

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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TRUE WISDOM COMES FROM GOD

Recently on the bus, I met a rabbi who knows I believe in Jesus. I greeted him, "Shalom, rabbi. How are you feeling?" He did not answer, but stared at me for a long time.

Then he asked, "Is that your business?"

I quickly said, "I am sorry if I offended you."

He responded, "I do not want to talk to an apostate like you."

I replied, "I am a Jew who believes in the living God and all He has done for us."

"What has He done for us?" he asked.

I answered, "The Lord has done the same for you and me. He gave His Son to be crucified. He taught us to love and forgive our enemies."

"That is impossible!" said the rabbi.

"We cannot believe in the Lord and hate people," I replied. "Even you I can consider to be my friend."

"No! No! No!" he shouted.

I said, "Many like you have said that to me, and now they come to my

home as friends.”

“And do they believe the same as you?” he asked.

I replied, “Come to my home and ask them.”

He then warned, “I will come to your home soon, but be ready for trouble if I learn they believe because of you.”

“People do not believe because of me, but because of the Bible. Whether you want to believe or not, the time will come when you will acknowledge our Savior,” I said.

Others on the bus were quietly listening. They were surprised when the rabbi asked, “Where does the Bible speak about the Lord?” I was happy to show him.

Then he said, “I am sorry I do not have with me my books. Then I could show you he is wrong.”

I replied, “All other books have no value—except the Book which has been inspired by the Holy Spirit.”

At this, the rabbi said to those listening, “Aha! You see, he is against all of our great books!”

I said, “It is written, ‘The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge’ [Prov. 1:7]. True wisdom comes from God, but you spend all of your time studying superstitions. You try to make your point through hatred and force.”

He replied, “Only the use of power and force can stop apostates like you!” Then someone on the bus said, “You are wrong, rabbi. You cannot be a

good representative of our people when you cannot even answer questions in your own profession, as we have just seen.” Many on the bus agreed.

The rabbi replied, “I can see this apostate has greatly influenced you. This I call danger!”

From the other side of the bus someone said, “Rabbi, can we go against the Torah?”

“No, of course not,” he replied.

The other man continued, “Then there is no danger, because what this man is saying is in the Torah.”

I did not feel alone anymore. There were many who had received the truth about the Lord, and they asked for my address and received it without fear. Then the rabbi said, “Now I know where you live, and I even know your telephone number.”

“You are welcome to visit or call anytime,” I told him.

The next day he came to my home. I showed him what it means to be a Jew who has received his Savior.

He said, “If I hate someone, I will never open my door to him.”

I said, “The Lord has told us to pray for those who hate us and to open our homes to them. The Lord can take away your stony heart and give you a heart of flesh [Ezek. 36:26].”

The rabbi replied, “We are friends. I do not hate you anymore.” Please pray that the Lord would truly open this rabbi’s eyes and show him

the way to salvation and peace through our Savior.