

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN WHAT HAPPENED SUNDAY NIGHT
(John 20:19-29)

I. Thomas missed out on easing his fears.

- A. Imagine the mental condition of the apostles at this time.
 - 1. The One whom they followed for 3 ½ years has been put to death.
 - 2. It is safe to say they feared the same fate would come upon them.
 - 3. They had the doors shut “for fear of the Jews.”
- B. Gathering together gave them the opportunity to ease their fears.
 - 1. The doors were shut to allow privacy and safety.
 - 2. The first words of Jesus were “peace be unto you.”
 - a. This shows, as in all cases, the Lord knew what was needed.
 - b. Thomas missed out on what he needed most.
- C. Think about the ones who attend our assemblies right now:
 - 1. We have fears:
 - a. There are definitely people here that have fears about their health or the health of loved ones.
 - b. Statistics say that there are those here that have fears about their financial well-being.
 - c. There may be those who have fears about their job situations.
 - d. There may be fears about marital problems.
 - 2. Coming to worship allows us a respite from those fears.
 - a. The doors of our mind can be shut to the world.
 - b. We can have peace of mind when thinking about Jesus and the worship we are offering to God.
 - 3. 1 Peter 5:7.

II. Thomas missed out on evidence to bolster his faith.

- A. The Lord appeared to strengthen their faith.
 - 1. He showed the proof of His death, the holes.
 - 2. They probably felt foolish because of their unbelief.
 - 3. Know doubt this greatly bolstered their weak faith.
- B. Thomas was one who really needed this strengthening.
 - 1. He was the one who said, “Except I see...”
 - 2. What if Thomas never got to see the evidence?
- C. Our faith is strengthened when we assemble together.
 - 1. Bible classes, which many of us miss on Sunday mornings, sermons, reading of the Bible all help our faith.
 - 2. Romans 10:17.
 - 3. So many need the strengthening of God’s Word or else they fall prey to temptations and Satan’s snares.
- D. You might miss out on a lesson or sermon topic that you need if you miss the assembling of the saints at any time.
- E. I have heard people say, “I wish you would preach on...” and if they had been there regularly they would know it had been preached on.

- III. Thomas missed out on the elation of being in the Lord's presence.**
- A. Could you imagine the look on the faces of the apostles?
 - 1. These disciples needed to see Jesus more than anything.
 - 2. The text says, "Then were the disciples glad" - "glad" means to rejoice.
 - a. This wasn't like seeing your dog when you get home.
 - b. This was joy like seeing a newborn child or a loved one pulling through life-threatening surgery.
 - B. This was an opportunity Thomas missed.
 - 1. Thomas had to go another week with his fears and doubts.
 - 2. He missed out on the joy he could have had.
 - C. Think of the joy we miss when we are absent.
 - 1. The Lord is present when we assemble.
 - 2. He was in the midst of the seven churches of Asia (Revelation 1:13, 20).
 - 3. Where else would the Lord be when His people assemble?
- IV. Thomas missed out on the encouragement to do the Lord's work.**
- A. The disciples needed encouragement to do their work.
 - 1. There was no greater task than theirs.
 - 2. Notice verse 21.
 - 3. The hard task was before them, but the Risen Savior was behind them.
 - B. By his absence, Thomas made his work more difficult.
 - 1. If present, he would have been built up.
 - 2. The courage would not be there through the week.
 - C. We all need encouragement from time to time.
 - 1. We need the reminder of what our work truly is.
 - 2. We need the encouragement to bear our burdens and do our part of the work load.
 - 3. We need the encouragement that comes from hearing "job well done" in this area, and the exhortation to do better in another area.
 - 4. It may be that you are not as involved as you should be because you have missed out on the encouragement you get by assembling regularly with the saints.
- V. Thomas missed out on an extra blessing.**
- A. Those closest to the Lord received a special blessing.
 - 1. They received the power of the Holy Spirit in promise (vs. 22).
 - 2. They received their apostolic authority (vs. 23).
 - 3. These were blessings that Jesus had promised them all along.
 - B. Thomas missed out because he missed the assembly.
 - 1. He would later receive it of course.
 - 2. He could have had it sooner and enjoyed the comfort of the knowledge of the resurrected Savior sooner.
 - C. What special blessings do we miss when we miss services?
 - 1. We may miss a prodigal returning to the Father.
 - 2. We may miss a soul taken from Satan and baptized into Christ.

3. We may miss a fellow saint ask for the prayers needed to make it through a difficult time.
4. We may miss a sermon on a problem with which we struggle.
5. We may miss being where we should be when the Lord returns to take His bride home - we don't know when He is coming and it may be while we should be at worship.

From a sermon by Patrick Morrison