

Now Staupitz was very fond of this young monk. He thought Luther had great promise. So after a time he sent Luther to visit other monasteries and talk to the monks there and try to help them. Then there came a dispute between some of monks and Staupitz and Luther was on the side of the monks against Staupitz. The dispute had to be settled in Rome. So they asked Staupitz == they asked Luther to go to represent the view of those who were against Staupitz on this question. He went to Rome and he thought there is the Holy City. There is where the pope lives.

He had always heard the church referred to as the pope's house. In Germany they looked upon the pope as the very incarnation of all that was good and holy. He went to Rome and was almost overwhelmed with joy when he saw the city from a distance. But as we went he found in the various monasteries where he stopped he was shocked at the attitude he found. He found that in Rome the priests and monks in various churches would perform the mass and would rush through it so fast, and say the Latin so quickly. The Latin for the mass is so named because the final word of it which is *misses est* which ~~means~~ means "you are dismissed." That's the end of the ceremony. He found that these priests were rushing through it because they were paid for every service they did and they wanted to get through it quickly, and he would give it slowly because every word meant so much to him. They would say, "Hurry up, hurry up you slow German, get out of the way so that we can have our turn and do what we are being paid for." Luther was shocked at the general worldliness he found.

Then he went to the church of St. John Lateran, and there was a section of a stairway from Pilate's palace at Jerusalem that had been brought many centuries before to Rome and the pilgrims went up it on their knees hoping to receive some special blessing for going up it on their knees and saying a prayer on each step. Luther got halfway up and this verse came to him: The just shall live by faith. He said, "What am I doing this? And he got up and went to the head of the stairs, and walked out."

He made his way back to Germany and Duke Friedrich, the Duke of Saxony, the part of Saxony in which Luther lived, had started a university, the university of Whittenburg. He'd gotten Staupitz to be the head of the university. Staupitz asked Luther to come there and teach Bible. Luther went there and taught for a time, then he went back to the university and took a degree of doctor of theology and he came back and his lectures on the book of Romans greatly thrilled the students who came. People came from all over Germany to attend Luther's lectures there at the university.

Staupitz said to Luther, "Next Sunday I want you to preach in the Catholic church here." Luther said "I can't preach; I'm a professor. I discuss the meaning of Romans and the other books." Staupitz said, "I want you to preach there." Luther said, "I can't preach; I've never preached. I'd die if I preached!" Staupitz said, "Well then die! I want you to preach."

Luther thought, "How can I take these truths in the book of Romans and present them to the people in such a way as will get God's truth into their hearts? When Luther began to present it, he remembered