

Prophets -17-

Yes, Mr.--- To commit suicide in such utter despair in the situation like this. If someone will come in and give them a little sympathy, it is the greatest thing in the world. You say, "God loves you," or "I love you", or anything like that, it gives them, according to this book, a little feeling that they are not alone. It gives them comfort. It strengthens them. It sustains. It's a valuable help. Words of comfort are a valuable help. Now of course, actually doing a thing is a greater help, and it is a part of comfort, and all of the book here is comfort. If God just simply said to the people, "Don't worry. Everything is all right. There's nothing to care about." That would be empty comfort and rather silly. He is comforting them by saying that He going to deliver them, He is going to protect them, assuring them He still exists, giving them proof of His power, giving them proof of His knowledge, showing them how much greater He is than the others. All of these are in a way under comfort. So I am using the word "comfort" in our outline simply for words of comfort where there is not another specific thing added. I don't mean the others aren't comfort, but simply that we are putting them under a more specific title, and there is great value in a statement like "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God." There's great value in such things. We find real blessing from them and often the assurance of His presence, and of His interest, will often be of more actual help to us than the specific physical things He does but it would be of no help if it wasn't that there also are the specific things, and these--they're telling us not to be hypocrites and give people beautiful statements and not do anything for them. On the other hand, if you simply do things for people and don't give them any words of sympathy, you'll find that they won't have one-third of the appreciation they will if you give them words of comfort and sympathy and a feeling that you have an interest in them, in addition to the mere vital act of doing the thing that they need. So I am not meaning by any means that deliverance isn't comfort but simply I'm using the word "comfort" for the purpose of this particular outline for those things which are merely comfort and do not include the specific thought of deliverance, and of course