

things from his experience that illustrated Biblical truth and he presented them to the people. Soon he became the great preacher in the church and the great pastor to the people as well as a famous teacher in the university.

Luther never thought of starting the Reformation. He was simply trying to reach people with the knowledge of how they could be saved. He was trying to help them in their problems. He was trying to get into Romans and the other books and to see exactly what they meant, and present it to the people. But unknown to him things were happening in Rome, things related to Germany. It seems that in Germany there was a powerful duke who had a younger brother whom he wished to be well fixed for life.

The duke had his own large district in N. Germany where he ruled, but his brother did not have any place so he wanted his brother to become archbishop of the city of Meiz. He had two or three other positions he wanted him to have that would give him great standing. So he went to Rome to ask the pope to give his brother a special provision that would allow him to be given these prominent positions,--positions incidentally which would bring him a good income! The pope charged him a very high sum of money for making exception to the law of the church in order to let his brother hold these positions. Then it was up to him to raise this money.

The pope said, I'll help you raise the money. You don't need to worry about that! I will make a special indulgence, an indulgence that will excuse people from everything wrong that they ever have done or ever will do., if they just get this indulgence. He said you can sell these indulgences for a good sum and you can keep half of what you get and give me half! Of course Luther knew nothing about this arrangement. They found a monk of a different order ( a Dominican) who was very good at selling things, named Tetzel.

Tetzel came up to Germany and went from town to town selling these indulgences. He would say, Come buy these indulgences. Don't let your relatives suffer in hell. Don't let them be left in Purgatory. You can get them out immediately. Just as fast as your coin drops into the box their soul flies out of Purgatory! He said these will forgive you of every sin you've ever committed past, present , or future if you put enough money in the box. He went to great extreme in saying what those indulgences would do. Indeed the language of the indulgences went way beyond what was permitted by the church.

There was a section of Germany called Saxony. There was a duke named Frederick in the section where Wittenburg was. And Frederick did not know much about the Bible but he had a great desire to know something, and he was very desirous that the university of Wittenberg that he had given the funds to start-- should be successful and effective. Frederick said, This must not be sold, these indulgences in my territory. They must not be sold. This division of Saxony was a long stream(?) -- the other section just north of it belonged to Frederick's cousin, George.