

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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

THE ONE WHO IS ALWAYS THERE

Recently, a friend who was deeply depressed asked me to visit. When I arrived, he told me about his problems and lamented, "No one ever listens to me."

I said, "There is someone who is always there to listen to your difficulties. I have experienced many hard situations in life, and I always go to Him."

"Tell me who it is," he said.

I opened my Bible and read Psalm 34:18–19, "The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all."

He seemed surprised I had found just the right words. He asked, "How did you find this?"

I replied, "I have put my trust in the living God, and He enables me to understand His Word. You should know this passage; you told me you go to the synagogue often."

With people like him, it is very hard to talk about Christ, but, as it is written in 2 Timothy 2:24, "A servant of the Lord must...be...patient."

When he asked if other people suffered like he had, I opened my Bible and

read Isaiah 53. I explained, “This chapter describes the Lord’s great suffering and crucifixion. He suffered and died for people like us.”

He became defensive and said, “That is not written in the Jewish Bible. It is only written in Christian books.”

I showed him my Bible, and he saw I had been reading from the Old Testament. I then read Zechariah 12:10, “They will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son.”

“Who was pierced,” I asked, “if not the Lord Jesus Christ? He was from the tribe of Judah, the house of David, and was born in Bethlehem. Our prophets foretold all of these things.”

“Perhaps I will go to the rabbi and ask him what he thinks,” he commented.

I responded, “It is certainly your privilege to do so, but you have been listening to rabbis all your life, and they have never explained to you how to have true faith in God. Those false teachers spend their entire lives studying commentaries, but they know nothing about the Bible.”

He asked if I had any other books, and I replied, “No. The Bible tells me everything I need to know about God.” I then turned to Psalm 22 and read how they pierced Jesus’ hands and feet.

I said, “This happened when the Lord was crucified for the sins of mankind. If you still do not believe the Old Testament speaks about the Lord Jesus, then take this Bible, cast it into the garbage, and continue to dance around the golden calf of your commentaries.

“You told me no one would listen to your troubles. Turn to the Lord. Do what King David did when he was in trouble. If you read the Psalms, you will find that David prayed, asking God to lead and strengthen him when

he was weak. David was the greatest king in Israel's history, yet he humbled himself, and the Lord heard his prayers, forgave his sins, and gave him victory. The choice is yours. Will you do what I have told you or not?"

His deaf ears were beginning to open, and his blind eyes were beginning to see. His sour expression became joyful as the truth began to penetrate his heart.

This conversation lasted about four hours, but I would talk for a whole month to win one more person to the family of Christ.

I believe this man is very close to accepting Jesus as his Savior and Messiah. Please pray for him and for me.