

Church History Sr. 9

down his face and freezing, with his feet cold from the snow and utter misery showing the depth of his repentance and his desire for forgiveness from the pope. Eventually Gregory let him come in to the palace and he made him bow before him and kiss his ring and confess he'd been utterly wrong and ask forgiveness and said he gave him the soothing words of absolution. But goes on to say that there is reason to question whether his contrition was genuine and what followed, I think, would certainly give full reason to do it because Henry IV now with the full approval of the pope went back to Germany and called on the people to recognize him again as emperor. He promised to obey the pope and the people who had left him because of the pope's opposition came back to him. Then he made a deal with the different nobles and one by one he won them back and when he had every one behind him again he showed more tact in dealing with them than he had before; then he turned against the pope and he came with an army down into Italy, Gregory VII had to flee for his life and Gregory died in exile. Gregory said, "I have loved righteousness and hated iniquity; therefore I die a fugitive in exile," which wasn't strictly accurate. He had tried to exalt the power of the papacy and of the pope, the secular power and he had exalted it to, in some ways, its highest point. That picture of the emperor standing there barefooted in the snow with the tears streaming down his face waiting three days for the pope to admit him is a picture which the Roman Catholics like to think of as showing the exaltation of the pope over all earthly powers, but it didn't make for good relations, that treatment in the time that followed. However, in the short space of less than fifty years by the working together of the imperial power and the Cluny monks the papacy had been raised from extreme degradation to a position where the leading ruler of the day could be reduced to this situation in front of us. So Gregory VII marks a great epoch. Now we will not take the time now to look at the popes during the next century. Remind you, as we noticed two years ago, that Innocent III who reigned from 1198 to 1216 marked the high point of the papacy. This at Canossa was the first/individual