

7th grade chancel drama (10/30/15)

Channel 7 Action News

Walter Cranky: Welcome everyone to Channel 7 Action News. I am Walter Cranky. Tonight a special exclusive report that the famous monk-reformer, Martin Luther, is coming out of hiding. We have reporters on the scene at the Wartburg castle to get an interview with the father of the Reformation. Let us give you a little background information about the Reformation. Let's go to Anderson Snooper on the scene in Wittenberg.

Anderson Snooper: Anderson Snooper here in Wittenberg, Germany where it all began. Here on this door (Bangs) was nailed the 95 Theses, Luther's questions and objections about the sale of Indulgences. On October 31st 1517 the Reformation of the Christian Church began. Let's let you see what these indulgences are all about. Katie Keurig was in the streets some time ago where Johann Tetzel was selling Indulgences.

Katie Keurig: Katie Keurig here, hey, can someone get me a coffee please...Katie Keurig here listening to Johann Tetzel as he is having some trouble convincing people to buy his Indulgences. Let's listen in...

Johann Tetzel: "Your loved ones need forgiveness from their sins. Those dearly departed will not reach heaven if you do not buy enough forgiveness for them. They will suffer in purgatory until you stingy people pay up. It is a small price to pay for eternal life. For you see "When a coin in the coffer rings, a soul from purgatory springs."

Woman #1: But father, Luther says that forgiveness is a free gift.

Tetzel: Oh my dear woman, do not be fooled. Nothing is free my dear.

Woman #2: Luther says it is, in the Bible...forgiveness of sins is a free gift.

Tetzel: Have you ever read the Bible, mam ?

Woman #2: We don't have a Bible written in German.

Tetzel: And you don't need one, dear lady. All you need is the church and one of these Indulgences.

Katie Keurig: Mr. Tetzel sir, may we have a word with you ?

Tetzel: Oh yes, TV. Johann Tetzel is the name, forgiveness for sale is my game. When money clangs in the chest, another flies to heavenly rest.

Katie Keurig: Excuse me sir, this is not a commercial, and God gives forgiveness for free, it's not for sale !

Tetzel: Who says ?

Katie Keurig: Luther !

Tetzel: Luther-Shmooother...how does he know ?

Katie Keurig: It is written in Holy Scripture.

Tetzel: I'm busy—be gone.

Katie Keurig: Back to you Walter.

Walter Cranky: Breaking news...We just got word that Martin Luther has emerged from the Castle Wartburg. Let's go to Bill Oh-Really on the scene.

Bill Oh-Really: Luther is ending his 10 months of hiding from authorities who sought to arrest and possibly put him to death. Let's see if we can get a word with Mr. Luther. Mr. Luther, could we speak with you please ?

Luther: Certainly...I have been silent far too long !

Bill Oh-Really: What have you been doing these past months ?

Luther: I spent the days in prayer and meditation, but more importantly, I have completed a translation of the New Testament into the German language.

Bill Oh-Really: Why the *New* Testament ?

Luther: Because it contains the Gospel message and the Good News of God's forgiveness through Christ as a FREE GIFT.

Bill Oh-Really: What great news, and an exclusive here on Channel 7 Action News, Now the people can read the Bible for themselves.

Luther: Precisely !!

Bill Oh-Really: Are you afraid of those who seek to arrest or harm you ?

Luther: I cannot be afraid to speak the truth and preach the Gospel of God's Love for us. I must be on my way now... I have an appointment at the printer's shop. Please excuse me.

Bill Oh-Really: Oh yes, Gutenberg's new printing press, what a lucky coincidence that this new printing was invented right here in Germany just in time for your Reformation !

Luther: No coincidence sir, it was all part of God's Plan.

Bill Oh-Really: Well there you have it... the inside scoop from Luther himself. Back to you Walter.

Walter Cranky: We have one more report from Barbara Waiters in Rome, where we will try to get a reaction from the Pope. Barbara, are you there ?

Barbara Waiters: Yes Walter, we have asked to speak with the Pope, but he will not give an interview at this time. He will, however send one of his close associates to give a statement. Here he is now... Cardinal Rizzoli.

Cardinal Rizzoli: His holiness, Pope Leo X, has issued this statement. "We believe Mr. Luther to be in *error*, his teachings and not in line with Roman Catholic Doctrine."

Barbara Waiters: But Cardinal Rizzoli, all of Luther's teachings are supported by Scripture.

Cardinal Rizzoli: Scripture is secondary to the Catholic traditions and the teachings of the Pope.

Barbara Waiters: What about the sale of Indulgences to buy forgiveness of sins...Luther says that goes against the Bible's teachings.

Cardinal Rizzoli: The Pope feels that each person needs to do good works to earn forgiveness of sins, or he must pay for his forgiveness. And how else would we raise the money needed to build this grand Cathedral, "St. Peter's".

Barbara Waiters: Does this mean the Catholic Church will change its doctrine to agree with Scripture ?

Cardinal Rizzoli: We will look for ways to keep the flock together.

Barbara Waiters: Do you think new Christian Churches will be formed now, following other reformers like Luther ?

Cardinal Rizzoli: I hope that God's church can be one.

Barbara Waiters: But what if the church is teaching falsely ?

Cardinal Rizzoli: Our teachings have not changed for centuries !

Barbara Waiters: Well maybe they should !

Cardinal Rizzoli: (angry) I see ! Good day mam.

Barbara Waiters: Well there it is... I think we can expect to see some new Christian Churches being formed here in Europe soon. Christian Churches that follow the Bible a little better than our good Old Catholic church has. We are in for some historic changes.

Walter Cranky: Historic changes indeed ! The world will not be the same, and our church may be getting back to scripture, all due to the bold and courageous actions of a German Monk named Martin Luther. Remember that name folks. I would not be surprised if a branch of the Christian Church is someday named for him. We need to remember, however that we are all children of God. And all we need to do is as Luther says... stay firmly rooted in the Holy Bible. So Long for now and God bless you all.

Walter Cranky: (being handed an update) Hold the ads, keep cameras rolling. This update just in, A camera crew has caught up with Luther at Wittenberg's Castle Church, where he is

preaching at this very moment. He has certainly wasted no time getting back to God's work. Let's listen in...

Luther: For St. Paul writes, "For by Grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God... not a result of works, so that no one may boast." This means our good works do not save us; God's grace saves us by faith...(interrupted)

Woman in the pews: Excuse me Dr. Luther, but if good works do not save us, and if our salvation is a free gift, then we can do *anything* we want and still go to heaven, right ?

Luther: YES, that is right. You can do *anything* you want. Now, tell me what it is that you, a redeemed person, want to do ! You see, faith alone saves, but faith is never alone. A Christian is saved by God's grace, but the good works he does is his *response* and *reaction* to God's grace.

Walter Cranky: Sorry to cut Dr. Luther off in the middle of his sermon, but we are out of time. And it is good that we are, because what more could we add to what Luther just explained to us. Martin Luther just explained some powerful stuff. From the whole Channel 7 Action news team, Good Day, and the Grace of Christ be with you !