

understandable. You have a big vocabulary. You have an excellent knowledge of the language, but I said it is a little effort to listen to you and to get the words you say, and with definite practice on these sounds you could get it so that you would be easier to understand when you speak English, and people could give more attention to the thoughts you present." "Oh, he said, "I'm going to work in China the rest of my life, I don't need any more English. I have enough."

Then the Communists took over China and he could not go back. He went out to Los Angeles and he got a Chinese church there but the people in it practically all spoke Cantonese Chinese, and he spoke Mandarin Chinese, so he could not speak to them in Chinese, so he spoke to them in English! I saw him one time when he had about 100 people in the church, 80 of them were Chinese and 20 of them were Americans. One of those men said to me, Oh his sermons are so wonderful. I just thrill with the Christian messages he gives. But I have to listen awfully close! to understand it!

We do not know what we will need in the future. But every one of us, I don't care what you do, is going to need to be able to speak clearly and effectively. Everyone is going to need that. If you don't need it often there will be times when it will be tremendously important that you be able to speak clearly and effectively.

I had a student one time who talked as if he had mush in his mouth. He was very hard to understand. He was a first-rate student; he had excellent ideas but they were very hard for people to understand because of the way he spoke. I had him in my class and I said to him, Please recite this poem: Thou too sail on O ship of state, sail on O Union strong and great! And speak it very clearly. He learned to do that very clearly. And I said before you speak somewhere just go through that yourself a little bit. Oh, he said, I'm going to be a professor, a teacher. I don't need to speak that way." He learned to say the poem but he never would apply it.

Then he became a teacher in a college. A few students said he has wonderful material. They just loved his courses. But most of the students said, It's too much work to try to understand what he is saying." Soon the attendance at his courses was so small that they dropped him from the college. The tremendous opportunity that man had was lost because he was not willing to work to learn to speak in a way that people would understand and in a way that would be effective.

I gave a course in public speaking once where I had about a dozen students. In those days they did not have tape recorders. But I got some kind of a recorder that would take down what you said. I had these dozen students each read two sentences out of something I have them to read. One after the other, so that we got the whole dozen listening to this recorder. As you would play one of them, the others would say, Oh it sounds just like him! You'd think he was actually talking!" But the one would say, "There's something wrong with that machine! It doesn't get me at all!"