



# Martin Luther

Lesson 4: Not a Perfect Man







# We've Covered Luther's Impact on Reformation

- ▶ 95 Theses
- ▶ Challenging unbiblical practices of the church
- ▶ Stood against the world
  - ▶ Scripture Alone (Sola Scriptura)
  - ▶ Faith Alone (Sola Fide)
  - ▶ Grace Alone (Sola Gratia)
- ▶ Translated NT into common German (as "Knight George")



# There's More to Luther Though...



Tots



Blots



# There's More to Luther Though...



## Tots



Luther and Marriage



## Blots



Luther and anti-Semitism



Luther's support of bigamy

# Luther and Marriage

- Luther led a revolution in family life
- Luther's marriage





# Blot 1: Luther's Anti-Semitism


- ▶ What Luther said in his book “The Jews and Their Lies”:
  - ▶ Set fire to synagogues and schools...burn them down
  - ▶ Jewish homes should be burned down
  - ▶ All Jewish religious writings should be confiscated from their owners
  - ▶ All Rabbis should be forbidden to teach, on penalty of death
  - ▶ All Jewish property should be confiscated
  - ▶ Jews should become the slaves to Germans
- ▶ Context (not a defense)
  - ▶ Early on, Luther was an advocate of the Jews
  - ▶ Later he came to the conclusion that the Jews had rejected Christ, so they were enemies
  - ▶ He ignored his friends who warned him he was coming on too strong
  - ▶ This kind of anti-Semitism was common at the time—Luther did not completely transcend his times



# Blot 2: Bigamy of Philip of Hesse

- ▶ Philip of Hesse
  - ▶ Background
  - ▶ Luther supported his bigamy (1540)
  - ▶ He then lied about it





# What Can We Learn from Knowing Luther's Faults

- ▶ People are not perfect, and God still works through broken vessels
- ▶ We should seriously consider the criticism of others, particularly if they are questioning that our motives or actions are possibly sinful or unbiblical (Prov 12:15, Prov 10:17, Heb 3:12-13)
- ▶ We should not be overconfident in our own abilities or strength (1 Cor 10:7-12)
- ▶ We likely have areas of “cultural blindness” that make it hard for us to see our faults
- ▶ Matt 7:1-5: Log and Spec Principle—We should be careful in the way that we judge others (including Luther)





# How Should We Handle a Case Like Luther?

- ▶ How do with think about him?
  - ▶ Option 1: Write him off as a failure
  - ▶ Option 2: Pretend there was nothing wrong
  - ▶ Option 3: ???