

Good Evening everyone! It's so good to see you all here tonight. And I'll get this out of the way now, I'd very much like to invite to my lecture tomorrow night at the library entitled, "The Pope; Satan or just Lucifer's voice on earth." I hope you all can make it! We will be learning all about how the pope is corrupting the faith with his absolutely disgusting, faith perverting indulgences.

I'm sure it's my fame that brought you to hear me this evening. But to be completely honest with you all, I don't really like to talk about it. I'm just not that proud of it. Who would be proud of causing a schism in the Catholic Church? A schism that they started a whole new denomination of the Christian church? Who brags that they ticked off and divided empires and sparked a revolution? Who boasts about starting horrific bloody civil wars? I didn't want that type of conflict when I wrote those theses. They were important to my faith. I was just trying to do what I thought was right. What my faith and convictions were leading me to say. Being born in the heart of Bohemia in the beginning of the renaissance, being surrounded by so many greats, I

know I wanted to leave my mark, that's for sure, but any man would. I thought I could do that being a priest, I thought I could make the world a better place at the university after I got my doctorate, I thought I could bring the grace of God to the common man when I translated the bible from Latin. I just wanted to help. Isn't that what you want to do? Just do the right thing?

But alas, as my dear sweet mother always used to say, "Jan, sweet Jan, if you don't want to be burned at the stake, don't piss of the pope." Such a strange thing for her to say, I.....

Wait. Wait, Wait. I see a whole bunch of confused faces in the crowd. Are some of you in the wrong place? Oh, wait. I get it. You all thought that you were here this evening to hear from your precious "Luther". I'm a literally at my last straw. Some guy does everything I did a century after me and doesn't get burned at the stake and twidely doo it's THE reformation that he gets credit for, and it's his name in every history book.

Well I should probably not get that angry. We do sound pretty similar on paper, and in theology, and in person. But I was born Czech not German, I was born in the late 1300's, around 1370, unfortunately for all of us my dear sweet mother forgot to write down the exact year. Born and raised in the amazing hamlet of Houssine or "goose town" as you may say and it's from there that I received my name Hus, Jan Hus. Or John Goose you might say in English. I grew up poor and decided the priesthood was a good idea and really perhaps my only option. After becoming a priest, I went on to get my doctorate and started teaching in Prague. Beautiful wonderful, Prague. And I'm sure you know how universities are. You start questioning things and I started questioning the pope. I started critiquing the pope, well at that time there was 2 popes, and that's a whole other story, but started telling how these popes and priest, these bishops and our supposed brothers, they were the servants of the servants of Christ. They were supposed to serve the body of Christ not Dominate them. About how we are all a vital part of Gods work in this world, about how God redeems us all through the

work of God. I told of how redemption and salvation isn't something you buy your way into. Isn't something you work your way to? It's all God coming to us and us accepting that embrace.

That embrace it's just so hard for some reason. We think that hug is rather some tackle, some restraint, something that binds us, but no it is embrace that lifts us, again and again lifts us. How great is our God, how amazing is his Grace. How incredible is it that we are all a part of this? Can we even conceive how this divine love is changing our lives right now?

And, of course, Popes don't like hearing those types of things. I should say at least they didn't, I'm not exactly up on the last few popes to be honest. And as these things tend to go, I was kicked out of the church, excommunicated for just speaking about the love of Jesus Christ. And my excommunication lead to a "trial" - where they just announced the charges against me and then promptly arrested me. That was a hard blow. But thankfully I only spent a year in jail, then they burned me at the stake.

Not the way I would have picked for things to go but still. For the sake of my convictions, for the sake of the love of God. I could not let these things just pass. I could not let these people think that their God did not know their pain, that their God was not present in their lives. Let no one trick you into that lie, don't let other people say there is some plan that leads to pain, or through pain, that is not our God.

So all you Lutherans keep on doing that will you? Keep on spreading the message of the gospel. Maybe remember me if it helps, even unoriginal Luther said "Remember the goose that was cooked for the sake of the gospel." We have been given so much and so much is at stake. You Lutherans have been working hard and as in the words of Paul in his letter to the church of Ephesus:

**I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup> so that, with the eyes of**

**your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.**

This is why we believe, yes, this is why we live every day. This power is in us, flowing thorough us. We live because our God lives, we **will** live because our God lives. But for now I must be going. If you'd like to hear more about this wonderful message stop be your local Moravian Church, where the heart of the original reformers still beats strongly. And now, May the peace of Christ our lord and king forevermore be with you all. Amen.