

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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

NOT THIS TIME!

Two of my sons and my daughter are now serving at the Lebanese front in the army. Recently, I received a letter stating that the army wants me also, but I said, "Not this time!" I went to remind the military officials that I am now 53 years old and actively served in all four of Israel's previous wars, performing the most dangerous job.

One of the officers said, "But you know how serious the situation is."

I replied, "Yes, and I have given you my three children. If you must have me, then you must also take my wife and my youngest son; then all of our family will be in the army."

The officer said, "You may stay home for now, but be ready if we call you."

"I am always ready," I said.

He asked, "What do you mean?"

I told him, "I am ready to preach the good news of God to all who will listen."

"But you never went to a yeshiva." A yeshiva is a religious school.

"Did Israel's prophets go to a yeshiva?" I asked. "When the Lord called Moses, did He ask him what type of education he had? No. He simply told

Moses to do His will. God Himself put the words in Moses' mouth. That is how it is with me."

"What do you want to speak about?" the officer asked.

I replied, "I want to tell you about our need for salvation."

"But we are close to victory in the north," he said.

"No, we are not," I responded. "It is 'not by might, nor by power,' but by the Spirit of the Lord [Zech. 4:6]. The Lord has fought for us in the past, and He is doing so again."

"Who do you think is fighting for us in Tyre and Sidon?" he asked.

I replied, "The prophet Jeremiah tells us the Lord will 'cut off from Tyre and Sidon every helper and shall plunder the Philistines,' [Jer. 47:4]. Ezekiel 26:3–4 also mentions this war: 'I am against you, O Tyre, and will cause many nations to come up against you. They shall destroy the walls and break down her towers.'"

"The Lord has revealed what will take place. Even though my children are in the north, I have peace because my trust is in the Lord. Why should we fear? We can be sure of His victory."

Then the officer asked, "Where do you get your confidence?"

I told him, "God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid' [Isa. 12:2]. If you are afraid, believe in the Son of God, as I did."

We began a long conversation about faith in the Lord. Finally, he said, "We never knew that you and others like you were so bound to this land of ours."

I told him, “We believe in the same heavenly Father, read the same Bible, and are loyal citizens of Israel. We love our country. I have given my three children to fight for this land, and I can give even more.”

“What is that?” he asked.

I replied, “As I told you, you can take me if you must.”

“If this turns into a big war, you must go,” he said. “We do not have as many people as our enemies.”

I agreed, “Yes, but at times like this we must trust in the Lord. The Lord said, ‘If you should say, “These nations are greater than I; how can I dispossess them?” [Do] not be afraid, but remember what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all of Egypt,’ [Dt. 7:17–18]. If this war becomes big, I will be there without even being called.”

The officer then said, “We have learned a lot today about you and others like you, whom we always thought of as negative, but we know that two negatives always make a positive.”

I was grateful for the opportunity to meet these military people and change their minds about true believers.