

'Busyness and business.'

'And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone'

1 Kings 20 v 40

1. These words are part of a parable which a prophet told to a king who had disobeyed God's command. The king's name was Ahaz.

2. The parable is about a soldier who, during a battle was asked to guard a very important prisoner.

3. After a while the soldier grew weary and believing that the prisoner would not escape, he left him alone and returned to the battle.

4. He thought it was far more exciting and important to be fighting a battle than just guarding a prisoner.

5. However, the prisoner escaped. A most dangerous enemy of the people was freed and disaster would soon follow.

6. The point was, the soldier was not lazy or cowardly, but he was unfocused and could not be relied upon.

7. The captain of a ship was once told to go to the Far East and bring back a certain cargo. But he brought back a different cargo which he thought would be more valuable for the ship's owner.



8. The cargo **did** prove to be more valuable, and the captain was rewarded, **but** he was dismissed from his post by the owner, who said that **obedience** was better than **prudence**.

9. It is a noble thing to obey, and to do what we are **called** to do.

10. **Some people will do all sorts of things but they will not obey God when he calls them to repent and believe the Gospel.**