

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD!

The Lord taught us to pray, “Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one” (Mt. 6:13).

The importance of that phrase was brought home to me recently when I visited the Ministry of the Interior to renew my identification card. As I sat on a bench to wait my turn, I found a paper bag containing a lot of money. I thought, If I give this to the security officer, he will thank me and keep it for himself. But then I remembered those words: “Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

I decided to take the money to the police station. One of the officers remarked “I can see by your clothes you are not a religious person, so why did you turn in this money? It is a sizable amount.”

I replied, “All that glitters is not gold. And why do you judge people by their clothes? As an officer, you must have had many experiences with people who were well-dressed but who are now behind bars. I read in the newspaper recently you put a well-known rabbi in prison. Surely he was dressed as one who is, as you say, ‘religious.’”

The officer persisted, “It is not often we see a non-religious person like you who is so honest.”

I responded, “This may shock you, but I do believe in the Lord. And because I believe in Him—not in money—I am here today. If I were to

keep this money, where is my faith? Whom should I worship, God or money?”

By now, our conversation had attracted the attention of several other officers. They too wanted to know about me because it was hard for them to believe a man who did not cover his head would speak about faith. Anyone who speaks about the Lord but is not dressed like the ultra-Orthodox is suspected of being a missionary—a word that has a bad connotation in Israel. But this does not scare me, and I asked them if they knew the meaning of the word missionary.

One replied, “It is someone who spreads a false faith.”

Then I asked, “Did Abraham and Jonah spread a false faith? Or Ezra and Nehemiah? They were all missionaries because they spoke to people about faith in the God of Israel. Jonah was even punished when he disobeyed God’s command to preach to the people of Nineveh.”

I told them, “I am not like the rabbis who are now in prison because they were faithful to money rather than to God. Why, strictly because of the way they dress, do you consider them so holy when, in fact, they have broken the laws of God and man?”

After a lengthy discussion, one of the officers said, “Let us get to the root of this situation. How did you come to the conclusion your faith is right?” I told him, “I have not come to any conclusions. Rather, what I have said is from the Holy Bible, and I believe everything that is written there—nothing more, nothing less. I believe in the Lord—it is that simple—and He is the one who taught us not to be blind and go after bribes or give in to temptation.”

To my surprise, the officers invited me to have a cup of tea with them, and they asked me to start from the beginning and tell them about myself. I

related some of my experiences in Europe during the Holocaust and told them of my 44 years here in Israel, including my long military service. I thank the Lord that because of my faith in Him, rather than in money, I had the wonderful opportunity to witness in such an unlikely place as a police station. I pray these officers will consider the things I said and come to faith in Jesus as their Messiah and Savior.