

...those on the back row. It is always much nicer to see empty back rows than empty front rows, and I think too that it is..

From Mark's Gospel I would like to read ^{chap. 8,} verses 34 to 36, and when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Mk. 8.34-36.

What shall it profit a man? Profit and loss may seem to us to be something that is important in running a business, perhaps even sometimes important in the government, but when it comes to the person in the Lord's work, you might say, what do we have to do with bookkeeping tables, or lists of profit and loss? Well, the fact of the matter is that constantly in life we have the problem of profit and loss before us, it need not be a matter of money, it can be a matter of something else, but we are constantly in life having to decide what we will do to profit and we will avoid doing in order to prevent losing.

I will never forget an occasion when I had an unfortunate decision of this type. I was in Jerusalem where I spent, in 1929, three months at the American Schools of Oriental Research, and I visited many very interesting places in Palestine, I had very important studies on the spot there, and it was one of the high points in my education, those three months in Jerusalem, but about three weeks before I was to leave that city and return to the United States, I was told that a group of Europeans in Jerusalem, from different organizations there, were planning the next week to rent a boat and take a trip on the Dead Sea, ~~the~~ ^{visiting} the important places on the shores of the Dead Sea. And camping on the shores at night. There were about a hundred people involved, they were going to rent a large boat for the purpose, and we in the American Schools were asked if some of us would like to participate and Prof. Albright, who was the Director of the School, said to another man and myself, he said, here is an opportunity that you rarely get, you will be