

Sunday School

Lessons from Church History

“Blind Spots”

Lesson: In a complex and sinful world, church history helps us to be aware of our blind spots as we learn to live “in the world but not of the world”.

I. Monasticism

- *Intro*

- *What is Monasticism?*
 - 1) Began in 300s with St. Anthony

 - 2) Historical and Social Reasons
 - Impact of Constantine
 - Growing Christian Power

 - 3) Biblical Reasons
 - OT & NT Patterns

- *Branches of Monasticism...*
 - 1) Eremitical Monasticism (Individuals in solitude)

 - 2) Cenobite Monasticism (Communities in Solitude)

- *What are some good things about this that we can learn from? How can this expose our blind spots today?*

- *What are blind spots THEY couldn't see?*

II. The Crusades

- ***What Were They?***

- 1) **1054:** Split of church into East (Rome) and West (Constantinople)
- 2) **1055:** Seljuk Turks convert to Islam, overthrow the more peaceful Muslims
- 3) **1079:** Turks conquered Jerusalem and draw near to Constantinople.
- 4) **Byzantine Emperor of the East (Alexius I Comnenus):** Appeals to Pope
- 5) **Pope Urban II:** Kicked off the Crusades

- ***Four Main Crusades (and many small ones)***

- 1) **First Crusade (1095)**

- Urban II sermon to rescue the Holy City from the Turks
- “Crusades” comes from *Crux*, the Latin word “cross”
- Pope promises care and protection to Crusader’s families
- Pope offers indulgence for those who die in battle

- 2) **The Second Crusade (1147)**

- 3) **The Third Crusade (1189)**

- Saladin took Jerusalem
- Pope Gregory VII
- King Richard I

- 4) **Fourth Crusade (1202)**

- ***What can we learn from the Crusades?***

To learn more:

Ryan Reeves Church History Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/@RyanReevesM>

Nick Needham, *2000 years of Christ’s Power*, Volume 1 & 2

Carl A. Volz, *The Medieval Church*