



Footstep #1 – In the Augustinian Monastery - 1510

“I was a good monk, and I kept the rule of my order so strictly that I may say that if ever a monk got to heaven by his monkery it was I. All my brothers in the monastery who knew me will bear me out. If I had kept on any longer I should have killed myself with vigils, prayers, reading, and other work.” (Roland Bainton, *Here I Stand*, p. 34)

Luther lived in Mansfeld, Germany. Mansfeld was a thriving mining town in the 1480s and is located about 90 miles south of Berlin. Luther had originally intended to study law and many of his religious teachings (justification, imputed righteousness) reflect a legal vocabulary. He received his BA in 1502 and his MA in 1505. According to tradition, Luther fell to the ground in a violent thunderstorm on July 2, 1505 and decided to become a monk.

In the monastery, Luther focused on his sins and spent days in prayers, fasting, and vigils to earn God’s forgiveness. One of his teachers, Rev. Johann von Staupitz, helped Luther to focus on the grace and forgiveness of Jesus Christ rather than on the penalties of his sins. Luther began to understand the importance of a changed heart as a result of repentance for sins.

By 1512, he received his Doctorate of Theology and began teaching at the University of Wittenberg. Below is the castle in Mansfeld that Luther visited as a child and teenager.

