

Thomas More was one of the most highly respected men of his time. A successful barrister, an honest judge, and a famous scholar, he rose to the highest status of any commoner in England, appointed by Henry VIII to the office of lord chancellor.

More considered himself a loyal friend and servant of the king. But circumstances were to evolve to the point that Henry required a more absolute loyalty than More could offer. When the pope would not annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, Henry divorced Catherine, married Anne, and required that all subjects repudiate “any foreign authority, prince or potentate.”

Rather than oppose the king, More resigned his position, but when he refused to take the oath he was arrested and imprisoned in the Tower of London.

After fifteen months in prison, More was put on trial and convicted on the basis of false testimony.

On the day of his execution on July 6, 1535, he said, “I die as the king’s true servant, but God’s first.”

Thomas More was canonized in 1935. In 2000, he was declared “the heavenly patron of statesmen and politicians.”

You can watch a film about his life, A Man for All Seasons, [HERE](#)