

Prophets (10)

think he is and they probably could as easily throw him out and said, "This is a private gathering and we don't want to be bothered with you right now and we will see you another time," but if they don't do that immediately, after he gets to going well, it's rather hard to do it and note the clever spot here. We noticed the cleverness in the book of Amos, we noticed the clever way in which Amos attacks the enemy before pointing out the evil of the people he is dealing with. The Bible is full of wonderful examples of tact. You can go right up to all the sinners in your church and point out their faults immediately and tell them how they could improve and get them so angry that they will throw you out of the church very quickly. You can do that, if you think that that is the Lord's will for you to do, but the opposite experience is to forget all about their sins and that is much worse, but a better way is to use tact and win their support and approve of that which is good and then find the proper occasion and opportunity of pointing out their own evils and showing them where they are wrong. Well, here you have a wonderful example of it. Here stands Isaiah and faces the nobles at their banquet and he says, "Woe to these drunkards up there in Ephraim who are trying their attack on Judah, trying to come down here and try to conquer this land. Woe to them," he says. "Their glorious beauty is as a fading flower, theirs are the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine," and here are these Judaeans nobles, some of them so drunk they can hardly stand up straight but they think how terrible it is, these people of Ephraim who are drunk with their ideas of conquering Judah, and it's wonderful to have this man come in here and lead us in our rejoicing over the fact that God is going to put to nothing the schemes of Ephraim--of course we know that it is the king of Assyria. That's the way it is going to be done. He doesn't know anything about that but he comes in here and he tells us it is going to be done and that's fine. It helps the morale of the people. It's a good thing all around. We sort of like to hear him say it, so, "go ahead, Isaiah, you can talk a little further. We won't stop you quite yet," so he goes ahead