

partly of course to conceal the message He was giving so that it would not reach those who were not ready for it and who would be confused by it - so that He would get it directly to those for whom it was meant. This purpose He brings out clearly in one of His

(3.5). But there's another purpose to it, there's a very vital purpose of parables. The purpose of a parable often is to express the truth in such a way that you can see it in a detached way without having the direct full emotional effect upon yourself. And you get the truth in this detached way and then you see the application to yourself. That's what the prophet did here. He told the king this story about himself. He said, "As thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone. And the king of Israel said unto him, So shall thy judgment be;" And then he said to the king, "That's the way with you and God is judging you." If he'd come to the king and said, "King, you've done wrong in this that you've done," the king would have become very angry with him for criticizing and probably wouldn't have gotten the point at all. But he came to the king and gave him the thing in a detached manner so the king could view it objectively without his emotional reaction and then he applied it. We find the same thing when Nathan came to David and Nathan told David a story about the rich man who stole the one lamb that his neighbor had and used it to entertain his guests instead of taking one of his own. And David was very angry and told what punishment they should give to this man and then Nathan looked at David and he said, "Thou art the man!" And David got the rebuke because he had gotten the meaning objectively first before his emotions were aroused and then when he understood the thing as he would when he didn't have his emotions aroused and keeping him from it, then it was applied to himself. And that's very fortunately for us ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ if we are to serve the Lord effectively ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ to learn how to get things across in such a way that we don't simply sear the people over and arouse their antagonism so they don't listen to us any further. But we get their interest and we get them to get the point and then we apply it. It's done over and over in the Scripture. But now this point which the prophet applied to himself in a parable and then he applied directly to the king, is not a point which merely applies to Ahab. It's a point which can apply to everyone of us. And as the prophet said, "As thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone", the king saw the point and the prophet said, "This applies to you" and as the prophet said that to the king, the Lord wants us to get the point because it is a point which