

HIGHLY EDUCATED FOOLS

Jack sat patiently (or maybe not so patiently) awaiting the return of the doctor who had examined him, sent him for various test and was reviewing the results. As the doctor enters the room, Jack glances up and notices a very concerned face. The doctor pulls over a stool and sits down before speaking. He looks Jack straight in the face any says, "Jack", you have a deadly disease. I am not going to hold anything back because you need to know how serious this is. The test has confirmed that you have a disease that will kill you if not properly treated. Not only will it kill you, it will also likely spread to every member of your family killing them too. Now, the good news is that there is a cure for this disease. However, you must take it seriously take the prescription offered, fill it, take the medication and faithfully take that medication for the rest of your natural life. The medication is not expensive, though it does cost something. You must also alter your lifestyle to match that which I will show you. If you will do these things, I can assure you that you will live happily for a long, long time".

Jack was at first taken aback by being faced with the blunt and direct truth of his disease, but Jack was a pretty smart man. After all, he was highly educated and worked in a rather high paying job, providing quiet well for himself and his family. So he said, "Doc, give me that prescription and those instructions and I'll take the medicine and follow the instructions to the letter", and he did.

A few weeks later, Jack was talking with a friend who had often tried to talk religion with Jack. After telling his friend of his disease and his dedication to following the doctor's instructions, his friend said to him, "Jack, I am glad that you found the problem concerning your physical condition and that you have agreed to abide by the conditions set forth in order to save you and possibly your family from death. However, I have tried for some time to get you to pay attention to your spiritual condition. I have showed you how sin is a terrible disease that will kill you eternally (Rom. 6:23), which is a much worse death than the physical one (Matt. 10:28; Mark 8:36-37). I have also shown you how your unwillingness to take God's prescribed means of salvation will affect your family, likely causing their spiritual death as well. I have also revealed to you the fact that there is also a cure for this spiritual disease. Christ Jesus died on the cross to remove the

disease of sin from man (Rev. 1:5) and adherence to His "altered" lifestyle will (I Pet. 2:9; II Cor. 5:17) resulting in a continued removal of the disease (I John 1:7-9). And, thus far you have rejected the idea of taking the medicine or altering your lifestyle according to the instructions of the "Great Physician". If you can see how serious this is in the physical world, how is it that you can't see it in the spiritual world?"

It would be good to further this story with an account of how Jack immediately heeded the gospel call and lived faithfully with his family following his footsteps, but all too often this ending would be nothing but a fantasy. All too often, it is only in the physical realm that people use good sense.

Friends, there are many "Jacks" in the world. They may well be highly educated, but they are fools when they refuse to heed the instructions of the "Great Physician". It is true that we should be concerned with our physical health, but it is also true that our spiritual health is far, far more important. If you are not following the Lord's prescription for eternal salvation, don't be a fool, turn now before it's too late.

Tilis

THE ANVIL

Last eve I paused beside a blacksmith's door,
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
Then looking, I saw upon the floor,
Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had", said I,
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"
"Just one," said he and then with twinkling eye,
"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know".

"And so," I thought, "The anvil of God's Word,
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon,
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The anvil is unchanged, the hammers gone".

John Clifford