

He said, Tomorrow M. Luther will no longer exist. I will be a monk in a monastery."

There has been much discussion why Luther did that. There have been stories that a companion of his was killed when in a thunder storm he was killed by lightning. At any rate some of his companions had died shortly before, and he had thought about the shortness of life and the length of eternity and about what was going to happen to him after death. He thought about his sins and realized he was not fit for anything good from God.

So the next morning Luther disappeared. In the neighboring monastery there was a brother Augustine, a new monk. The older monks delighted in looking down on this new monk, this novice, who had his university training ~~and had~~ which they did not have. They delighted to give him the hardest tasks to do. He would go to the back door of the houses where he'd been the favorite guest, and he would go there and ask alms for the monastery and go around collecting food for them. But he took everything very humbly without the least objection to anything that was done. He was determined to find salvation from his sins.

Never did anyone struggle harder by works to get salvation from his ~~sins~~ sins. Luther would read over the prayer book. He would kneel for hours on end. He would rise in his cell at night and pray to God to give him forgiveness for his sins. When the other monks would come and say, Come, let's go we have a little free time now; let's have a little diversion." Luther would say, How can I. God will never forgive me of my ~~sins~~ sins!" He lay there pleading and seemed to get no help.

Then the head of the head of the Augustinian order in Germany, a man named Staupitz came to visit the manastery. They told him about this brilliant university student who was now a monk and just lay on his bunk weeping for his sins. Staupitz went to see him and said, Brother Augustine, do you believe in the Apostle's Creed? He said, Of course I believe the Apstole's Creed! He said, The Apostle's Creed says, I believe in the forgiveness of sins. Do you believe that." Well, sure. I believe everything in the creed. He said, If you believe that why can't you believe that God through Christ has forgiven you your sins. That gave him a new idea. It took two or three visits with Staupitz to get the real understanding of the idea.

When he came to realize there was nothing he could do, no ppayers, no going through penanee, there was nothing he could do ~~that~~ that would bringhim salvation. He had tried all that and found no relief in it but that it would only be through the grave of Christ that he would find salvation and that he could indeed believe in the forgiveness of sins, he shanged into a very happy man but ahardworking man trying to spread of the idea of being saved by faith.with his associates in the monastery.

Then in the Latin Bible he read this verse in Galatians: The just shall live by faith. He wrote beside it: By faith, only by faith. He'd tried everything else and it didn't work at all.