

Deep Life

5/11/08

Director: Matt



8:15 Worship Team
9:15 Leader's Prayer

9:35 Greetings!
Open in Prayer – Shaunarie

Worship: (Hannah S pick)

9:55 JH Upstairs

HS+C Announcements (Dana) (3 big, 3 small) (5min)

- Luau – May 20, 6-9pm, \$7. An awesome night of worship and celebrating the year in ministry – plus you get to eat, get a dvd, worship cd, and a t-shirt!
- HS Senior Interviews – set up a time TODAY to meet with Scott!
- College – Monday nights 7:30pm. Tomorrow we are BACK!
- Grow – read your Bibles and walk with Jesus!
- Birthdays?

10:05 Lesson: **Church History: Martin Luther** (Scott)

MAIN POINT: What you believe is important – so know it!

Hook – Have you ever had a verse totally shape your life? (3min)

- Read Romans 1.16-17. What do these verses mean?
- There was a man, named Martin Luther, who was totally shaped by these verses – and actually changed the shape of history.

Early Years (1483-1516) (5min)

- Luther was born in Saxony, and raised deeply religious and with dignified poverty – lived this way his whole life (died penniless, and saw that as good).
- His father saved and paid for Martin to go to the University of Erfurt (1501-5), but he turned away from secular employment and financial security and entered the Augustinian monastery at Erfurt (much to the anger of his father). He was ordained as a priest in 1507.
- Luther was very smart, and he was chosen to lecture at the new University of Wittenburg in 1508. He remained there as a teacher for his whole life. (He earned a Doctor of Theology in 1511).
- In 1510 Luther was sent to Rome – and this was very impactful to him as he saw the wealth of Rome, and its corruption. He saw this as a failure of the church to fulfill the true mission of God.

A Reformation (1516-1522) (7min)

- Luther had a personal struggle – to believe that he was right with God. The monks taught that there was a mystical connection with God through prayer, an intellectual connection through reason, and a practical connection through discipline. All of these are good, but Luther still didn't find he was right with God.
- Luther lectured and preached on Psalms, Romans, Galatians, and Genesis – and in his study he began to realize that we are made right with God through GOD'S work, not our own – Romans 1.16-17. God, in Christ, came close to us!
- He began to lecture on this, but it raised no great commotion.
- In 1517, writing against the bad theology of indulgences, Luther posted the 95 Theses to the Wittenburg Door, and the Reformation was started. Within 2 weeks the theses were all over Germany – all over Europe in a month!
- Luther was then summoned by the pope to Augsburg in 1518 and then Leipzig in 1519 to defend his statements. In Leipzig Luther denied the primacy of the pope and the infallibility of Church councils. Shortly after he urged the German princes to break from the political power of Rome, then he wrote about transubstantiation as unacceptable as a means of understanding communion (or Christ would be crucified every time).

"To transform religious and irreligious students into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ."

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- In 1520, the pope sent a papal “bull” and Luther’s theses were condemned as heretical, he was given 60 days to recant, and his writings were to be burned. Luther, though, burned the bull, and was excommunicated.
- In 1521 Luther was summoned by the emperor to the Diet of Worms. He said unless convinced by sound reason, or Scripture, he could not betray his own conscience. “Here I stand, I can do no other.” (Luther had a tendency to be very fiery in his communication!) Luther was banned by the empire. On his way home he was hidden by the German princes and put in Wartburg Castle.

Later Years (1522-1546) (5min)

- Luther translated most of the NT into common German in a matter of weeks (from the original Greek) – changing the shape of church life (only in Latin before) and even shaping the German language (with the help of others, Luther also translated the OT).
- Coming back, Luther needed to correct some of the “radical” movements of reform – people trying to do away with all order or tradition.
- In 1525 there was the Peasants War, an unfortunate by product of the Reformation, where the peasants, suffering horribly, used the doctrines of Luther to rise up against the German princes. Luther was for them, but urged them not to fight. When they did, he told the princes to be merciful – they weren’t – and almost 100,000 peasants died. This was then used by Luther’s opponents against him.
- Politics were raging (emperor Charles V sent German and Spanish troops to invade Rome, pope Clement VII fled), and the Turks were attacking the eastern border of the lands – the empire needed to be united. In 1532 the Peace of Nuremberg was signed, saying Lutheranism could go on, but not spread. But it did.
- Protestantism spread all over Europe, and Lutheranism to Sweden.
- A few hundred years later, Lutheranism had become stale, and a group of Swedes began studying the Bible on their own in small groups (conventicles), which was not allowed (!). They started a group called the “Mission Friends”. When they came to America in the late 1800’s they changed their name...to the Evangelical Covenant Church.

10:25 Into Groups, College Upstairs

1. What stood out to you in the story of Martin Luther?
2. Most of Europe was changed because Martin Luther took a stand. Do you think that what you believe is important enough to cause that much anger and division?
3. When have you had to stand up for your faith?
4. Do you understand enough about the Bible that you can recognize false teaching?
5. What can you do this week to learn more about what you believe?

10:45 Close in Prayer – Matt P