

Chapel Hour

5/10/49

Dr. A.A. MacRae

000325

*Rich Young Rules*

You will find as you begin your ministry that as you present the Word of God and try to give great gospel teachings, there will be a great tendency for you to draw the great bulk of your texts from the epistles. You will probably find that there will be a tendency to neglect the synoptic gospels, and not so often to use them as the subject for your discussion in your sermons. Now, that may seem a strange thing. After all, the gospels present the story of the life of Christ. He is the One who is the very center of our religion. He is the One upon whom everything with which we deal in our messages and in our devotions, and yet I believe if we would take the great bulk of really Christian preachers, gospel preachers, that you would find that the synoptic gospels have a tendency to be neglected in sermons. Now, why is this? You want a sermon. You want a text, to present salvation by faith. You want a text that presents the need of Christ and Him alone. You want a text that presents one of the great themes of the gospel. The epistles are full of them. You find many in John. In the synoptic gospels there is a tendency not to find so many. Now there are those who say that this is because in the gospels Christ was speaking in a different dispensation. He was dealing then with the people in that Jewish time and dealing under a different situation and it doesn't apply to us. The Church as a whole has never held this. There are comparatively few who hold this view of the gospels. The Church holds that the gospels were Christ, the Founder of the Church, presenting us the great principles of the Church, that they tell us of His spotless life and of His death on calvary, and of the great teachings which He gave us, and yet we do not seem to find so many verses in the gospels that present in clear form these great teachings as you find in the epistles. Now, why is it? I think the reason is the principle of progressive revelation. I think the reason for it is that the Lord in the gospels was talking to people who didn't understand these things. They didn't understand them because they had not occurred. Even the disciples, you remember, as He talked with them day after day, and He said to them repeatedly that the Son of man