

Footstep #50 A Summary

Thank you for reading these 50 **Footsteps of Martin Luther**. As the author of *Footsteps*, here is what I learned about Martin Luther. I wanted to share my thoughts with you.

1. The church needed God to intervene and open the hearts and minds of the people to His unconditional grace through reading the Bible in their own language. God chose this time in history because people were asking questions about their life and afterlife. God worked through several spiritually inspired men who understood the importance of faith and God's love for people. This Reformation supported the evangelical direction of Matthew 28:19-20 – ***“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”***
2. The story of the Reformation and the teachings of the Protestant Reformers are clear and powerful and have the potential to spark discussions about our lives and our afterlife. Christians in every denomination are struggling with their faith and being a part-time Christian in a society that demands so much of our time and energy. People of faith want spiritual growth but this is not happening for many through our traditional forms of worship in many churches. I ask the question in my own mind, if the forums we have for talking about Jesus Christ have become outdated like the relics and letters of indulgences of the pre-Reformation time? If so, how will 21st century Christians discover the spiritual dimension inside of them? How (or Who) will reveal God's plan for the 7 billion sinners on our planet? Time is limited but the 500th anniversary may be an opportunity for Luther's priesthood of believers!
3. The 500th anniversary is a unique moment in our lives to initiate a dialogue between people of all faiths (Christian and non-Christian) to respect the diversity of our beliefs by allowing God and the Holy Spirit to stir up our enthusiasm for the Biblical stories of how God is part of our history. It may be difficult to understand how Protestant and Catholic Christians are divided over the deepest doctrinal issues on faith and the sacraments that are based on different perspectives of verses in the ***Holy Bible***. We have so much in common, we have little understanding of the teachings of our named churches, and we are in need of pastors and priests to guide us in asking the questions that will help us mature in our faith.

“Because Luther believed in the consistency of human nature and also in a fallen world, and despite his recognition of the historical uniqueness of every time and place, he moved easily between the biblical world and his own. In both he found God eager to speak and desiring community with his human creatures. Luther dedicated his life and his stories to making this happen.” (Robert Kolb. *Luther and the Stories of God*. p. 183 – Conclusion)