

## THINGS THOMAS MISSED (John 20:19-29)

### A. Sporadic attendance common problem:

1. Some legitimate reasons.
2. Denominational background.
3. Country churches.
4. Headstrong & Lukewarm-ness.

### B. Two approaches to the problem.

1. God's warnings (Finley: If We Go On Sinning Willfully).
2. Benefits missed.

[What did Thomas miss? **We** don't know the reasons, but we do know he missed something valuable.]

## I. AN OCCASION TO REJOICE

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**John 20:19-20** – Jesus came & stood in the midst, & said to them, “Peace be with you.” 20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands & His side. *Then the disciples were glad* [rejoiced] when they saw the Lord.

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**Prov 15:13** – A *joyful* heart makes a *cheerful* face,

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## A. I saw a lot of cheerful faces last week.

1. Few would miss a chance to be happy.

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**John 16:20-22 (Disciples)** – Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep & lament, but the world will rejoice; & you will be sorrowful, but your *sorrow will be turned into joy*. 21 A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for *joy* that a human being has been born into the world. 22 Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again & your heart will *rejoice*, & your *joy* no one will take from you.

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**Matt 28:8-9 (Women at tomb)** – So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear & *great joy*, & ran to bring His disciples word. 9 And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “*Rejoice!*” So they came & held Him by the feet & worshiped Him.

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[**Thomas** missed a very happy occasion, & so will we! (Psa 122:1; Matt 18:20; Psa 16:11; 110:1-5)]

## II. THE COMFORT OF BIBLE STUDY

### A. Three years the 12 shared spiritual fellowship.

1. But Jesus had left them (momentarily).
2. Was Thomas ready to move on?
3. Weren't there Scriptures to discuss?

a. They were still confused ([Acts 1:4-8](#)).

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**Luke 24:17, 26-27, 31-32** – And He said to them, “What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another *as you walk & are sad?*”...26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things & to enter into His glory?” 27 And beginning at Moses & all the Prophets, *He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself*....31 Then *their eyes were opened* & they knew Him; & He vanished from their sight. 32 And they said to one another, “*Did not our heart burn within us* while He talked with us on the road, & while He opened the Scriptures to us?”

#### WHY THE CHANGE?

**Rom 15:4** – For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through *the patience & comfort of the Scriptures* might have hope.

**1 Thess 4:16-18** – For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore *comfort one another with these words*.

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[Thomas missed an opportunity to be comforted in spiritual fellowship & Bible study, & so will we!]

### III. EVIDENCE TO REMOVE DOUBT

#### A. Thomas lived in doubt for a week ([20:26](#)).

1. His absence weakened his faith.
2. Or was it weak faith that caused his absence?
3. His presence could've strengthened it.

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**Luke 17:5-10** – And the apostles said to the Lord, “*Increase our faith.*” 6 So the Lord said,...7 And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once & sit down to eat’? 8 But will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare something for my supper, & gird yourself & serve me till I have eaten & drunk, & afterward you will eat & drink’? 9 Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. 10 So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants. *We have done what was our duty to do.*’“

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4. We increase our faith by doing our duty.
5. Where do we learn? Assembly!

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**Eph 4:11-15** – And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, & some pastors & teachers, 12 *for the equipping of the saints* for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till *we all come to the unity of the faith & of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man*, to the measure of the

stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that *we should no longer be children*, tossed to & fro & carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may *grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ*.

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6. Our absence is a missed opportunity.

- a. To remove doubt.
- b. To grow in faith & knowledge.

[**Thomas** missed an opportunity to remove all doubt & build his faith in Jesus, & so will we (explain)!]

#### IV. HIS CHARGE OR ORDERS

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**John 20:22-23** – And when He had said this, He breathed on them, & 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.”

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##### A. Great commission in John’s record.

1. A rehearsal of Pentecost (explain).

2. Thomas missed it!
3. Consider what we might miss:

- a. Jesus coming.
- b. Knowledge to prepare for judgment.
- c. Someone’s baptism or restoration.

[**Thomas** missed a very important & special occasion, & so will we (explain)!]

#### V. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HONOR

##### A. “Thomas” – What word comes to mind?

1. Doubting!
2. His doubt was removed.
3. But his reputation remains.

- a. Remove a nail, a hole remains

##### B. Honor [respect, admiration] results from faithful attendance.

1. It's a good thing we "know" to do (Jas 4:17).

- a. Thus the Lord will honor us.
- b. What is our reputation?

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**Heb 10:25 (NLT)** –And let us not neglect our meeting together, *as some people do*, but encourage one another...**NIV** – Let us not give up meeting together, *as some are in the habit of doing*, but let us encourage one another...**AMP** – Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], *as is the habit of some people*, but admonishing (warning, urging, & encouraging) one another, & all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching.

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- 2. Attendance is the honorable thing to do.
- 3. Attendance enables us to honor each other.

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**Rom 12:9-11** – Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, *in honor giving preference to one another*; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

**1 Tim 5:3, 17** – *Honor widows* who are really widows...Let the *elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor*, especially those who labor in the word & doctrine.

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- 4. Non-attenders cannot honor nor be honored.

[**Thomas** missed an opportunity to attain a reputation of honor instead of doubt & unfaithfulness, & so will we!]

## CLOSING

**A. Brethren, let me encourage you to never miss the services of the church, unless God would approve.**

- 1. Don't create the opportunity to miss.
- 2. Put you foot down & tell those who would prevent you from being present, that you WILL be attending & worshipping with the saints.
- 3. Paul said, "*all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution*" (2 Tim 3:12).
  - a. Are you willing to be persecuted to do what is best for your spiritual family & your soul?
- 4. **Don't miss what Thomas missed: An Occasion of Joy, The Comfort Of Spiritual Fellowship, Evidence To Remove His Doubts, His Marching Orders, His Honor.**