

"Seven Things Missed By Thomas"

Text: Jn. 20:19-25

Introduction:

-The Apostle Thomas is remembered by most as doubting Thomas.

-I believe the reason for this is because of fact that he was not with the other Apostles when Jesus first appeared to them after the resurrection.

-In our message today, I want us to look at seven things that Thomas missed out by not being in church that night.

-Thomas is like many Christians whose problem of doubting stems from not being in church and missing out on the things we are going to discuss this morning.

I. He missed the Presence of God.

-In v. 19, it says about Jesus that he "stood in the midst".

-By not being there that evening, Thomas missed out on being in the presence of God.

-He missed out in being in the presence of the Saviour and Creator of the world.

-When a believer is not in church, he misses being in the presence of God.

-According to the Word of God, it does not matter what the size of a congregation is because Jesus promises in Matthew 18:20,

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

-Again, in Jn. 20:19 we are told concerning Jesus that as the Apostles were gathered that evening that he "stood in the midst".

-There is not one recorded incidence in the Bible where anyone ever died in the presence of Lord.

-In fact at Calvary, Jesus died before the two thieves died.

-Why was this?

-Because Jesus hung on that cross between or "in the midst" of the two thieves and as long as Jesus was alive the two thieves could not die.

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-You see my dear friend.

-Jesus is a life giver!!! Amen.

-In Jn. 10:10, Jesus said that he came that we "might have life, and that we might have it more abundantly."

-Today, the reason we have so many lifeless Christians running around is because they are out of church and miss being the presence of God.

So, Number 1, Thomas missed out on the presence of God.

II. He missed the Peace of God.

-We want to notice twice in our passage in verses 19 and 21, Jesus says to those assembled that evening "Peace be unto you".

-We are not talking about the peace that the world gives but the peace that only God can give.

-The Apostle Paul described this peace in Philippians 4:7, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

-Further, the Apostle Paul tells us that this peace of God can only be obtained through our Lord Jesus Christ.

-Romans 5:1, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

-Often times you will hear the Christian make the excuse for not being in church that are going through some storm or trouble in their life.

-And that they will come to church as soon as everything is going well.

-However, what they do not realize is by not being in church they miss out on the peace of God.

-The church is to be a place of peace where we can come in from worries and cares of the world and receive the peace of God.

-In Mark Chapter 4 we have the disciples gathered with Jesus in the boat and a great storm suddenly arose.

-The disciples become afraid for their lives and wake up of our who was sleeping below and cry out to him to take care of the situation.

-Our Lord utters three simple little words, "Peace, be still".

-We are told that immediately, "the wind ceased, and there was a great calm".

-My friend when the storms of life hit, don't let the devil talk you out of coming to church where you can be in the boat with other believers and hear our Lord say, "Peace, be still".

-Number Two, Thomas missed the Peace of God.

III. He missed the Proofs of God

-In v. 20, we are told that Jesus, "shewed unto them his hands and his side."

-In other words, he showed them his wounds, the proof that he was the resurrected Lord.

-Notice what Thomas says in v. 25 - Read.

-If Thomas had been there when the Lord first appeared, then he would have had his proof.

-When the Christian is not in church he misses out on the proofs of God.

-The main part of the church service is to be the preaching and the teaching of the Word of God.

-Why?

-Because it is from the Word of God that we find the proofs of God.

-From the creation to the eternal home of the believer, New Jerusalem.

-It is no wonder that many a Christian gets trip up by the cults and do not why they believe what they believe.

-It is because they are not in church and miss out on the proofs of God.

-So, Number three Thomas missed out on the Proofs of God.

IV. He missed the Pleasures of God.

-Notice what the Bible says about those gathered in v. 20.

-"Then were the disciples glad"

-They were happy and overjoyed.

-Why?

-Because our Lord was with them.

-There is no greater pleasure on this earth than being with Jesus.

-In Psalm 16:11, the Bible tells us "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

-My dear friend when you miss church then you miss out on the pleasures of God.

V. He missed the Plan of God.

-Read Jn. 20:22-23

-Jesus recommissions the disciples and gives them some new instructions.

-He gave them a set of instructions that they had never heard before.

-When a Christian is not in church, he misses the plan of God.

-Possibly, God wanted him in church to hear the message that was specifically for him.

-Please turn to 2 Timothy 3:16.

-When a Christian is not in church he misses out on the reproof, the correction, and the instruction that God has for him.

-In other words, he missed out on the Plan of God for his life.

VI. He missed the Person of God.

-Jesus was there face to face with the disciples.

-They got to talk to him a personal way.

-When we come to church we meet with Jesus face to face and he speaks to us in a personal way through the preaching of His word.

-The Bible is unlike any other book because it is alive.

-It is alive because Jesus is alive.

-We serve a living, risen Saviour who has given us his living and eternal word so we can meet with Him in a personal way.

-That is why the most important thing in a person's life is their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

-When we miss church we miss out on the Person of God.

VII. He missed the Power of God.

-Read v. 22 - "Receive ye the Holy Ghost"

-As Christians we are commanded to be filled with the Spirit.
(Eph 5:18)

-How can a Christian be filled with the Spirit?

-It is certainly not by being of the world and fellowshiping with the world.

-Sunday, has become a day of recreation.

-Christians are out of church and on the golf course or on the boat on the lake.

-Or at the child's soccer game.

-Then they wonder why they have no power as a Christian.

-Church is a place where one can get filled with the Spirit by the hearing the preaching of the Word of God.

-The Bible tells us our faith is increased by hearing.

-Romans 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

-Church is place where you get your faith increased.

-Church is where we hear the preaching of the gospel.

-The Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 1:16, that the gospel of Christ is "the power of God unto salvation".

-Again, one of the main reason for coming to church is to hear the preaching of the word of God.

-We told about the Word of God in Hebrews 4:12 - read.

-So, Thomas missed the Power of God.

-So, we have seen this morning Seven things you miss by not being in church

- The Presence of God
- The Peace of God
- The Proofs of God
- The Pleasures of God
- The Plan of God
- The Person of God
- The Power of God