

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

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

ZEAL WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE

Recently I worked at Mount Scopus, where a part of the University of Jerusalem is located. They are building new housing there for students.

At about 11 o'clock in the morning, an Orthodox student with a considerable beard approached me. He looked around, as if trying to find someone. I asked, "Can I help you?" He looked up and said, "Praise the Lord! I have been looking for Jews, but all of the workers here seem to be Arabs. I am so glad to have found at least one Jew. I would like you to do me a favor and help me." He was holding a package in his hand, and I asked, "What can I do for you?"

"The Passover holidays are approaching," he explained, "and the students do not even know what they are. Shabbath Hagadol, the Sabbath before the Passover, is already upon us. I have with me a package of Agadoth le pesach [the Passover story]. I would like you to distribute these booklets among the students."

I replied, "If you had Bibles for distribution, I would gladly hand them out for you. These booklets are a mixture of truth and legend that little children learn in their classes. The Bible, however, is the Word of God—wisdom for everyone."

He said, "You may be right, but Bibles are very expensive, and we cannot afford them." Then I made him an offer: "If you will pay for five complete Bibles, I will pay for five complete Bibles, and we will give them to the

students.” “What do you mean by a complete Bible?” he asked. I told him, “A complete Bible is the Old and New Testaments bound together.”

He grabbed his head and exclaimed, “For more than an hour I have been looking for a Jew, and when I finally find one, he turns out to be a goy.” I then showed him my order to report for military duty. When he read my full name, he said, “Yes, that is a fine Jewish name. What do you have to do with the New Testament? I am very curious.”

I told him, “Years ago I knew nothing about the New Testament or Jesus. Then God, in His mercy, sent a New Testament my way, and now I love Jesus and seek to serve Him. Just because our forefathers went astray, that does not mean that I should follow in their footsteps and make the same mistakes they did. For the sake of my own soul, the souls of my children, and those of everyone else I meet, I must try to help people. Many may be looking for the truth without even knowing it, but they have no one to guide them. Isaiah 53:6 says, ‘All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.’ The prophet spoke about our Messiah, the one who paid the price of our redemption.”

“You talk like a missionary,” he said. “I must not listen to you because I cannot answer you. Now I see why there are so many of you.”

“No,” I replied, “it is not our doing, but the Lord Himself who works in the minds and hearts of people. His good seed germinates in the hearts of those who are sincere. All we have to do is water the seed and keep the weeds from choking the wheat. You too may become a new person through the Messiah Jesus.”

“I must confess,” he said, “that I cannot answer you now. What you say staggers me, but I am glad I met you.” Do pray for this man.