

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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

I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

One recent morning, I met a small group of young religious children at the bus station with their teacher. As is my custom, I said to them, "Shalom, boker-tov," which means "Peace, good morning."

The teacher gave me a nasty look, but the children answered very nicely, "Shalom!"

I asked the teacher, "Are you not feeling well? Can I help you?"

"No!" he shouted.

I asked, "Why are you so unhappy?"

He answered, "Because I do not want an atheist like you to have such close contact with my pupils."

I asked, "How do you know I am an atheist?"

He responded, "A person who believes in God covers his head, but your head is uncovered."

I then asked, "Was Moses a Jew?"

"Of course," he said.

“You are right,” I told him, “but what did the Lord say to Moses when he was standing before the burning bush?”

The teacher did not answer, so one of the children said, “I know. The Lord said, ‘Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground’ [Ex. 3:5].”

I then said, “You see, the Lord did not tell Moses to cover his head. Who are you, that I cannot stand before you with my head uncovered? Do not think your long beard and black hat can save you.”

He became more interested in what I was saying, and the children were hanging on to my every word. The teacher asked, “How can you speak about salvation with such surety?”

I replied, “I have had the great privilege of being saved, and not because I was so nice or so good. I am a sinner, just like everyone else. But I will have everlasting life.”

He then asked, “How can you be so sure about the olam-habah [which means, ‘the age to come’]?”

I responded, “Surely you know what is written in Psalm 23 about eternity.” He stopped to think, and once again one of the children answered, “I know. Psalm 23:6 says, ‘I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.’”

By now, two buses had come and gone, but the teacher did not seem upset about it. He wanted to prove himself right, and he did not care how long it took. Then suddenly he said, “Aha! Now I know who you are. You are a missionary.”

I asked him, “What about Abraham and Jonah? Were they not missionaries? Even all of your ultra-Orthodox rabbis are missionaries. The

only difference between them and me is that I preach the gospel of God according to the Bible, but you and the rabbis spread only vanity. Even when I greeted you with Shalom, you would not answer me. In the Law, God commanded us, 'Love your neighbor as yourself' [Lev. 19:18]. Instead, you are teaching your pupils to hate their neighbors."

This made him very angry, and he shouted, "A Christian has no right to tell me how to educate my pupils!"

I responded, "It is not important whether you call yourself a Jew or a Christian. The important thing is to keep the very least of the Lord's commandments, and in doing this you will find Him. He will then receive you, just as He received me when I came to Him on His terms."

By this time many people had gathered and were interested in our discussion. Some received the Word with an open heart and mind. It is written in Isaiah 2:3, "Out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem." We are very near to this prophecy's fulfillment. Please pray for the peace of Jerusalem.