



WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

WALKING WITH THE GIANTS

MARTIN LUTHER

THE MAN WHO RE-DISCOVERED
THE GOSPEL [PART 2]

Reading: Romans 1:16 - 17

Introduction

- God always has His man/woman 'for the hour' of crisis.
- Consider Moses, Esther, Elijah.
- To initiate the end of the '*Dark Ages*' God had a Catholic priest called Martin Luther.
- NB. God's selections are often strange choices to us and they are never perfect.
- Although they may have legs of iron, more often than not they have feet of clay.

1 Justification By Grace Through Faith

- Medieval Catholicism taught that salvation was by faith + works.
- Indulgence certificates issued by the church could be earned or bought to speed one's journey in the afterlife through the awful fires of purgatory.
- As Luther studied [Romans 1:16 - 17] he saw that salvation was not something we achieved but something we freely received from God by faith in Christ.

2 Luther's 95 Theses

- The unscrupulous sale of indulgences by the likes of John Tetzel enraged Luther.
- He nailed 95 objections to the practice on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg on Wednesday 31st October 1517.

- He intended this to prompt a scholarly debate.
- The theses were, however, translated into German, printed and spread all through the land.
- Luther found himself in the middle of a firestorm.
- Rome and Catholicism were enraged.

3 Luther's Diet Of Worms

- For preaching '*justification by grace through faith*' as well as exalting the Bible over the decrees of the church Luther was excommunicated.
- The pope described him as '*a wild boar in the vineyard of the Lord!*'
- He was summoned to the town of Worms in 1521 to a religious assembly to recant.
- He refused. '*Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God.*'
- He was '*kidnapped*' by powerful individuals sympathetic to his cause and brought in secret to the Wartburg Castle.
- He translated the Bible into German and now all Germany and beyond were seeing the light.
- Millions were saved and subsequently leaving the Catholic church.
- The '*little open book*' of [Revelation 10] was setting the captives free.

4 Luther And Katherina Von Bora

- Luther rejected Rome's insistence on clergy not marrying. [1 Timothy 4:3].
- He married Katherina who was a former nun and they had six children.

5 Luther's Achilles Heel

- When the Jews rejected his overtures to trust Christ he turned against them and suggested harsh penalties to stop their spread of anti Christian teachings.
- His critics would charge him with '*racism*' and some would say he gave Hitler grounds for his treatment of the Jews in WWII.
- NB. His attacks were not racial but religious as he attacked Rome and Islam as fiercely.
- Don't dismiss Luther for this. You don't want to throw the baby out with the bath water.

6 The Death Of Luther

- He died of a fever in Eisleben on 18th February 1546 and is buried in the Castle church at Wittenberg where he nailed his thesis 29 years earlier.

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