

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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HOW IS IT WITH YOUR SOUL?

This week my three older children—Ruth, Meno, and Victor—told me they were going to a hospital for old people and play their instruments for them. I had some free time that evening, so I accompanied them. I remembered the man who is in charge of the hospital, as I had a long discussion with him about a year ago. And so it was that I went with my children to this old folks home. The people were all about 80 years of age or older, and most were quite sick.

The first song my children played was from Psalm 121:5-8, which starts with the words, “The Lord is thy keeper.” Then they played from Isaiah 60:1, “Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.” The old people were very happy and sang along with the children. You see, every Jew knows these songs. The sad thing is that they do not know the one of whom the songs speak.

I was very surprised to see signs on the walls, written in large letters, stating, “Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.” A year before, when I spoke with the doctor in charge of the hospital, he said, “Jews who believe in Jesus are not welcome in Israel.” What had happened?

When my children finished, this doctor approached them and congratulated them on their fine playing. He asked them to come and play again and said that he would be happy to meet with their father. But when I came up to him, he seemed to be afraid. He said, “I know you, but I cannot remember from where.” I said, “Yes, I remember you very well.” He

then became even more frightened. I asked, "What is the matter? Do you think I am a policeman? I am not. We were together in the Army for a short time last year." He then remembered me and the long discussion we had.

I pointed to the signs and asked what had caused the apparent shift in his attitude. He said, "Things have changed. We are living in different times." He then asked, "Are you the same? How have you been?" I replied, "Yes, I am the same believer. I am happy that the Lord is my Savior and that I can open my heart to Him in every situation." "I believe you," he said.

"If that is so," I asked, "why don't you open your heart to the Lord? Now you are a doctor, but there will come a time when you must give back to the Lord what He has given to you. The body is nothing, but how is it with your soul? If you do not put your trust in the Lord, you will be lost forever. You are not a child, you know. We are here talking now, but in an hour we both could be dead. Save your life! Believe in the Lord now!"

He said, "In this hospital, I am the boss. I am a big man. But, after what you have said to me, I can see that if I were to die now, I would be lost." I then gave him a Bible and said, "Read this and pray. Then, if you ask Him, God will come into your heart." He went on, "I am a very rich man, but I have no peace with myself." "I am much richer than you," I told him, "because I have the Lord in my heart. I am happy, and He gives me peace. You too can have this peace, but it is only available through His mercy."

He thanked me for the Bible and made me promise that my children would return. He said, "You are all welcome!"