

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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

FROM SILENCE AND SORROW TO JOYFUL SINGING

My wife and I recently visited her mother in the hospital. Most of the people in that hospital can no longer care for themselves, speak little, and seem bitter. They appear to be counting the days until they die. As I viewed this sorrowful picture, I realized I must encourage these people.

I quickly befriended them. These Jewish people had come from both Arab and European countries; so I spoke with some in Arabic, some in Yiddish, and others in European languages. They immediately seemed to like me, probably because I made them feel like they still have value and they are important in God's eyes.

When I asked if they remembered anything about the Bible, most replied they pray only from their prayer books. One of the men said, "Listening to the rabbis does not bring us joy. But you, in just a short time, have actually made us smile."

I then read Psalm 37:25 to show them even in old age they can be fruitful: "I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread." I told them, "You are important, even at your advanced age. And you can be even more important if you will turn back to the Lord. Return to Him and obey His commandments."

One elderly man asked, "Do you expect me to forget everything I have done in 96 years of life?"

“Yes,” I replied, “Open your heart before God and say, ‘O God, forgive me.’ As it is written in Jeremiah 31:34, ‘I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.’” I passed around my Bible so they could read it for themselves.

I assured them they do not have to be bitter because those who truly believe in the Lord will never be forsaken but will have everlasting life in His presence. As it is written in Job 19:25–26, “I know my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, in my flesh I shall see God.” I told them, “Do as Amos 5:4 says, ‘Seek Me and live.’ In the Lord, there is no death—only life!”

I could tell from their expressions they had never heard these things before. They began to question me about the future. They wanted assurance the things I had told them were really true.

I began reading some of the Psalms to them. I ended with Psalm 23, putting special emphasis on the end of verse 6, “I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”

When I finished reading, someone said, “We have read those passages many times, but they never entered into our hearts as they have today.” Just then, my wife said, “Zvi, today is Friday; we must get to the shops before they close for the Sabbath.” I looked at my watch and realized I had been speaking with these people for more than three hours.

They seemed sad I had to leave; so I said to my wife, “Give me a few more minutes with my new friends.” I then asked them, “Do you have any more questions before I leave?”

One asked, “How can you be sure you will ‘dwell in the house of the Lord forever’?”

I replied, “Everything I read was from the Holy Bible, which was written by the Holy Spirit of God. It is written in Psalm 119:89, ‘Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.’ Put your trust in Him, and you will have the same assurance. Psalm 118:17 says, ‘I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.’”

These people then started to sing a song of joy to the Lord. I plan to return and continue witnessing to these dear people. I pray they will accept the Lord as their Messiah and Savior before their earthly journey is over.