

INTRODUCTION:

Not long ago a 140 page book was written by a French nuclear physicist.

It was entitled, "Has H Hour Struck?" The author discussed the two alternatives of the atomic age - either world catastrophe, or the beginning of a truly golden age. The introduction to this book was written by a great physicist who was born just a few miles from ~~where we are now~~ in the city of Ulm, - and educated in Munich - Albert Einstein.

In this introduction - written shortly before he died - he said, "The power of the atom has changed everything, not only our ways of thinking.

We need a truly new kind of thinking, if man is to remain alive."

"A new way or kind of thinking" - that is exactly what the Bible calls repentance and conversion. The great need of the hour is a new kind of thinking about sin & spiritual things and a return to God -- otherwise the H Hour of atomic destruction and catastrophe may be nearer than we think.

But this is also God's hour.

We have been living in the "Last Days" even since the death & crucifixion of Christ & the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Today we shall notice the first miracle recorded in the book of Acts. In it we see the continuity of the activity of Jesus Christ. He was still at work, and doing exactly what He had done in the days of his flesh.

ACCOUNT OF THE LAME MAN AT THE TEMPLE GATE.

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I. Before you can give what you have you must have something to give.

A. This is true in material matters.

B. This is true in emotional matters.

Some people find it hard to love wife, or husband, or children, or parents, because they don't have any love to give.

C. This is true in spiritual matters.

Someone told how Thomas Aquinas called upon the Pope Innocent II once when the pope was counting a large sum of money.

"You see, Thomas," said the Pope, "the Church can no longer say, "silver and gold have I none."

"True, holy father," said Thomas, "and neither can she now say, "Arise and walk."

The moral of this tale may well be pondered by any Christian church, Catholic or Protestant, that enjoys a fair degree of temporal prosperity!"

If in this miracle we see the continuity of the activity of the Christ, we see also the commencement of activity through His Body, which is the Church. The healing was a direct act of Christ, through these men;

Christ was making contact with human need through the members of His Body.

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II. We Have a Clear Obligation to Share the Things of Christ with those who know Him not.

A. His wonderful salvation.

B. His Word and message (see below)

C. His Name

D. The gifts of the Spirit.

I know of a Name, a beautiful Name, of all names it

that angels brought down to earth; when A.

they whispered it low, one night long ago, to a maiden of lowly birth.

To the One of that Name my Saviour became,

My Saviour of Calvary; when ed van der Westen

my sins nailed Him there, my burdens He bare;

He suffered all this for me

that beautiful name from sin has power to free us;

that beautiful name, that wonderful name,

to that matches name is Jesus.

the converted communist in Amsterdam who had

sacrificed so much for the party,

who said, "I don't think I would have

believed a Christian had I known that

Christian people quibbled so about giving

a tenth to the Lord."

E. The lame man symbolizes lame and sinful humanity, lame from its birth.

1. Lame humanity is the church's opportunity

2. close to, but outside of, the temple.

3. Yet the lame man was not seeking

health and strength but alms.

F. The church's gift is something to cure the crippled condition, to enable the man to earn his own living.

Christianity comes to give men (life)

and put them on their feet, and so

enable them to do without alms.

G. Lame humanity lives with the church to receive

something. Shall we disappoint them?

H. Are we willing to share God's blessings

with those who have them not?

I. If so, we must speak and work

in the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

J. If so, we must go to the side of the

wounded, weary, lonely, destitute lame, sick

and hold out our hand as a redeemed sinner,

and take him by the right hand as a brother,

and lift him in the Name of Christ,

with a personal, immediate, direct contact.

K. What does this wonderful Name mean to you?

song: "No other Name has meant so much to me."