

Shayla: How do I come to Christ?

Meforshim:

Isaiah tells us that we must abandon our sinful ways; abandon our sinful way of thinking and turn to the Lord. We must humbly recognize that because we are sinners we are simply not wise enough or knowledgeable enough to figure things out on our own. We need to listen to God.

- Isaiah 55:7-9 HCSB Let the wicked one abandon his way, and the sinful one his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, so He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will freely forgive. 8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not My ways." This is the LORD's declaration. 9 "For as heaven is higher than earth, so My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

After all, He created us and everything around us. Surely He knows what to do? Besides He OWNS us! He has the right of the Creator upon our lives. We must obey Him if only for that reason.

- John 1:1-3 HCSB In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created.

We instinctively know deep in our hearts what must be done because Hashem has planted that truth deep within us.¹ We need to confess Jesus' sovereignty with our mouths and actually believe it in our hearts. We need to trust that He has power over death and ask Him to grant us a good resurrection at the proper time.²

If we truly believe these things in our heart, that belief will inevitably result in a changed, righteous life. "Turning over a new leaf" or "cleaning up our act" is not going to result in salvation. However, true salvation will always end up in a changed life. When we do, we are adopted into God's family and in His family there is no more racial, sexual or social distinctions. We are united in Jesus Christ.³

Our salvation, to be properly authorized, must stem from a careful consideration of the truth as delivered in the Word of God. It cannot be based on our own wisdom. Sometimes this requires that we receive the testimony of another human who explains the truth to us. However, the truth of the Scriptures supersedes that of any human teaching. This explains why one of the first acts of the newly Ransomed is usually witnessing. We understand how important someone testifying of Christ was to us, and we want to pass the favor on!⁴

During Jesus' human life on earth, he passed through Jericho and as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting by the road. When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out, "Son of David, Jesus, have mercy on me!"

Many people told him to keep quiet, but he was crying out all the more, "Have mercy on me, Son of David!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

So they called the blind man and said to him, "Have courage! Get up; He's calling for you." He threw off his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus.

Then Jesus answered him, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

"Rabbouni," the blind man told Him, "I want to see!"

"Go your way," Jesus told him. "Your faith has healed you." Immediately, he could see and began to follow Him on the road.⁵

We are the blind beggars; we need to cry out for Christ to heal us. When we do that in faith, we will be saved.

¹ Romans 1:18-19 cp 10:8

² Romans 10:9

³ Romans 10:10-13

⁴ Romans 10:14-17

⁵ Mark 10:46-52