



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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Saying "I Do" To Jesus

The stories are never the same yet they all have a similar thread; people coming to Jesus, being drawn by the Holy Spirit, and accepting their Messiah. One never knows when or how it is going to happen. Perhaps that's why I love to do what I do. **No day is the same, no person is the same, no story is the same, but I get to see God at work in the lives of others.** When it happens it is just amazing.

Ever since I fell in love with a Rabbi named Jesus all I wanted to do was tell others about Him. How blessed to be able to do it as my vocation. This Passover season was the busiest of my almost thirty years in ministry. More people came to learn about our Jewish roots, about the Passover and Jewish festivals, and about God's heart for Israel and the Jewish community. **Most importantly more Jewish people came to my services than ever before.**

Two Jewish ladies attended a Passover at a church in Winder GA. I went out to dinner with them after the service. Fifteen Jewish people attended our Passovers at Fellowship Bible Church, seven of whom do not know the Lord yet! I could go on and on.

Ministry in the local church is a means to an end for our ministry. **We are in the church not only to teach, but also to meet and train people for the purpose of ministry to their Jewish friends.** Go figure. A biblical model that works! Meet and train believers for ministry and in the process meet Jewish unbelievers who are open to the message. That's the way it's supposed to work. Let me tell you what happened last month.



I taught at a local ladies bible study and shared my testimony. **After the study a woman came up to me and told me about her Jewish friend who has been going to Buckhead Community Church (one of Andy Stanley's churches), attending the bible study, and looking for answers to her many questions.** She asked me if I would meet with her Jewish friend to answer those questions. Of course I agreed and we set up a time to meet. The meeting took place at Brio, an Italian restaurant in Buckhead on Peachtree Rd., in mid-March.

I was introduced to Elena, a sweet Jewish woman who sat across from me. Her two friends sat next to us. The conversation began without a lot of introductions. Elena was so full of questions. They came one after another.

"Murray, I am Jewish, how can I believe Jesus is God?"

"I am Jewish how can I pray to Jesus?"

"What about the Trinity, doesn't that mean there are three gods?"

"How can I believe my Jewish family who doesn't believe is going to hell?"

"What do I tell my Jewish family?"

I explained to Elena that those questions are difficult ones. We all struggle with them. Over my 32 years of walking with Jesus I have been confronted with those same questions. And, I have a Jewish family as well. So I told her I would try to explain how I process those difficulties for myself. Let me share with you my personal answers to those difficult questions as I shared them with Elena.

How Can I Believe Jesus is God?

The question of the deity of Jesus is wrapped up in the question of the Trinity. **Christians do not believe that a man became God, but that God became a man.** So, when a person prays in Jesus' Name they are praying to God, the Three in One. **Three in one is not a concept novel to, or created within, Christianity.** In fact, the multiplicity of God is very much a part of the Jewish (Old Testament) scriptures.

In the Old Testament God revealed Himself in the form of a human many times; to Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Daniel, and others. Those revelations are called "theophanies" or some would say preincarnate manifestations of Jesus. **I would say those revelations of God in somewhat human form was God's way of showing us He could do it that way if He wanted to!**

The Hebrew word for "one," echad, in Deuteronomy 6, "Hear Oh Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is ONE," (all caps added) means a multiplicity of one, not a single one. The same word, echad,

is used when God tells us in His word that a man and woman should leave their parents, cleave to one another, and they will become "one flesh," not one person, but a unity of one.

When we recognize the tri-unity of God and the deity of Jesus, we are recognizing an Old Testament reality. Messiah HAD to be God.

How Can I Believe My Jewish Family Is Going to Hell?

Like heaven, hell is a reality. If there is an eternal heaven there has to be an eternal hell. Scriptures clearly tell us that we are separated from God because of our sin. That separation began in the book of Genesis, has continued throughout history, and keeps us from God (see Isaiah 59:1-2). A holy God demands a place apart from Himself.

Jesus said that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that no man comes to the Father except through Him. When He uttered those words He was speaking to his 11 Jewish disciples at the Last Supper, a Passover order of service. There were no Gentiles there. The way to the Father was made clear by Jesus and is made clear throughout the scriptures. One can only know God if they know Jesus and one can only enter God's Kingdom through Him.

When my grandmother died my father asked me if she was now "burning in my hell." I calmly explained to my very emotional father that I was not sure where grandma was, but that she had heard of Messiah from me and my brother, that Jesus is the way to God, and that she could have believed before she died. We do not know. **My hope and prayer is that she is with God in heaven now, and I believe she is.**

At the end of the day, the reality and truth of hell does not put a person there. Their sin does. And when a person who we love is gone and we have no indication they ever accepted Jesus we can trust in His nature. He is absolutely and perfectly sovereign, righteous, and just. **No one is going to a godless eternity without first passing through the**



fingers of the God who loves them. I have to leave it in His hands.

And, if any of our loved ones are not in heaven, we won't know it. To know a loved one is not in heaven would produce pain, tears, and suffering. In heaven there will be none of that.

What Do I Tell My Jewish Family?

I have lived this one out personally. **When I accepted Jesus I knew that my parents could possibly disown me. Eventually they did.** One is never prepared for something like that, however I had made up in my mind that Jesus was true and that God was in control. If he gave my family to me, I figured, He could take care of them.

I assured Elena it was not likely that her parents would never talking to her again. She agreed. She is older than I was when I accepted Jesus at the age of nineteen. And, her family is more liberal than mine. In today's world the likelihood of being disowned is slim to none. It only happens in the most religious circles or within the most controlling of families. And I was "re-owned"

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by my parents after two years. Our relationship has been wonderful for 28 years now.

Most importantly, belief in Jesus is not about what others, even our closest family and friends, think or do. It is about truth. We have to remember, as well, that not only was Jesus rejected in His own town, but he warned us of rejection by those we love. It is a difficult part of walking with Him. **Sometimes, if not most of the time, we are misunderstood and rejected by some of those we most desperately want to understand.** I don't get it, it just is.

In the midst of the rejection, Jesus promises hope, peace, growth, and others to support us. **In the end, believe what is true and God will take care of the rest.**

After our conversation I asked Elena if she was ready to "say 'I do' to Jesus?" She said "yes."

So, right there in the restaurant we held hands, Elena asked Jesus to be her Lord and Messiah, and affirmed her faith in Him!

Please pray for Elena as she grows in her faith and for all of those ministered to over the Passover season.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for helping us take Jesus back to the Jewish people. They have given us so much. They need Him.

Thank you, as well, for sending us out to the Jewish community with that message of peace and salvation in Jesus. May the Lord richly bless you!

In His service,

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