

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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

ARE YOU A JEW?

Recently several young Hasidic boys came to my door. I asked them, "Can I help you?"

"No," they replied shyly, "but we want to help you."

"How can you help me?" I inquired.

They explained, "Today we are examining the mezuzahs in your neighborhood to see if they are kosher." (A mezuzah is a small case containing the Shema [Dt. 6:4–5] attached to the doorpost of a home.)

I asked them how they would know whether or not a mezuzah was kosher. One replied, "It is our holy duty to know such things."

I replied, "The most important thing is to know your heart is kosher. Have you examined your heart?"

They looked at me strangely, and one said, "No one has ever asked us such a question before."

"What do you mean by these strange statements?" another asked.

I said, "I trust in the Lord. If I am living far from the Lord but my mezuzah is kosher, of what value will that be on Judgment Day? It is written in 1 Samuel 16:7, 'Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.' I urge you to open your hearts before the Lord and receive

Him as your Savior.

“The Scriptures do not say you must kiss the mezuzah when you enter the door. That is a tradition. You should do only that which is commanded in the Scriptures.”

I then offered these young men colas, and we continued our conversation. Eventually one of the boys said, “We cannot argue against what you are saying. Would you mind if I called our rabbi and asked him to come?”

“It would be a privilege for me to talk to your rabbi,” I said. Shortly thereafter the rabbi arrived, accompanied by two other Hasidic men.

I said, “I see you have come with reinforcements, while I am here alone with my wife. But you are welcome, and I hope we have a nice meeting.” The rabbi immediately asked, “What is going on here?”

I replied, “Ask your pupils. You have taught them for many years, but when they are tested, they are like sheep gone astray. The Scripture says, ‘Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered’ [Zech. 13:7].”

“Rabbi,” I said, “what is more important to God— to kiss the mezuzah, or to have a clean heart? As it is written in Ezekiel 18:31, ‘Cast away from you all [your] transgressions, and get a new heart and a new spirit.’ It is not written, ‘Get yourselves a new mezuzah,’ but ‘get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit.’”

“No!” cried the rabbi. “Do you also read the New Testament?”

“Yes,” I replied, “I believe in the living God, not in idols, such as you. I do not kiss the mezuzah, because Deuteronomy 6:13–14 states, ‘You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you.’”

The Hasidic men and young boys were disappointed in their rabbi. He quoted from the Talmud and other rabbinic books, but I spoke from the Bible, which I kept open during our entire conversation.

I offered them coffee and colas. Finally, the rabbi asked, "Are you a Jew?" I am always asked this, and, as usual, I replied, "I worship God according to the Bible, but you, Rabbi, are worshiping other gods. Are you a Jew?" I gave them my testimony of how I had come to believe in the Lord Jesus as my Savior.

Please pray the Lord will open their eyes to the emptiness of their traditions. As the Lord Jesus said, "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Mk. 8:36).