

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING

I was recently asked to visit a very sick elderly man whose son is my friend. I arrived in the final hours of his life.

He told me he had been a drunk all of his life. "Now that I have reached the end of my life," he said, "I realize I have never known satisfaction—not from things, people, or even my children. And now I will be lost forever."

He continued, "The Talmud says, 'A man does not tell lies on his deathbed.' I have been bad and drank far too much. I never even thought about my family. And now God will not hear my voice if I call on Him."

I told him, "No, my friend, that is not so. Every cloud has a silver lining, and you can have a silver lining because even now, at the end of your life, you can be saved."

"Can I be saved after everything I have done?" He asked.

"Yes," I answered. "The Lord, our Savior, gave Himself for us all so that we can have everlasting life."

He asked if this was really true. I told him it was indeed true, and I read Isaiah 53:6: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." I then said, "This passage, from our own Hebrew Scriptures, is meant for everyone who comes to the Lord, even if that happens at the very end of

your life. All you must do is trust in Him. John 3:16 says, 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.'

Surprisingly, this man became peaceful and quiet. When his son came into the room, he asked, "What have you done to my father that he is so quiet and says he is happy?"

When his father related everything he had heard and told his son he believed it, the son was displeased. I told him, "It is my duty, and the duty of every believer, to tell others the truth in their time of need. We are responsible for each other."

"How can you be responsible for my father?" he asked. "You are not a member of this family."

I replied, "We have one Father in heaven. As members of His family, we have a responsibility to one another. The Lord said, 'When I say to the wicked, "O wicked man, you shall surely die!" and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at your hand' [Ezek. 33:7]. Are you against your father having such peace from the Lord in his final hours?"

"No," the son replied, "but I am against you because you spoke with him about a faith he never heard about all through his life."

"That is exactly the point," I said. "Even though he had not heard before how to have true faith in the Lord, the Lord will still receive him, and your father is happy because he is no longer lost. You will all have to stand before the Lord one day, just as your father will do very soon. He has heard the truth about Jesus Christ and has gladly received Him. He is now happy in the Lord, and you and your family can share his last moments with him in happiness."

This was a thrilling day because this man accepted the Lord as his Savior, but it was also a sad day because his family rejected the Lord. I pray they will accept the Lord soon, before they are on their deathbeds in a lost and hopeless condition.