

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Many schoolchildren in Israel have never heard of the Holocaust. So when Holocaust Memorial Day draws near, schools look for survivors to come tell what they experienced during World War II. Not many of us are left.

So schools invite me to speak. Ordinarily, I cannot go to a school and speak of faith in Christ. But when they call me, I am free to speak about Him in whom I have believed. This is a wonderful opportunity to tell the children something they have never heard: the truth about our Savior Jesus Christ.

But I cannot do so quickly. I must go slowly. I have a long presentation—about two hours. Recently when I was speaking at a school, the students asked how I came to believe as I do. “After all,” one said, “we are Jewish.”

“Yes,” I said. “We are the Chosen People of God. The Lord told us, ‘I will also give you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be My salvation to the ends of the earth’” (Isa. 49:6). I explained it is our obligation before God to tell people the truth.

“But you speak about another faith,” a student said.

So I asked, “To whom was the Holy Bible given?”

“To the people of Israel!” they all declared.

“Yes,” I said. “And as His Chosen People, do we have the right to choose which parts of the Bible are good to read and which are not?”

The classroom grew quiet. I continued, “Do the rabbis have a right to say which chapters of the Bible are kosher and which are not?”

“This is strange,” someone said. “We have never heard anyone speak as you do.” Then they all wanted to know which chapter of the Bible the rabbis claim should not be read.

I replied, “Have you read Isaiah chapter 53? Have your teachers ever spoken to you about this chapter?”

The students all agreed they had not read Isaiah 53. I told them, “I will read it for you. Or you may read and I will listen. After, we will have time for questions to see if we can determine why the rabbis do not teach you the truth about what is written here.”

So the students took turns reading. Afterward, one asked, “Why is this such a secret?”

“The Bible,” I said, “was written by the Holy Spirit of God. No one has the right to erase anything from this Holy Book, not even a single letter. Do you see what they have done? They do not want the Chosen People of God to know the truth and to know what great things God has done for us. But as you know, it is hard to fight against the truth, especially against what was written by the Holy Spirit of God.”

The students then started asking me questions such as, “Are you one of us? Are you an Israeli?”

“I am surely an Israeli,” I replied. “And I believe all that is written in the

Bible. And if that is not enough for you, I have fought in every war beginning with the War of Independence in 1948 through the Yom Kippur War in 1973. I am not like those who have never served in the army and have never fought for this country, yet who try to tell you how holy they are and what portions of the Bible you can and cannot read.” (The ultra-Orthodox do not serve in the Israeli military.)

The students continued to ask good questions, and slowly we came to the subject of how to place your faith in the Lord. At the end of the class, they said this was the most interesting lesson they ever had and one they will never forget.