

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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

HOW CAN A CAT CROSS THE SEA

Over the years, the Lord has taught my wife and me to have an open-door policy in our home. People are always coming and going, and some even sleep here. Once each year an elderly Christian gentleman from Germany visits Israel and usually sleeps at our home.

When he visited this year, he said, "Zvi, I am 80 years old now. Before I die, I want you and your wife to visit me in Germany. I want to repay some of the kindness you have shown me over the years." And so, off we went to Germany.

When we arrived, he surprised me with an invitation to speak at an assembly of 400 people, filled with mostly Russian immigrants. Because I can speak both German and Russian, it was a wonderful opportunity to speak about Christ.

While many of those present were believers, there were some unbelieving Jews in the crowd. I was reminded of King Solomon's words, "There is nothing new under the sun" (Eccl. 1:9). They were just like their brethren in Israel. I knew exactly what they were going to ask.

"Did you come here to make us Christians?" one asked.

I replied, "I have come here to make you good Jews. I want you to turn back to the Bible, and then you will know what He expects of us. He wants us to tell of His salvation to the ends of the earth. Because you do not

know what the Bible says and do not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, I am not surprised you asked such questions. But now that you have heard the truth, you are responsible before God.”

This was the first time someone from Israel had spoken to them about Christ.

My host had another surprise for me during our visit. One day, two of the leaders from the assembly where I preached visited us, and I recognized them immediately. They had stayed in our home a few years ago, but they never mentioned they were leaders in an assembly with more than 400 members.

It was a great blessing for me, a Jew from Israel, to preach about our Savior Jesus Christ to so many people and to meet two of the leaders of this wonderful assembly. I encouraged them to continue reading the Bible and trusting in the Lord.

I told them, “You would be surprised how many believe in Him as their Savior among our own people, the Jews. The apostles and the first believers were all Jews, and they believed what is written in Deuteronomy 18:15: ‘The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear.’ When we trust in the Lord and His Word, we always move ahead spiritually, never backward.” Just as Jews in Jerusalem always want to see for themselves what I am reading from the Bible, so the Jews in Germany wanted to see my Hebrew Bible. When German believers spoke with them about Christ, they did not believe them because they were Gentiles and were using what Jewish people call the “Gentile Bible.” I was glad to show them my Bible so they could see for themselves I was speaking from the Word of God.

There is a Yiddish saying, “How can a cat cross the sea?” Likewise, how can a Jew from Jerusalem go to another country and preach the gospel of

Christ? It seems impossible, but it happened. I was thrilled the Lord gave me the special privilege of preaching to so many people, many of whom had never heard the gospel. Truly, as it is written in Isaiah 2:3, "Out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem." The Lord brought forth much fruit, for which we sincerely thank Him.