

activities in certain things. The way you say a thing, the way you do it, often makes a tremendous difference. There are ways to get people's attention, you can win their interest. And you can give the same truth and have nobody listen to you. It is necessary that we find means of getting the attention of the men of the world. There are times when a forth-right blow, a declaration of their sin is the way to reach them. But there are more times when some sort of a tactful approach, some sort of a side-ways approach that will get their interest is the way to do it. The Gospel of Matt. begins with telling about the coming of the great king, the wonderful One who would rule the world and who would rescue us all from the oppressor such as the Romans from whom the Romans were so anxious to get their . But Mark writing for the Romans did not present Jesus in the first place as the great king, but as the Servant, the burden-bearer, the One who would fill your needs. And once they find how Jesus really fills their needs, they see that truly they must worship Him as Lord and Saviour. A different approach is used in reaching different ones, and God wants us to find the approach that will get the message across. So here we have this problem, and the prophet then goes out in vs. 35 and he says to his neighbor in the word of the Lord, Smite me. And the man refused to strike him, a very ~~sensibel~~ sensible thing. Why should you give a man a blow and make his nose bleed simply because he asks you to? How perfectly silly for him to do such a thing! But evidently in the background we must assume that he knew this was the prophet of the Lord. It says, He said it in the Word of the Lord. This man did not understand the situation. He did not know why he was to do this seemingly senseless thing, but he knew this was the Lord's messenger who gave him this seemingly ridiculous command, and he refused to obey it. The situation was very (hurried???) ~~Ahh~~ Ahab would be coming soon. Something must be done now and the man refused to cooperate. Now in all we do we must keep aware of God's great principle of what is right and wrong.