

Everybody agreed that you couldn't believe that statement, that you couldn't take that literally. So the professor said, "Oh, well then, we don't take the Old Testament literally, do we then. Well now, perhaps there is somebody here who says we can't take the Old Testament literally but we take the New Testament literally. Is there anyone like that?" A little more hesitant now. Instead of 90% raising hands, maybe 40% did. They thought you could take the New Testament literally. So he said, "Oh, you take the New Testament literally, do you? Well, you read that people came to Jesus from Herod and asked him a question and Jesus said, "Go tell that fox". Does that mean that Jesus thought that Herod was a four footed beast? "Oh, no, no." Now what do you think this meant? "Oh, no, no." "Oh, you don't take the New Testament literally then? "Oh, no, no." So here we were, left then with the Bible having proved not to be true, not dependable, you can't take it literally, now we can go on and spend the rest of the year studying human thought. Taking human ideas as the ultimate basis on which to decide the question of life and death.

And oh, how insidious he was in his teaching. He just encouraged disagreement with him and he would get to talking from this view and from that view, and get them clashing and then he would lead them along. Oh, he was so clever. Students used to say, "You never know what this professor really believes. He's not interested in what you think, all he's interested in is that he teaches you to think, that you learn how to think. He doesn't care what your conclusions are. But I noticed this. 98% of the students when they finished the year had ideas that were just exactly his, right straight down the line. He was very very clever. Oh, he loved disagreement in class. He liked to have different opinions from his. Just so that by the end of the year you came around to his ideas. And I was a great disappointment to him. But I had been away about two years and when I went back to visit him he had a new assistant there, a man who had just graduated from Union Seminary, and he introduced me to him. And he said, "You know, I think of MacRae