

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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

HE WAS WOUNDED FOR US ALL

We have lived in this neighborhood in Jerusalem for more than 35 years. I know most of my neighbors, and they know me. I try to help them in many ways, like making free repairs to their homes.

Recently an ultra-Orthodox family moved in. One day they came to me. "Can you do us a favor?" the man asked. "This will be a great mitzvah for you." Mitzvah means "good deed."

"What can I do for you?" I replied.

"Our electricity is not working. Can you help us?" he asked.

So I went to help. While I was there, they spoke with me about what I believe and what their rabbis believe.

"I would be happy to give you some of our holy books so you can read what our rabbis say," the man said.

I replied, "You are a good man. But I do not read such books. I read only the Holy Bible. I will not spend time reading fictional stories written by men who claim to be holy. Only one person is holy; and He is Almighty God." This family listened carefully. Then someone said, "Can you show us where the Bible talks about this man?" The Orthodox will not say the name Jesus.

I knew they were asking about Jesus, but I replied, “The Bible speaks about many men. About whom do you wish to know?”

They all looked at me. Finally one asked quietly, “You will not be against us when we tell you about whom we want to know? Where is it written about Him in the Bible?”

I told them, “It will be my great joy to show you what the Bible says.” So I opened my Bible to Isaiah 53, a chapter the ultra-Orthodox do not read because it is so clearly written about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

When I opened the chapter, they were surprised. “We have never read this,” one said.

“It is important to know what is written in God’s Word,” I said. “Yet many will not read this or teach it.”

This time I gave them the Bible so they could read Isaiah 53 for themselves. There it is written,

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed (vv. 4–5).

Afterward, one asked, “About whom is this written?” And like many before him, he asked, “Why have we never read this before?”

“Please read what is written in Deuteronomy 6:13–15.” So they read: 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 (for the LORD your God is a jealous God among you), let the anger of the LORD your

God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth. "Do not follow the people around you," I cautioned. "Follow only the Lord and what is written in the Bible. That way you will know the truth and not be led down the path of darkness."

"But this one whom you believe," one replied. "He is only for Christians."

"He is for everyone," I explained. "He was wounded for all of us, and the Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He is especially for those whom He has chosen to be His servants. And did He not choose Israel? The Bible does not say He was wounded only for Gentiles or only for Jews. He is for everyone who receives Him as personal Savior."

We had a long conversation. Please pray it will someday bear much fruit.