

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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

WHY DID YOU BEFRIEND ME?

People all around us are lonely. I have such a neighbor. He stays distant from everyone.

I became burdened for him. How could I show love to him? In Israel we are not free to give out books, tracts, or to speak about the Lord. Here, we must first become friendly with such a person. I racked my brain trying to figure out how to do this.

So I fell on my knees and asked the Lord to show me.

God answered my prayer two weeks later, on a beautiful Sabbath day. My family and I were walking to the center of Jerusalem, where we have our prayer meeting. As we were walking, who did we meet but this poor, lonely man!

I suggested we walk together. I prayed silently, "O Lord, please help me to show him how to open his heart to You."

I could not believe this obstinate man became friendly as we walked. I asked, "Why do you act so strange? It would be easier to go to the moon than to be friends with you."

He said, "You are the first person who has been friendly to me."

"I am glad you feel that way," I said, "I am your friend, and you can open

your heart to me.”

He asked, “How? I do not know you well.”

So I told him a little about myself. Then he said, “I am alone in this world. I have been disappointed by many people in life. How can I know you will not turn against me also?”

I then said to my children, “Let us sing the song from Psalm 118:6–7.” We sang “The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? The LORD is for me.”

“That is a nice song,” he said. “Would you write it down for me?”

“Of course,” I replied, “I will also give you a Hebrew Bible and show you more praise songs.”

Then I asked, “Do you believe in God?”

“Why should I?” he asked. “What has He done for me?”

“Do you have a job? Are you healthy?” I asked.

“Yes,” he replied.

“Every day you see the beauty of the world, the sunshine, and the kindness of people all around you. For all of these things you must thank the Lord,” I said.

He replied, “I never go to synagogue, so how can I pray?”

I replied, “You can pray anywhere. The Lord is everywhere, and He can always hear your prayer.”

He asked, “Why did you want to befriend me?”

I answered, “I saw in you what I see in everyone—the need to be saved. The Lord in His mercy has provided a way for us to be saved through His Son, Yeshua Hamashiach. I and my family have been saved by His mercy and blood, and we are happy because our future is secure. We will live forever in His presence.”

He asked, “Can you promise if I believe in the Lord I will always be happy?”

I replied, “You must ask the Lord this through prayer, and I am sure He will answer you as He answered me. He loved us before we even knew Him, and when we come to Him in faith, He forgives and forgets our sins.”

He said, “I feel like I have been raised from the grave and am alive again. I have a greater desire to live than ever before, but how can I be sure this feeling will never leave?”

I told him, “You must come to the Lord in faith. Then He will be your Guide and show you the way to life and light.”

I was so grateful for this opportunity to share God’s love with this lonely man. Please pray he will continue to seek the Lord so he might have true joy and happiness.