One should not only say his shortcomings to the public because it might be the cause of his downfall.

Rabbi RosenBerg proposes, **One should never brag about his grades, but should feel free to share good grades without another’s jealousy and bad grades without another’s shame.**