

What Thomas Missed

John 20:19-29

John 20:19-21

- “Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ 20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’”

John 20:24-29

- “Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said to him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ So he said to them, ‘Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.’ 26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, ‘Peace to you!’ 27 Then He said to Thomas, ‘Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.’ 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ 29 Jesus said to him, ‘Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’”

He Missed The Joy Of Being With The Lord

- John 20:20 - “When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.”
- John 16:22-24 - “Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you. 23 And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. 24 Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”

He Missed The Joy Of Being With The Lord

- Matt. 28:5-10 - “But the angel answered and said to the women, Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you. 8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word. 9 And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, Rejoice! So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

He Missed The Comfort Of Being With Other Disciples

- Luke 24:21 - “But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.”
- 1Thes. 4:18 - “Therefore comfort one another with these words.”
- 1Thes. 5:11 - “Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”

He Missed The Comfort Of Being With Other Disciples

- Phil. 4:6-7 - “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
- Rom. 15:4 - “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

He Missed The Evidence He Needed To Remove Doubt

- John 20:26 - “And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them.”
- Luke 17:5 - “And the apostles said to the Lord, Increase our faith.”
- Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

He Missed The Commission Given By Jesus

- John 20:21-23 - “So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’ 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’”

He Missed The Honor Shared By Being There

- Luke 8:13 - “But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.”
- Mark 14:38 - “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

What Do Christians Miss When They Are Not At Services?

- The joy of being with the Lord
 - Psalm 122:1 - “I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.”
 - Psalm 16:11 - “You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”
 - Psalm 100:1-2 - “Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! 2 Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.”

What Do Christians Miss When They Are Not At Services?

- The joy of being with the Lord
 - Matt. 18:20 - “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”
 - “The perfect church service, would be one we were almost unaware of. Our attention would have been on God.” (C.S. Lewis)

What Do Christians Miss When They Are Not At Services?

- The comfort of being with the disciples of the Lord
- The evidence needed to remove doubt
 - John 20:30-31 - “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”
 - “The Church is not a gallery for the exhibition of eminent Christians, but a school for the education of imperfect ones.” (Henry Ward Beecher)

What Do Christians Miss When They Are Not At Services?

- The application of the commission given by Jesus
- The honor that rightfully belongs to the faithful
 - James 4:17 - “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”
 - 1Tim. 5:17 - “Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.”

What Do Christians Miss When They Are Not At Services?

- The honor that rightfully belongs to the faithful
 - 1Tim. 3:13 - “For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
 - Phil. 2:29-30 - “Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me”
 - One can be committed to a church without being committed to Christ, but it is not possible to be committed to Christ without being committed to His church.

What Thomas Missed

- By failing to be with the disciples when Jesus was there, Thomas did not believe in the resurrection of Jesus; and therefore, since he did not believe in the resurrection of Jesus, he could not believe in his own salvation and resurrection. He lost so much by not being there.
- “On the most elementary level, you do not have to go to church to be a Christian. You do not have to go home to be married either. But in both cases if you do not, you will have a very poor relationship.” (Kent Hughes)
- “We desperately need the church for love, for maturity and preparedness, for spiritual care. It is arrogant, rebellious, self-reliant, God-indicting pride to conclude that the church is an optional extra to the Christian life. We need everything God designs for us.” (Thabiti Anyabwile)