

Words about John Hus

Born 1369 in Hussenitz (Bohemia) to peasant parents

- Trained for ordination to escape poverty
 - Master's degree 1396 from Charles University, Prague
 - Two years later he became a professor of Charles University
 - 1400 ordained into priesthood
 - 1404 received a bachelor's degree in theology
- Inspired by the teachings of John Wycliffe, 1331-1384.
 - Hus believed in the authority of the church rather than the Pope.
 - Felt the need to reform the church and rid the church of corruption.
 - Hus and other Bohemian leaders initiated an edict that resulted in the removal of many Doctor, Masters and students from Charles University in 1409
 - Charles University lost its international status and Hus became its Rector.
- Hus openly preached against the abuses of the church which made him very unpopular with church leaders.
 - He did not serve communion wine to lay people. That was his student Jakoubek of Stribro in 1414
 - Hus agreed with him but encouraged him not to do it.
 - He preached in Czech but he led the mass in Latin.
 - Taborites were the ones that translated the liturgy
 - He encourage lay leadership in the administration of the church rather than just clergy.
 - He argued that Christ was the true head of the church rather than the Pope.
 - He believed in the authority of the church over that of the Pope
 - He turned to the Bible only to redeem the church to its proper place of authority
 - He encouraged the translation of the Bible into all languages (He didn't do the translating)
 - He argued the clergy should exercise spiritual authority and not worldly governmental authority.
- He was excommunicated by the church of Rome in 1412.
 - Supported by the Czech government, Hus continued to preach at Bethlehem Chapel.
- Hus continued to challenge the church.
 - He condemned the selling of indulgences (
 - No Pope or bishop had the right to raise a sword in the name of the church.
- 1414 the council of Constance was established to end papal schisms and reform the church.
 - 37 years of Hus' adult life there were two or more Popes vying for followers.
 - Hus gladly joined the council
 - He had hoped to convert the assembled fathers to his own principle doctrines.
 - At the council Hus was charged with 39 counts of heresy
 - Hus agreed to renounce his teachings if they could be proven wrong based on the Bible
 - No attempt to secure such proof was made
 - The authorities only tried to manipulate a confession by force.
 - He was sentenced to death by burning at the stake on July 6, 1415.
 - Hus inspired the founding the Moravian church 42 hours after his death (1457)
 - In the 250 years that followed, efforts to reform the church were met with great resistance and Protestant churches began to develop.
 - The Hussite movement lost momentum only after the Thirty Years War

Today we celebrate, with gratitude, the courage, conviction and vision of John Hus as we continue to bring the message of Jesus Christ to a world in need of reform.