***Primary Source Analysis 95 Theses Excerpts***

Name: Div: Date:

**Background** **and Instructions**: The 95 Theses was a list composed by Martin Luther explaining the problems he saw with the Catholic Church. Read the list below and answer the questions.

21. Why does not the pope, whose wealth today is greater than the wealth of the richest monarch (king), build the basilica of St. Peter (a large church during that time) with his own money rather than with the money of poor believers?

33. Men must be on their guard against those who say that the pope's pardons are that inestimable gift of God by which man is reconciled to Him;

36. Every truly repentant Christian has a right to full remission (forgiveness) of sin and guilt, even without letters of pardon (indulgences).

43. Christians are to be taught that he who gives to the poor or lends to the needy does a better work than buying indulgences;

62. The true treasure of the Church is the Most Holy Gospel of the glory and grace of God (Bible). [not the pope].

66. The treasures of the indulgences are nets with which they [the church] now fish for the riches of men.

67. The indulgences which the preachers cry as the "greatest graces" are known to be truly such, in so far as they promote gain.

75. To think the papal pardons so great that they could forgive a man even if he had committed an impossible sin and violated the Mother of God -- this is madness. Only God can forgive sin.

1. What was the 95 Theses?
2. What does Luther say is the true treasure of the church?
3. What does “inestimable” mean in thesis 33?
4. What is an indulgence?
5. From these, what does Luther think about buying pardons (indulgences)?
6. Judging from all of these, what is Luther’s opinion on the position of the pope?

1. Rather than buying pardons, what should people spend their money on?
2. What can papal pardons do (or not do) according to Martin Luther?
3. Identifying themes:
   1. What do 21, 33, 62 and 75 all have in common?