

The man made a very effective sermon, I was told, out of that. He was bringing in some real truth but I think he did an injury to the cause of the Lord in reading into the Scripture things which patently are not there. We must be careful not to read in what is not there.

On the other hand we must try to get all we can of what is really there, and there is often far more in a part of Scripture than we see at first sight. After all God caused the whole Scripture to be formed for the leadership of His people in all ages. God put a great deal in Scripture that is not immediately apparent. He put truth in Scripture ~~at~~ many places which people probably could not understand. They did not get it at all because it ~~did~~ did not relate to their world situation in their day. But as time developed and situations changed as we go through the Scripture we find that God from the beginning put into the Scripture the ~~things~~ understanding that we need to face the situations that may develop and change.

The same is true of our lives. We read a part of Scripture and it is comparatively meaningless to us. We have seen some truth on the surface. We don't get a great deal out of it, and then at a later period in our lives we read it and it has tremendous meaning for us. God has given us the whole Scripture to be a light to our feet and a lamp to our path to give us the knowledge He wants us to have. This is a tremendous miracle. It is something that is without parallel--the way God has formed this book, absolutely free from error in its entirety but much of it is easily ~~misunderstood~~. And much of it having no immediate relevance to us, but at most unexpected places we find that which is tremendously important at any step in our lives.

I believe that this particular passage here has great relevance for anyone who has been saved. It has meanings that someone could take for efficiency, for success in life, and all that sort of thing but that's not its purpose. But for the person's spiritual life it has no meaning for the unsaved. He needs to recognize himself as a lost sinner, headed for hell and needing the salvation that only Christ can give.

So the meaning of this story is definitely for the believer, but for the believer it has a tremendous meaning and we should try to get as much of the meaning as we can find because it has that which is tremendously important for the Christian.

Now the story starts with a man going away. He goes away into a far country, and then he comes back. Of course this represents our Lord. Yet while in a way it is true, Jesus has gone off into heaven, we do not see him visibly on earth, yet it is true He is here all the time and that He is in us the hope of glory. We must always remember the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in us and with us. But there is a