

# Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

<https://www.foi.org/zvikalisher/>

## A LITTLE DOG PAVES THE WAY

The Lord Jesus said, "When they bring you to the synagogues, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say" (Lk. 12:11–12). I praise God this truth strengthens me as I witness for Him in the land of Israel.

On a pleasant Sabbath recently, I took my son's dog out for a walk. As I was walking, an Orthodox family with many children approached me. The children began to play with the dog, and their father was happy to see them having such a good time.

As he watched his children, the little dog occupied himself by chewing on the tassels of the man's prayer shawl. I did not notice what the dog was doing or I would have stopped him. While I had a good laugh about the situation, the man became angry.

He said, "Look what has happened. I made a great mitzvah [good deed] by allowing my children to enjoy themselves, but I have made a great sin by allowing your unclean dog to defile my long tassels. He ate my most holy possession. Now they are no longer holy."

I responded, "Your tassels were never holy. If you know the Jewish Scriptures, you should know in Numbers 15:37–41, the Lord commanded the Israelites to make tassels on their garments to serve as a visual reminder of His commandments, but God never said they were holy. He

wants you to look at them and remember what He expects of you.”

The man asked, “How do you know what the Lord expects of me?”

I replied, “He wants you to keep His commandments. Joel 2:13 says, ‘rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the LORD your God.’ Your tassels are more important to you than your faith in the Lord, but your faith in Him is more important to God than your tassels. I will be happy to purchase more tassels for your prayer shawl, so people can see how holy you are on the outside, but that will not affect your heart’s attitude toward God.”

He became extremely agitated and said, “As a Jew, you should know it is our obligation to wear tassels on our garments.”

I replied, “Receiving the Lord as your Savior is more important. Why keep His commandments if you do not understand why you are doing it?”

In time he became calm and eventually said, “Now I know with whom I should be spending time. It will be a privilege for me to visit you on my way home from the synagogue. Perhaps I can bring a lost soul back to God.” I let him continue for a while. Then his attitude changed abruptly when he sensed the irony in someone like him trying to bring another back to God. He told me he used to be a drug addict. He was ashamed of his past but said he had repented.

I prayer silently then said, “You thought you had repented when you began to dress in black clothes and wear side curls and a beard, but those outward signs will not help you. You must open your heart before the Lord and ask for His forgiveness of your sins.”

I thought this would make him angry, but instead he asked in whom I placed my faith and how I had come to believe as I do. For the next hour, I

had the great privilege of telling this Orthodox Jewish man how I had found Jesus. At the end of our conversation, we had a friendly parting.

Who would have thought a little dog could pave the way for such an opportunity? This was the work of God, and I am praying He will give me further opportunities with this man. Perhaps someday he will discard his tassels and place his faith in God, not in his garments.