

Chapel - 5/5/58

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Dr. MacRae

I Kings 20:35 - "And a certain man of the sons of the prophets said unto his neighbour in the word of the Lord, Smite me, I pray thee. And the man refused to smite him. Then said he unto him, Because thou hast not obeyed the voice of the Lord, behold, as soon as thou art departed from me, a lion shall slay thee. And as soon as he was departed from him, a lion found him, and slew him. Then he found another man, and said, Smite me, I pray thee. And the man smote him, so that in smiting he wounded him. So the prophet departed, and waited for the king by the way, and disguised himself with ashes upon his face. And as the king passed by, he cried unto the king: and he said, Thy servant went out into the midst of the battle; and, behold, a man turned aside, and brought a man unto me, and said, Keep this man: if by any means he be missing, then shall thy life be for his life, or else thou shalt pay a talent of silver. And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone. And the king of Israel said unto him, So shall thy judgment be; thyself has decided it. And he hastened, and took the ashes away from his face; and the king of Israel discerned him that he was of the prophets. And he said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Because thou hast let go out of thy hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore thy life shall go for his life, and thy people for his people. And the king of Israel went to his house heavy and displeased, and came to Samaria." This is one of these very interesting stories in the Old Testament about Elisha and Elijah and the other prophets of their day. As we read them sometimes we feel as if we're in a different world from the one we live in today and indeed we are because the Lord speaks directly to these people in a way that He does not speak to us. And yet aside from that we are not in a different world than that we are in today, because although the Lord spoke directly to these prophets and said, "This is what I want you to do. This is the message I have for you to give," He speaks to us through His Word. And He speaks to us through the Word and He leads us and He has meaning for us and purposes and things that He wants us to do and He wants us to find out what they are and to do them. And as we read in the Bible how He dealt with the prophets we learn much about how He wants to deal with us. And so these are passages that are rich with lessons for our spiritual lives. And in this case here we have a prophet who told a parable to the king. And there's a real lesson for us there. Jesus Christ told parables - and why did He tell parables? He told parables