

Footstep #16 - Heidelberg - April 1518

Luther was scheduled to speak at the regular three-year meeting of the Augustinians. In 1518, the conclave was meeting in Heidelberg. Luther had every reason to fear for his life as “*His enemies were boasting, some that he would be burned with a month, some within two weeks.*” (Roland Bainton. *Here I Stand*, p. 65)

Luther wrote, “**I will obey. I am going on foot. Our Prince [Frederick the Wise] quite unsolicited has undertaken to see that under no circumstances I shall be taken to Rome.**” (Roland Bainton. *Here I Stand*. p. 65)

Luther traveled from Wittenberg to Heidelberg (a distance of 350 miles!) incognito. Luther noted in his diary on the fourth day of his journey (with a sense of humor and sarcasm), “*I am properly contrite for going on foot. Since my contrition is perfect, full penance has already been done, and no indulgence is needed.*” (Roland Bainton. *Here I Stand*. p.65)

