

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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IS THERE ANOTHER WAY?

I was reminded recently of the shortness of physical life. But because our souls are eternal, we all must prepare for eternity. We never know what tomorrow may bring. We must receive the Lord, who promised, "Because I live, you will live also" (Jn. 14:19).

Just this week, I visited two widows. One woman's husband was a believer. The other woman's husband professed the Lord on his deathbed. His surviving family are unbelievers. I went to their home to comfort them and to share how they could have eternal life.

When I arrived, the family's rabbi was present, and he read from the Psalms and many traditional Jewish books.

The family then gave me the opportunity to speak. "As you know," I began, "I was his friend, and I also wanted to be his brother."

Someone asked, "How could you be his brother since you had different fathers?"

I answered, "We all can be brothers if we have the same heavenly Father. We can be brothers if we receive the Lord Jesus Christ into our hearts by His Spirit."

One replied, "This man died before his time."

“It is written,” I said, “The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD’ [Job 1:21]. As you know, ‘To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die’ [Eccl. 3:1–2]. The Lord will give you eternal life if you come with open hearts, acknowledge your sin and say, ‘Oh, Lord, receive us as your children.’”

An elderly man mockingly said, “I would be very happy if you could make me as a child again.” Everyone laughed at his sarcasm.

I said, “Our bodies are old, but before God we are as children. Be grateful you have the opportunity to be His child.”

The rabbi asked me in which yeshiva I teach. I assured him I do not teach in a yeshiva, nor have I ever attended one.

I said, “In the yeshiva, you will learn many stories, but if you follow God’s Word, you will learn facts about what God has done for you and for all those who believe on Him. What do you know about the Lord?”

The rabbi replied, “What I do not know I ask another rabbi.”

“Dear rabbi,” I said, “I will tell you something important that you do not know. You cannot sacrifice a chicken for sin.”

The rabbi asked, “Is there another way?”

“Yes,” I replied. Then I read Isaiah 53 and Leviticus 17:11 for all to hear. Everyone waited for the rabbi to answer, but he was silent. One asked, “Rabbi, what do you have to say?”

The rabbi asked me, “Why are you doing this?”

I answered, "Because I want you to be saved and live forever."

He replied, "But you can see our friend here—he is dead!"

"Yes," I said, "His body is dead, but his soul is alive with the Lord."

"Are you sure?" he asked.

"He told me he received the Lord Jesus as his Savior. If so, I know he is now in the Lord's presence. There are many Jewish people in Israel today who believe that Jesus is the Messiah," I said.

They found this hard to believe. "I can take you to their homes," I told them.

The rabbi was very interested as I continued to explain the plan of salvation and how he could have a personal relationship with the living God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

"You have placed me in a hard position," the rabbi admitted. "I must seriously think about what you have told us."

Please join me in praying for this rabbi and the others. Each one heard the gospel. We trust the Holy Spirit will work in their lives and reveal to them the truth.