

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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I STUDY THE BIBLE

Recently, a rabbi asked if I knew an electrical repairman to do some work at the yeshiva.

"I will do it," I replied.

I agreed to do it because of the great opportunity to witness for the Lord. So I went with him to the yeshiva. When I finished, the rabbi asked, "How much should I pay you?"

I replied, "First, can you make me a cup of tea?"

The boys began to ask me questions concerning why I did not belong to the yeshiva.

When the rabbi returned with a cup of tea, he also asked me questions. I told them I follow the Lord without the yeshiva.

"How?" one asked.

I quoted for them Proverbs 6:6–9:

Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest. How long will you slumber, O sluggard?

“You are not ants,” I said. “You are strong young men. Now you expect me to be like you, to follow traditions, and do no work. The Lord said, ‘You work, and I will help you.’”

The rabbi intervened, “If they work, they will not have time to follow God.”

I replied, “I work very hard, and I have time to thank the Lord and to witness for Him.”

“How?” they asked.

“You saw me work here,” I replied. “I also have time to tell you something special about the Lord.”

“What can a man like you tell us about the Lord?” one asked.

“I can tell you things you have never heard.”

“No,” he said, “It cannot be!”

“Have you ever heard about the Son of God?” I questioned.

They all laughed.

“You are crazy,” one said. “From which book did you take this funny story?”

“From the Bible,” I replied. “Do you believe in the Bible? If so, please give me a Bible, and I will read for you about the Son of God.”

They gave me a Bible, and I read Daniel 3:25: “I see four men loose,

walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”

“This cannot be,” one insisted. Then I read Proverbs 30:4:

Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son’s name, if you know?

“You see it with your own eyes,” I said. “How can you follow God if you do not believe what the Bible says? What do you think of Isaiah 53 and of the other prophets who wrote about the Lord’s coming?”

They looked from one to another, and the rabbi had no answer. He asked me at which yeshiva I studied.

“None,” I replied. “I study the Bible, which was written by the Spirit of God. And the Lord teaches me through His Spirit. I received Him as my Savior.”

The rabbi then asked, “Which synagogue do you attend?”

“I go to the house of prayer,” I replied, “as it is written in Isaiah 56:7, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.’”

“What?” he exclaimed. “You are not Jewish?”

“I am a completed Jew,” I replied. “I believe all of the Bible. I believe on the Messiah, that He will return, and all who believe on Him will be saved.”

“Now we know about whom you speak,” he said. “You gave us many things to think about.”

I gave them my phone number and told them to call me whenever they have questions. They listened and treated me kindly. May the Lord open their eyes.