

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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THE EXPERT

I often go to the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Many go to the Wall to read the Psalms. They arrive very early and read so fast no one can understand them, so they can return to their homes as soon as possible.

I recently saw a group of young men there who were reading the Psalms in this manner, and I approached one young man whose Bible was opened to Psalm 24. I asked if he understood what he was reading at supersonic speed.

He replied, "It is my job to come here every day and read the Psalms. Are you now trying to teach me how to read them?"

I told him, "The Lord is not concerned with who can read the Psalms the fastest. He is concerned with what is in your heart. I see your Bible is open to Psalm 24. Do you know the one about whom King David is speaking?" The other young men around him entered the conversation and examined the passage. After a few minutes they said, "Why should we break our heads trying to interpret this psalm? Our rabbi will tell you."

They then called to the rabbi, who came over and immediately asked me, "What do you want with these young men? You should not bother them. They must continue to read the Psalms."

I responded, "Rabbi, as a believer in God, I am against this degrading of our God. You call on Him every day when you say the Shemah Yisrael,

yet here you read about Him as if you are not interested or do not even know who He is.

“In this psalm, it is written, ‘Lift up your heads, and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory?’ Tell me, rabbi, do you know who this King of glory is? The passage continues, ‘The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory.’ If you would read this psalm slowly, to understand the meaning, you would know the one about whom it is written. All the time you and these young men spend here at the Wall is nothing more than what King Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 1:2: ‘Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.’”

The rabbi thought for a long time and finally asked, “Who gave you the authority to come here and tell these people how to read the Psalms?” I replied, “The authority I have is available to you also, but first you must receive the Lord as your Savior. You think you have a relationship with God, but you are only playing games. If you read Ezekiel 33, you will learn who gave me the authority and responsibility to come here and warn wicked people, like yourselves, to turn to the Lord.”

The rabbi shouted, “How can you say I am wicked?”

“Because you worship idols and dance around the golden calf,” I replied.

“But I worship the living God. I never sacrifice a chicken as a personal offering for my sins on Yom Kippur because Isaiah 53 says the Lord is my atonement.”

As soon as I mentioned Isaiah 53, they immediately realized I believe in Christ and am, in their opinion, an apostate. They did not understand how I could believe in Him and yet put my trust in the Bible. I asked them to inspect my Bible to see if it is the true Hebrew Scriptures. The rabbi examined it and admitted, “This is our Bible.”

“Now that you know that,” I said, “let me show you how I came to believe in Christ—not according to any other books, such as the ones you study, but according to God’s Word. In it I found my Savior, the one whom you call ‘this man.’”

Our conversation lasted for several hours. I pray those seeds will grow into understanding in their minds and hearts, so they will one day come to know the Lord as their Savior.