

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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WE CAN FORGET ALL OF THAT BECAUSE OF THE LORD

Early last year, many of my coworkers seemed interested in asking me about the Lord. They wanted to know who He was and why, such a long time after His death, He was still remembered. They wanted to know what they called “the secret.”

I told them, “There is nothing secret about the Lord. You can read about Him in the Bible, but ask me whatever you like.” I am not a Bible teacher, but the Holy Spirit always provides answers at the right times.

One day a new worker joined us—a man full of hatred, blindness, and jealousy. When he heard my friends ask me about the Lord, he grew angry and stirred much hatred toward me among the workers. The Devil attacked me through this man for a long time. But I was not afraid, and I prayed that all of them might truly come to know the Lord. Finally, because of all the hatred he had created against me, I was told I must leave my job in five days.

That night, he was taken to the hospital for emergency surgery. The next day, his wife came to the job site to ask if any of his “work friends” would give blood for him. It seemed as if everyone became deaf. Then I said, “I will give him blood, but he must know that it came from a Jewish believer whose Savior is the Lord Jesus Christ.”

The other men exclaimed, “What? After all that he has done to you? This is the time to take revenge!”

I told them, “Now you can see the difference between me, a believer, and you. All of you say you believe in God but call for revenge. The man needs to be saved, both bodily and, more important, spiritually.” Then I went with the man’s wife to the hospital and gave blood. Five days later, I left my job because of him.

About a year later, I was shocked to find knocking at my door this man with his family. He apologized, saying, “I have had no rest since you were fired. I asked many people where you lived, but they would not give me your address. I cannot excuse myself, and I am even prepared to be cast away from your home tonight.”

I told him, “I would not do that. The Lord has taught us to love our enemies.” I then opened the New Testament, which this man despised, and read Matthew 5:44: “Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you, and persecute you.” I then read Romans 12:17 and 19: “Repay no one evil for evil...for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine; I will repay,’ says the Lord.” Finally, I read a very important verse, Romans 12:20: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink.”

After this, with tears, he asked himself, Can this be true, after I was so bad to him?

His wife said, “You were more like a monster than a man to him.”

I told them, “We can forget all of that because of the Lord, who died for us, and through Him we can receive forgiveness of our sins. As it is written in John 3:16, ‘For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’”

After I said this, I could not believe my eyes. This man, who before had no conscience, faith, or humanity, was now soft as butter in the summer. He asked, "What can I do for you?"

"Nothing," I replied. "What you must do is for yourself. Pray to the Lord, our Savior. He can give you that which no one else can give. What I did for you was done through His love." He again wept and was very sorry.