

## Footstep #12 – Shocking Discovery – January 1518

*”Luther had made the discovery that the biblical text from the Latin Vulgate, used to support the sacrament of penance, was a mistranslation. The Latin for Matthew 4:17 read penitentiam agite, ‘do penance,’ but from the Greek New Testament of Erasmus, Luther had learned that the original meant simply ‘be penitent.’ The literal sense was “change your mind.”*

Matthew 4:17 – *“From that time on Jesus began to preach, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.’”*

As a professor, Luther’s sermons had been topical and during the years of 1517-1519, he was not convinced that his parishioners were taking the messages of his sermons as seriously as he would have liked. During these years, the members of the Wittenberg congregation were lukewarm to his message. (Robert Kolb, *Luther and the Stories of God*, p. xviii)

According Dr. Robert Kolb, *“Furthermore, although he may have presumed that his hearers were not all taking his message as seriously as they should, he did have confidence that God’s presence in the proclamation of his Word was conveying his power and promise. He was convinced that God works through human speech as he created it, in its natural forms of communication, to people in a variety of situations....Narrative serves as an effective tool for focus on the concrete failures of sinners, daily life, and God’s concrete plans for their actions in daily life.”* (Robert Kolb, p. xviii)



**Pulpit of the Castle Church (All Saints Church) in Wittenberg. The tomb of Martin Luther is next to the pulpit.**