

The **BACHELOR**

Protestant Reformation Edition

Characters: Martin Luther, Chris Harrison, King Henry VIII, John Calvin, Albert, German Peasants

Chris Harrison: Good evening and welcome back to a very special night on The Bachelor: Protestant Reformation Edition. I'm your host Chris Harrison, and I can promise you, this will truly be an historic night you won't want to miss. Tonight, our star reformer Martin Luther will get to spend time with the remaining contestants, all here to prove how devoted they truly are to the Protestant Movement.

(Martin Luther walks in stage right.)

Chris Harrison: Here he is now. Martin, it's good to see you.

Martin Luther: Good to see you too, Chris.

Chris Harrison: So tell us, how are you feeling?

Martin Luther: Well, I'm a little nervous... because I really want to make sure that everyone here is really here for the right reasons, really here because they have faith in the Protestant message, and not for their own selfish reasons. But, I have faith that I will find what I am looking for in the end.

Chris Harrison: Well let's get started!

(Chris Harrison walks off stage left. Martin sits down in the chair, stage left. John Calvin walks in from stage right, and sits down on the stage right chair while greeting)

John Calvin: Heyyyy, Martin, it's so good to see you again! How are yooooouuu?

Martin Luther: John Calvin! It's good to see you too. I'm hoping we can take some time tonight to get to know each other better. Please, tell me about yourself.

John Calvin: Yes perfect! Ok soooo I was born in France, but right now I'm living in Switzerland, and, ok so this is kind of embarrassing, but I'm like a huge fan of yours. Like, literally, I feel like we have so much in common.

Martin Luther: Really? Like what?

John Calvin: Ok, so first of all, my favorite book is the Bible...

Martin Luther: ...and that is also my...

John Calvin: ...it's your favorite book too, right?! Yes, and also I totally agree that everybody should get to just read it and interpret it for themselves! Like, they should really have Bibles in every vernacular language so everyone can read it.

Martin Luther: Actually, I am currently writing my own transla...

John Calvin: Oh I wrote a book too! It's called *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Aaaaaand guess what! I brought you a copy!

Martin Luther: Oh, thank you I...

John Calvin: It's basically about God and salvation and human nature. Like, nobody can ever gain salvation just by their actions.

Martin Luther: Yes indeed! Good deeds and sacraments are well and good, but they are not what will allow us to be saved.

John Calvin: Right?! And like what really matters is that you have...

BOTH TOGETHER: Truth Faith!

John Calvin: Yeah! And like obviously God already knows since the beginning of time which people He is going to save and which He is going to condemn to hell for eternity.

Martin Luther: Ye... wait... sorry what was that?

John Calvin: And really God is only going to choose a few extra special "elect" people to save, like you and me. The rest of those sinners don't have a chance in... You know what I mean. It's predestination. God planned it all out long ago, and nothing can change it. Speaking of predestination, I feel like we were predestined to cross paths.

Martin Luther: Actually, I'm not sure I...

John Calvin: Listen, I'm planning on making my own government run by religion.

Martin Luther: You mean a Theocracy?

John Calvin: Yes exactly! So connected! We could run it together! It'll be so great! We can have super strict rules and make everybody go to religion class! We can ban all those terrible sinful things like card games, singing, dancing, wearing bright colors or jewelry...

(Henry VIII enters stage right, comes to take over the seat from Calvin.)

Henry VIII: *(to Calvin)* Hey can I steal him for a sec?

(Calvin leaves stage left, and Henry sits down)

Martin Luther: Henry, it's so good to see you. How are you?

Henry VIII: Martin, I'm great. I'm doing really, really terrific.

Martin Luther: I'm so glad to hear that. You know, I don't think I ever got to hear about how you became a Protestant. Would you mind sharing your story?

Henry VIII: Martin, let me tell you, I'm a very powerful man, alright? Very powerful. I'm the King of England. If I wanted to be a Catholic, I could have been a Catholic, but honestly, the Catholic Church, it used to be great, but right now, it's a total, disaster. Very, very corrupt. As corrupt as it gets.

Martin Luther: Oh ok, because I had heard that it had something to do with your wife? There was some kind of issue with your marriage?

Henry VIII: Martin, look, Martin. My first wife Catherine of Aragon, a very nice woman, couldn't give me a son. I wanted to get a divorce, and you know that's supposed to be against the rules, but listen, when you're a king, they let you do it. They just call it an "annulment." Just cancel the marriage. But this Pope, he was very unfair to me, extremely unfair. Wouldn't let me do it. So I said, you know what? England doesn't need the failing Catholic Church. I can run the Church of England, I know a heck of a lot more than the bishops I can tell you that, and I will lead the Anglican Church, and I am going to do it well, believe me.

Martin Luther: Wow. So now you are married to your second wife?

Henry VIII: Well, I did marry a second wife, beautiful young girl Anne Boleyn. But she only gave me a daughter. Only a daughter. No son. So she wound up getting beheaded for treason. What are you gonna do? So I married again and I had a son, but that wife died as well.

Martin Luther: Oh I'm sorry. How are you feeling?

Henry VIII: Sad. But I'm keeping my eyes open for wife number four, and also five and maybe six?

(German peasants enter stage right, come to take over the seat from Henry.)

Peasant 1: *(to Henry)* Hey can we steal him for a sec?

(Henry leaves stage left, and Peasants 1 and 2 try to sit in the same seat and have to share it, with the other Peasants standing behind)

Martin Luther: Wow! I didn't know we were doing groups. Who are all of you?

Peasant 1: We are the German peasants!

Peasant 2: Yeah!

Peasant 3: Yeah!

Peasant 4: Yeah!

Peasant 5: Yeah!

Martin Luther: Oh my! And all of you have embraced the Protestant faith?

Peasant 1: Oh you bet we have, mate!

Peasant 2: Yeah we read the Bible in vernacular German, just like you said!

Martin Luther: Wonderful! Did you find it spiritually enlightening and inspiring?

Peasant 3: Sure did! We couldn't believe all the stuff that was in there! I mean, we DO believe it! You know what I mean?

Martin Luther: Indeed! Like the fact that salvation comes by faith alone!

Peasant 3: Yeah sure but also how everybody is supposed to be giving lots of money to the poor!

Peasant 4: Yeah, and we also couldn't believe all the stuff that is totally NOT in there. You know what I'm saying?

Martin Luther: Ah yes, like the fact that the Bible gives no permission or sanction for the granting of indulgences, for only God can forgive sins.

Peasant 5: Yeah and you know what else isn't in the Bible? Serfdom! I mean, who do these lords and princes think they are, making up this false idea that we should all have to be Serfs?! Where do they get the right to demand taxes from us?! Its unjust, immoral, and un-biblical!

Peasant 1: Yeah!

Peasant 2: Yeah!

Peasant 3: Yeah!

Peasant 4: Yeah!

Martin Luther: Uuuhhhh... I mean, that wasn't exactly what I meant when...

Peasant 5: What do you mean brother?

Peasant 1: Yeah come on! Christian liberty man! Freedom to all the serfs! We're making things happen! We are 300,000 strong!

Peasant 2: Yeah! We've been revolting across Germany all day every day! We're gonna liberate the oppressed masses from their wicked oppressors, the princes and kings of Germany!

Peasant 3: Yeah! And we're taking down the Catholic Church brick by brick! Check it out Martin, we've been smashing up churches and destroying statues of Mary and the Saints

Peasant 4: Yeah! The Bible says "no graven images" so we're taking out these idols!

Peasant 5: CHRISTIAN LIBERTY TO ALL!!!

Martin Luther: I mean, Christian Liberty is really more of a spiritual concept, and we really shouldn't be smashing up churches, or even, for that matter, going against the will of the princes. I mean, after all, if God chose them to be in a position of power and authority then we...

Peasant 5: Wait, are you serious bro?

Peasant 1: You're gonna side with the German princes over us?

Peasant 2: You know those guys are not here for the right reasons, don't you?

Peasant 3: Yeah! They are playing you son! They don't really care about the faith. They all just want to become Protestants so that they don't have to listen to the Pope and give him their money and their land.

Peasant 4: And they don't want to have to obey the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V! They want to have the power for themselves!

Martin Luther: Friends, brothers, please, patience is a virtue. I... I...

(Albert enters stage right, come to take over the seat the Peasants.)

Albert: *(to Peasants)* Hey can I steal him for a sec?

(Peasants leave stage left, and Albert sits down.)

Martin Luther: Wow, thanks. Hi.

Albert: You look like you've been having a long night.

Martin Luther: Yes, but let's not worry about that now. Let's talk about you.

Albert: Well, my name is Albert, and I am the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order of Knights, well... I used to be that is. We were a group of Catholic Crusaders who set up the Teutonic States in basically like Northern Poland.

Martin Luther: Yes, I know the area.

Albert: So, many Teutonic knights individually left the order for Lutheranism, because they liked the theology. So I started reading your writings and I became such a fan, I invited Lutheran preachers into my cities I even dissolved the Teutonic state and founded, instead, the Duchy of Prussia.

Martin Luther: Sorry did you say Russia?

Albert: No, Prussia. P-russia, with a P. Honestly Martin, your message was a God-send. I was losing territorial battles against the rest of Poland and I was running out of money. By breaking with the church, I was able to seize... er... take control of... church assets... er... properties... within my territory, which bolstered... er... strengthened... my military power, and then allowed me to win the war! Plus, now that I'm a Duke instead of a Grand Master Monk I could get married, and produce heirs... er... children..., which I have done! I have founded the House of Hohenzollern, which I hope will one day unify and rule a German empire!

Martin Luther: Wow. That's intense.

(Chris Harrison enters stage left.)

Chris: Well, that's all the time we have tonight. It's time for Luther to say good night, and then make his decision. When we come back, Luther will decide who will receive the Luther Rose, and who is going home. See you then!

