



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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No One Asked

I recently had the opportunity to pray with a Jewish lady to ask Jesus into her life. In fact it was after our Passover Banquet on March 25th at Fellowship Bible Church in Roswell, GA. The circumstances surrounding her coming to Jesus were very typical.

Sherri was raised in a Jewish home. Her whole family is Jewish. Though she was not raised in an orthodox Jewish home, she celebrated the holidays with her family growing up. Her Jewish identity has been, and is, very important to her.

Sherri began attending a large local church after being invited to attend with some friends. The message and the people touched Sherri. **Though she felt a bit misunderstood at times by Christians, she was still drawn by the life and story of Jesus.** She began to attend some fellowship groups.

After the Passover her friends brought her over to where I was standing. We were introduced. The first thing she said to me after meeting was, *"Murray, Jesus is very interesting to me. I have read the Bible and been involved in church. I just don't know what to do next."*

Sherri and I sat down and talked. I shared my brief testimony with her. **I could tell that God had been working in her life.** She had already heard the Gospel, read the messianic prophecies in the Old Testament that speak of the Messiah, and been touched by the Holy Spirit. **She had just never been asked if she wanted to accept Jesus!**

I told Sherri that I would be happy to pray with her to ask Jesus to be her



Messiah. I explained that coming to God is a process and that a part of the process is making the decision to walk with Him for the rest of her life. **I explained that when two people meet and decide to get married, they still have to stand on the altar and say, "I do."** Sherri is single so I said, "Jesus wants to be your husband and he will be the best! He says He will never leave you or forsake you. All you have to do is say, 'I do!'" **I asked Sherri if she was ready. She said yes. So I walked with her to the altar of the Lord.** We prayed together, and she asked Jesus into her heart!

After praying I told Sherri she needed to tell a few others what she had just done. She told her friend, my wife, and several others, "I just asked Jesus into my life." The last thing she said to me was, "Now I know for sure what I believe and I can move on and grow." "You are so right," I said.

There are several lessons to be learned...

**Salvation Has Come To The Gentiles
To Provoke Israel To Jealousy**
(Rom. 11:11)

Most Jewish people come to know Jesus through the witness and testimony of non-Jewish believers in Jesus. Most of the time it is a friend or a business associate who introduces the Jewish person to Jesus. Maybe they invite their Jewish friend to church, to a Passion Play, or to a Christmas celebration.

The fact of the matter is that a Christian has a less abrasive testimony than someone like me in the beginning. Jewish people naturally assume that non-Jewish people are supposed to believe in Jesus. It is expected. They expect Christians to go to church and are more apt to attend a church with a Christian friend or business associate. **God has put people in your life for a purpose. Whether they are Jewish or not, He wants us all to look for opportunities to engage unbelievers with the church and the gospel of Jesus.**

There are those who might say that Jewish people will not come to a church. But, Jewish people who are seeking will certainly go to a church. If they have questions that are spiritual in nature and if God is working in their heart, they will go to a church. If only for a visit. **Jewish people who are searching spiritually are not searching for Jewish things. They are searching for God, for real spirituality, and for the truth.**

It is your obligation to ask your friends, Jewish or not, if they want to come to church with you. Who knows what God might do. In fact, if you have a Jewish friend, ask them to come to church with you, then tell them that you will go to synagogue with them! What a great way to build a bridge. **You just have to ask.**

Don't Be Afraid

I am so grateful for the believers who brought Sherri to the Passover service. They did the right thing. I am thankful that I had the opportunity to pray with her to accept the Lord. What a blessing and honor to lead a person to the throne of God and be a part of her entering the Kingdom of God through a relationship with Jesus.

I do know that I did not do the work in Sherri's life. God did. And He did that work over a period of time. The Holy Spirit used Sherri's non-Jewish Christian friends to point her in the direction of Jesus and the Word of God. Through their efforts and because of the Holy Spirit's work, Sherri was drawn into a relationship with her Messiah.

I spent just a few minutes with Sherri and knew she was ready to accept Jesus. Perhaps it is because I am trained in doing what I do. I have done it many times and am comfortable helping a person make a decision for Jesus. **She could have said no to me ... or to God. She could have rejected my offer to pray with her.** It has happened before. But I knew I needed to ask.

I think many Christians are afraid to ask people questions that will draw out spiritual discussions. You have heard it said to never discuss religion or politics. Those are my favorite subjects!! And history. But the reason why people are afraid to broach those issues is because they are very volatile topics and everyone has an opinion. If they don't have an opinion, people can become defensive and conflict may ensue. No one, including myself, enjoys conflict. **But we have to take a chance and not be afraid of getting messy if we want to get the Gospel out.**

God promises that when we are not afraid, when we step out in His name, He will not only give us the words to speak, but the boldness and courage to carry out His ministry in the lives of others. **Don't be afraid. God wants to use you. You just have to ask.**

**JUST ASK.****Just Ask**

This may sound simple but it is not. Sherri was ready to accept the Lord. She would be considered "low hanging fruit". **After I simply asked her if she wanted to accept Jesus into her life and commit her life to him forever, and she said, "yes," I wondered why no one else had asked before.**

Maybe she needed to hear from me. Maybe God used me to put it all into perspective. **Maybe she needed to talk to another Jewish person before feeling comfortable making the decision for herself.** Maybe God intended for me to pray with her. But I still couldn't help but wonder whether anyone else had the opportunity and missed it, or passed it up, or was just afraid to ask, or didn't know how to ask.

I believe in the sovereignty of God. **I do not believe that those intended for salvation will not get saved because of human frailty or a human mistake.** If salvation was dependent on us then salvation would be our responsibility, and it is not. God is the author of salvation and the Holy Spirit is the only One who can open blind eyes. Only Je-

sus sets the captive free. We are not the Holy Spirit.

However, that does not relieve us of our obligation to be equipped, to know the Word of God, and to be ready to ask and answer the questions posed to us. It is not too difficult to ask questions such as, "*What do you think about Jesus?*", "*Do you think there will ever be peace in the world ... and how?*", "*Would you like to join me for church sometime ... I would love to go with you to synagogue?*", or "*I have always been curious, do you think the Bible is true, or made up?*"

The reason why most people don't ask questions like that is because they are afraid of the answer, or afraid they will not be able to respond intelligently. **Don't be afraid. Just ask. Who knows where God will take the conversation.**

I asked Sherri a simple question, "*Do you want to give your life to Jesus?*" She said yes. **May more Jewish people get asked ... and say yes ... because of the work we are doing.** If you have a Jewish friend and need help asking questions, let us know. We are great question askers. **We are here to help.**

We Give Thanks...

Please continue to remember us in your prayers as we are now gearing up for summer ministry. We are so grateful for your prayers. We would not be able to do what we do without you lifting us up to the Lord on a daily basis.

Your prayers and financial support make what we do possible.

God bless you...

With deep appreciation for your love for my people,

Murray Tilles...for the staff
Light of Messiah Ministries

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem!

How to Contact Us

Light of Messiah Ministries

P.O. Box 501179

Atlanta, GA 31150

Phone: 770-642-4706

Fax: 770-642-0319

E-mail: lightofmessiah@yahoo.com

www.lightofmessiah.org