

Dr. A. A. MacRae Special Hour 5/10/49 1

free gift and there is nothing we can do to earn it. Now, he had been preaching it for seven or eight times right before that right in a row and the man hadn't caught it. You say the man was stupid. No. That's the way people are. If you have ever done any teaching you have found out. I've had the experience I imagine six times in the last few months of explaining a thing just as well as I could explain it and trying to present it's details and point it out clearly, and then when I've finished a hand goes up back here and somebody says, "Well, do you think we could interpret it this way?" and then he goes ahead and states in almost identical language, it seems to me, what I've just presented, and when he says that I say, "Well, now that is a very good idea. I think that is most stimulating," because I'm glad he's got it. I'm not sorry that he speaks up and shows he's got it. I'm wondering if the rest have got it yet. Well, now the gospels show us Jesus Christ actually at work. They show Him walking about, talking with the people, and He presents to them the great truths of the gospel but He presents them under difficulty, and I think we have much to learn from the gospels, not merely of the truth which He presents by of the way in which He gives it, of the way in which He takes these ideas and He gets them into people's minds, and He tries to get the understanding of them into their hearts and minds, and of course that makes a certain difficulty in determining if there is any section of the Scripture where you cannot just grab out half a sentence and take it absolutely literally, just these words and that is exactly what it means. That is the gospels, because at point after point in the gospels the Lord Jesus Christ makes statements which are meant to open up a person's mind, to clarify something to him, to lead him to an understanding of it, and you have to take this statement and interpret it in the light of context and in the light of other teaching of the Scripture. Now, I think a most interesting illustration of this is the story which we read this morning about Christ and the rich young ruler, and so I think that it would be of interest for us to look at a few points in the story here at which these matters of the method that Christ used in presenting truths are brought out, and also, of course, more important