

# Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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

## IN THE NAME OF JESUS THE MESSIAH

Our little David just finished kindergarten. But before he finished, he caused quite a furor.

At lunch every day, when David said Grace, he finished with the words, "B'shem Yeshua Hamashiach—in the name of Jesus the Messiah."

One day his teacher asked him, "Who is Yeshua Hamashiach?"

In his childlike innocence, David answered, "Jesus is the greatest in heaven."

Then his teacher asked, "And who taught you to pray this way?"

"My father," he answered.

One day when I came home from work, David's teacher was waiting for me. I half guessed what she wanted, but I thought perhaps on the other hand scrappy little David had gotten into a fight with some child and she was coming to complain to me.

"Do you know why I came?" she inquired. "I would like to know about your child's prayer which he always ends with the words, 'in the name of Jesus the Messiah.'"

I asked her, "Is that against school regulations?"

“No,” she said, “but it is not customary for a Jewish child to pray this way. Do you belong to a new, unknown sect in Israel?”

“No,” I answered, “‘this sect,’ as you call it, is well known in Israel and all over the world. Actually, it began right here in Jerusalem.”

“Oh,” she remarked, “I am surprised I have not heard about it until now.”

“This is no strange faith,” I said. “It is the faith of the prophets and of many Jews who lived in the first century. It is the faith which I hope many Jews will accept in the future.”

The teacher said, “Now I understand you! You are speaking about the Christian religion. Now I see that you taught little David to pray this way. Is it fair to fill a little child’s head with this?”

I said, “If I do not fill his head and heart with what is right and good, then others will fill him with things which will not be so good for him or for our nation. What I believe in was taught and predicted by our prophets.” Then I read to her a few passages from the Bible.

“Well,” she concluded, “you must be a Roman Catholic.”

I said, “No, I am not. I just believe in the Word of God. There are many others who believe like we do.”

She said, “But you have estranged yourself and your children from our nation.”

“No,” I answered, “Quite the contrary, the more I know my Bible and believe in the Messiah, the closer I feel to my people.”

My wife offered her tea and we sat down. Then the mailman came with a registered letter. It was a government order to report for military service. I showed it to her and said, "You see, I have not become estranged from my people. I often risk my life for our nation. This is true of many others who believe like I do."

After that, the teacher became friendlier, especially after my children played for her on their musical instruments—the guitar, the piano, the mandolin, and the flute. (Not so long ago my children took part in a children's concert, attended by Mrs. Golda Meir.) Our children played the words of Psalm 118:26: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!"

The teacher liked it very much. She even asked for my permission that they might play at the kindergarten graduation ceremony before the start of vacation. Of course, I told her they would be glad to do so.

She left our home impressed with what she had heard and seen. This was the way our 5-year-old David gave his testimony for the Lord, without even knowing it.