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7th grade chapel message, Oct. 31st 2024

507th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation

Anna- Hello everyone my name is Anna.

Marty- Anna who ?

Anna- Anna Versary

Marty- Your name is Anniversary ??

Anna- Ya, why ? Is that weird ?

Marty- Just never heard that name before, kinda reminds me of certain dates that allows us to remember important dates from the past.

Anna- Right, and maybe because this very day is the 507th anniversary of the date Martin Luther started the Reformation ?

Marty- I thought it was Halloween today ?

Anna- Well maybe it is, Trick or treat Marty, but it is also Reformation Day, and the 507th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

Marty- Halloween and Reformation Day, today ! Now I will be able to remember Reformation Day too.

Anna-Now it's not too often that we have Thursday Chapel on the exact date of Reformation Day, October 31st.

Marty- That is pretty cool, Oh by the way... what is a Protestant Reformation ?

Anna- Well 507 years ago today in the year 1517 a German Monk named Martin Luther nailed the 95 theses to the "Castle Church" door in Wittenberg Germany and thus began the Protestant Reformation. Oh he nailed it alright !

Marty- Nailed 95 what ?

Anna- 95 theses or 95 objections to the sale of indulgences.

Marty- What were Indulgences ?

Anna- Paper documents, or should I say *Papal* documents, sold by the church and endorsed by the Pope that promised forgiveness of sins.

Marty- I thought forgiveness of sins was a free gift of God's grace. **You go Grace !**

Anna- Yes, that's right but people 500 years ago didn't always have that Good News.

Marty- Why not, it's recorded right here in the Bible.

Anna- That's right but most people could not read the Bible for themselves and had to take the church's word for it. The church was misleading the faithful people.

Marty- Well somebody should have done something about that !

Anna- That is where Martin Luther comes in.

Marty- I thought Martin Luther gave the "I Have a Dream" speech.

Wrong Luther !

Anna- You're thinking of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. the famous civil rights leader, but did you know that Dr. King's father did name him for the German Monk Martin Luther. Have you seriously never heard of Martin Luther or the Protestant Reformation ?

Marty- 500 years ago ? That is a long time ago. I do not concern myself with stuff way back then, I don't care what happened 5 centuries ago, how does that apply to me ?

Anna- Well you have come to the right place to learn about that very question. Because, after 500 + years **It is still all about Jesus !** That is what Luther wanted people to know, that our salvation is a free gift, nothing that can be earned or purchased. Did you know that Luther was 9 years old when Columbus discovered America and that thousands of people from Europe were traveling to America to spread the gospel to a new continent. **You Go Gospel !**

Marty- Luther's reformation was getting people back to scripture just in time to share with and sent to America. Exploration of American and the reformation happening at the same time ? What a coincidence ?

I don't think it was coincidence !

3

Anna- Do you know what else ? A short time before Luther's reformation Johann Gutenberg invented the Printing press so Luther's 95 theses and other stuff he wrote could reach thousands of people. **It went viral !**

Marty- Luther and the Reformation happening right after the printing press was invented , what a coincidence ? **I don't think it was a coincidence !**

Anna- Better yet do you know where Gutenberg invented the printing press ?

Marty- Oh let me guess, Germany right ? Same place Luther was doing his thing, what a coincidence ? **I don't think it was a coincidence !** Right !

Anna- Now today we still have many many Christians that still think like the people 500 years ago.

Mary- How's that ?

Anna- Lot's of Christians are still trying to earn salvation and do good works to get to heaven. They think it's all about them. Just as it was long ago it's still true today... 500 years and **It's still all about Jesus !**

Marty- So Luther says salvation is a free gift right ? **You go Grace!** That means what I do does not matter and I can do *anything* I want, Right ?

Luther- That *is* right ! Now tell me what is it that you want to do ?
He really nailed it !

Marty- Mr. Luther.

Luther- You know, Faith alone saves, but faith is never alone.

Marty- What does that mean ?

Luther- We are saved by grace through faith not by our own works so that no one can boast. **Don't you boast !** If you are a saved person you will just want to do what is right like the apples of a healthy apple tree, a Christian will just do good works out of loving response to what God has done for us. If your heart is right your works will show it, like a healthy apple tree that grows good apples.

He really Nailed it !

Marty- Wow this is good news. **Real good news !**

4

Anna- 500 years ago Luther tried to get the church back to the Bible and today the same challenge is before many Christians, some are still trying to earn salvation just like in Luther's Day. 500 years and... **It's still all about Jesus !**

Marty- Yes indeed 500 years and the truth is still the same, Salvation is free, but it's not cheap. **Not cheap at all !** It cost God his only son. It cost Jesus life to redeem us and give us eternal life. **Not cheap at all !**

Anna- The devil still works on us today same as back then in Luther's day. He still tells us... It can't be that easy, we have to do something to make ourselves right with God. It **can't be done !**

Marty- It can't be done ? What do you mean ?

Anna- It can't be done by us, only by Jesus. **He can do it... he has done it...he's the dude alright !**

Marty- So the Reformation is just as meaningful today as 500 years ago.
Its' Still all about Jesus !

Anna- That's right Marty, Luther proclaimed to his people that Jesus did all that is necessary, and it is still being proclaimed today and for the same reasons.

500 years and it's still all about Jesus !

Marty- There is still something I don't get... Those 95 Theses 500 years ago, aren't they just *words* ?

NOT JUST WORDS, JUST WORDS !

Anna- Words that tell us how we have justification in Christ, made clean by His blood on the cross.

Marty- What is jus ti fication ? (slowly)

Anna- Justification makes me "Just as if I never sinned" guiltless before God, redeemed and saved !

Marty- Luther must have been proud of all the words he wrote... The Catechism, A Mighty Fortress, the 95 Theses, but they weren't just *words* ?

NOT JUST WORDS, JUST WORDS !

5

Anna- Luther was an early master of social media but Do you know which words Martin Luther treasured most of all ? *(IT WENT VIRAL) !*

Marty- "The I have a Dream Speech" ?

WRONG LUTHER !

Anna- Martin Luther's most treasured words by far was the Holy Bible

GOD'S JUST WORDS ! To justify us

He even translated the New Testament into the language of his own people- The German Language. JA ! (sign)

To Luther God gave us much more than just words...

NOT JUST WORDS, JUST WORDS ! Words that make us Just before God !

Marty- That was for the people 500 years ago and also for us today !

Anna- Oh Yes! 500 years and it's still all about Jesus, Happy Reformation everyone!

** NEED LARGE EASY TO
READ SIGNS FOR BOLD
PHRASES. THESE SIGNS
APPEAR FROM HIDDEN
PLACES AT THE
RIGHT TIME. ~~YOU~~
SHOUTED BY
~~REPT~~ ENTIRE CLASS*