

and got into the Vatican library and they came across them there and they jubilantly announced that all the doctrines that Luther was preaching later on in the Reformation, you will find in these lectures he gave two years before the Reformation began. Well I don't find anything in that to make those feel jubilant who dislike M. Luther but it shows how Luther had the understanding of the Gospel, the understanding of the power of sin, the understanding of the importance of God's grace before the Reformation ever began.

Now Staupitz saw Luther helping other monks. He saw Luther giving great lectures in the university, but Staupitz wasn't satisfied. Staupitz said to Luther, "Next Sunday I want you to preach in the parish church here, in Wittenburg." Luther ~~said~~ said, "Oh I couldn't preach." Staupitz said, "I'm the head of the order and that's my order to you, you are to preach next Sunday." Luther said, "I couldn't preach. I'd die if I tried to preach." Well Staupitz said, "Die then, but I want you to preach." So the next Sunday, Luther stood up and he faced those common country people there and he explained to them the terrible nature of sin and the wonderful grace of God. He looked back on his peasant upbringing, and his experiences as a boy, his contacts with different things of daily life, and he brought illustrations from them, and soon Luther became one of the most beloved preachers in the church there in Wittenburg. Luther learned to be ready to step out and do whatever was needed to accomplish God's work.

After the Reformation began he found that the people needed hymns ~~to sing~~ to sing. So he got to work writing hymns. He wrote that great hymn, A mighty fortress is our God. He wrote the lovely little lullaby Asleep in a Manger, no place for His head. He wrote maybe 100 hymns, quite a number of which are still sung, but those two are found in nearly hymn books today. He simply saw the need and he stepped to work to try to fill the need for the glory of God, and God used it.