

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.

(To inside)

Cent. Ch. Augsburg, 3 May 64
Norwood Bap. Ch. 9/20/82

II. We Have a Clear Obligation to share
The things of Christ with those
who know Him not.

A. His wonderful salvation ^{York Steniski's}
eagerness to witness for Christ in Augsburg.

B. His Word and message * (see below)

C. His Name

D. The gifts of the Spirit.

"I know of a Name, a beautiful Name,
that angels brought down to earth;
they whispered it low, one night long ago,
to a maiden of lowly birth.

The one of that Name my Savior became,
My Savior of Calvary;
my sins nailed Him there, my burdens He bore;
He suffered all this for me.

that beautiful name from sin has power to free us;
that beautiful name, that wonderful name,
that matchless 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
become 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 fixes its attention on the
church in our day and expects to receive
something. Shall we disappoint them?

III. Are we willing to share God's blessings
with those who have them not?

A. If so, we must speak and work
in the name of Jesus X^t of Nazareth.

B. If so, we must go to the side of the
wounded, weary, lonely, destitute lame,
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.

C. What does this wonderful Name mean to you?
song: "No other Name has meant so much to me."