

And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. Acts 18:7

Strange text, somewhat inconsequential and yet, not so much. This was the house that Paul went to after he was preaching and testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. The Jews in the synagogue were angry with Paul, became abusive and reviled him. So much so, that Paul shook his clothes in protest and said to them, “Your blood be on your heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” And so, he (Paul) goes next door. Not only does he do what he says he is going to do. This defines his ministry. And he goes to the home of a man named Titius Justus. This is the only place where Titius Justus is mentioned.

When I read this text, and I do so often, I think of all the students God has blessed me with in my years of ministry. Most of the students, after graduation, I don’t hear from again. This is typical for the teaching profession. We may never hear about how our students are doing 10 or 15 years after they leave your school. That’s one of the reasons teaching is considered a thankless job – the lack of immediate gratification.

But the immediate gratification is there. For we all have had a Titius Justus in our class. The student who learns, grows in faith, graduates and BELIEVES. The student may attend church regularly, and to our surprise, may even help in the body of Christ with the expansion of ministry in his neighborhood.

Whenever we wonder, “Why do we do, what we do, day in and day out?” Remember our student, Titius Justus. Thank God for His Holy Spirit and the opportunity to be a part of this, yes, exciting ministry called, “Lutheran Education.”

Prayer:

Dear Lord,

Thank you for this wonderful ministry called, Lutheran Education. Thank you for sending us Your Holy Spirit in allowing us to preach, teach, talk, and act as the ministers You want us to be in proclaiming Your saving love to our students and families. Forgive us when we miss those opportunities to proclaim and help us to always live a life of gratitude in serving the Titius Justuses, You put before us in our classes.

In Your Name,

Amen

Dennis Jacobson, Principal, Christ Lutheran, Rancho Palos Verdes