



“MARTIN LUTHER” Movie Assignment



During opening credits, you hear the hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" written by Martin Luther. The opening 3 minutes is like a documentary to introduce the viewer to the era. Be patient! It's not a documentary!

- (1) The movie opens in the year 1505 during the time of the _____ Empire.
- (2) Why is Martin Luther leaving law school and giving away all his belongings in the opening scene?

Please note: In one of the scenes early in Luther's time at the Augustinian monastery, Luther is found passed out in his room. The prior says to him that he cannot help his soul by punishing his body. What the movie is referring to is the practice of "self-flagellation" (or self-whipping). Some members of strict monastic orders back in this time practiced self-flagellation where they would fling a whip of knotted cords over their shoulders repeatedly during private prayer as punishment. Apparently, Luther had been doing this during his private prayer to the point of passing out! Yikes! I know this sounds weird, but some monks back then thought that they could share in the sort of suffering Jesus experienced by hurting themselves.

- (3) What does Martin Luther confess is his unpardonable sin?
- (4) Where does Martin Luther go on a pilgrimage? _____
- (5) The movie shows various relics that people could view in Rome that would earn them years of indulgence - or years off of the penalty they would have to pay in purgatory for their sins. Name one of the relics in Rome.
- (6) Luther wanted the Bible translated from Latin into languages the common people could read. True - or - False?

Note: The older gray-haired man shown in Wittenberg is Duke Frederick the Wise. He was a very important man of the time and an important character in the film. He hired Luther to be a professor at the Wittenberg University and to be the parish priest at the local church.

- (7) Verses from what book of the Bible help Luther to see that people are not saved by good works and by their own merit but by faith in what Christ has already done for us on the cross? _____
- (8) Pope Leo X wanted more money so that he could finish building what famous building? _____
- (9) How did he raise money?
- (10) The man in the movie who was selling indulgences to the common people was named John Tetzel. Name two benefits Tetzel told the people they would receive from buying this indulgence.
- (11) What was Luther's intention for posting his 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg?

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(12) What ended up happening to Luther's 95 Theses?

(13) Did Luther's 95 Theses increase or decrease fundraising efforts for St. Peter's Cathedral? _____

(14) Dr. Philip Melancthon and Dr. Andreas Karlstadt are friends of Luther. Luther, Melancthon, and Karlstadt all go to Leipzig to debate Dr. Eck. At this debate, Luther says, "A simple layman armed with _____ is greater than the mightiest _____ without it."

(15) Pope Leo X writes a statement of condemnation against Luther threatening to excommunicate Luther unless he retracted his beliefs. What did Luther do in response?

(16) Luther was called to the Diet of Worms for a trial. (The "Diet" was the parliamentary body of the German states.) Charles V, the _____ emperor, was there.

(17) At the Diet of Worms, Luther was told that he was to be given two questions and two questions only to answer. What were these two questions?

1 -

2 -

(18) Does Luther recant? _____

(19) How does he defend himself? What are some of the arguments he uses?

(20) Charles V declares Luther an " _____ " which meant he was free to be hunted and seized by anyone anywhere and put to death at will.

(21) Who kidnapped Martin Luther after the Diet of Worms? _____

(22) Where was Luther taken by the "kidnappers"? _____

(23) Luther returns to Wittenberg from his hideout. He is angry with Karlstadt. Why?

(24) What did Luther encourage monks and nuns to do? _____

(25) What was Luther's relationship with Katherine Von Bora? _____

***Extra Credit:** In Augsburg, Charles V implores all the German princes to unite against a common enemy who is "at the gates" of Vienna. Who is this common enemy to whom he is referring? _____

(27) Do the German princes unite once again with the Roman Catholic Church? _____

The movie ends with the people singing "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God".
Oh, the drama! :-D

