

actually. He had been invited by a man to come to England, and the man (who invited him) had died without passing on the word of the invitation to anyone else. In those days with no radio there was not the same means of communication so when Moody got to England there was nobody to receive him. He happened to know the pastor of this church and he invited him to preach there, that Sunday.

The young man said, Shall I bring your lunch up to you right soon? No, they said, we are not going to eat anything today. They set to work and spent the afternoon praying, that God would pour out his blessing upon Moody and upon the people. That evening when Moody preached there was a great outpouring of the Spirit of God. A great revival began which spread through England. He has planned to spend two or three weeks there. Instead he actually spent 3 or 4 months. He preached in town after town. A great deal of the effectiveness of his service was due to the fact that these two women, bedridden, seemingly nothing they could do to serve the Lord, devoted themselves to prayer that he would come and when they heard he had come they devoted themselves to prayer that God would pour out His Spirit upon him and use him.

I think that probably saved the decline of Christianity in England-- it was postponed 10 or 20 years by the effectiveness of those campaigns a century ago, that D. L. Moody conducted in England.

Martin Luther was known as a fine lecturer on highly scholarly subjects in the University of Erfurt. He was a member of the Augustinian order. The head of the order in that area was also a professor in the university and had brought Luther there to teach. Luther was very much liked as a teacher.

One day the head of the Order said to Luther, Next Sunday I want you to preach in the Castle church. Luther said, Preach! I never preached in my life. I can teach a class. I can open up the Greek and Hebrew and explain it to a group of students but I couldn't preach in a way that would mean anything to the people there! Well, he said, I want you to preach there Sunday. Luther said, I couldn't preach; I'd die if I ~~tried~~ tried to preach. Well, he said, Die then! I want you to preach there next Sunday. Luther stepped into the pulpit that morning after working many many hours over how to take his erudite problems and things he'd been studying and present them in simple language to those country people.

He thought of illustrations from his youth, and from his poverty ridden early life. He brought these to bear. He became one of the greatest preachers in the world's history. He had not idea he had that particular talent But the occasion came; he used it and he found that he had a talent he had not expected. Everyone has a talent in the service of Christ. That's no.1.

No. 2. The gifts vary greatly but they all are important. I made a statement about a month ago that we are not primarily