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How Lutherans Engage the Bible
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Welcome/Prayer

Download the Notes & Email me any Questions at arthur.bergren@stpaulswaverly.org

Last Time: Literary Reading

Plot

Character

Setting

Point of View

Rhetoric: Author, Text and Audience

Five Key Lutheran Principles (Review)

1. Law and Gospel

Law: Accuses us and judges us and reveals our brokenness

Gospel: Comforts and saves us. Provides us with wholeness

2. What Shows Forth Christ

Bible (New and Old Testament) is the book that reveals Jesus Christ

Leads us into a relationship with Christ and his people

3. Scripture Interprets Scripture

Contradictions and the need to settle those contradictions

4. The Plain Meaning of the Text

Seek to understand what the original readers understood

Understand the Intent of the Biblical Author

5. Public Interpretation

Biblical Record:

Old Testament: God speaking to Israel

New Testament: God speaking to the Church

God speaks to Community

Origin for all Interpretation is Christian Community

Reformation Day: Our Lutheran History

Focal Point: The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Priest, Professor, Monk of the Church of Rome

Church of Rome of that day was filled with abuses

Building St. Peter's Basilica – Need for cash flow

Selling of Indulgences – Declaration of Forgiveness
Teaching of Works for Salvation
Fear based approach to the relationship between God and the people
Luther – Spiritual Crisis
1505 – Thunderstorm on July 2, Monastery on July 17
Spiritual Fear of God
1510/11 – Pilgrimage to Rome
1515/16 – Studies Romans
Crisis becomes questions
31 October 1517 – Posting of the 95 Theses
Printing Press
Postal Service
1520 Papal Bull: Threatening Luther with excommunication
Protest: Luther burns the Papal Bull
1521 Diet of Worms
Luther refuses to recant
Luther goes into hiding
Luther receives political support
1530 Diet of Augsburg
Augsburg Confession

Our Theological Heritage: Scripture

Saved by Grace (not works) by faith alone (Justification)
Our salvation is a gift from God
We rejoice in that salvation by serving God
Nature of God: Exodus 34:6, Psalm 103:8 and Joel 2:13
God as gracious and mercy and abounding in steadfast love
Nature of God as revealed in Christ: Romans 5:1-11 and Ephesians 2:8
Lutherans interpret all of scripture through the lens of justification

Luke 10: 29–37

²⁹But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into

the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Next Time: Putting it All Together