



**MISSING
THOMAS**

JOHN 20:19-25

According to Mathew 10:3, Thomas was one of the twelve apostles.

According to the scriptures, he was a committed disciple.

John 11:16

Then Thomas, who was called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with Him.”

Thomas was called:

Didymus – (the twin)

He has also been referred to as “doubting Thomas.”

But for this morning, we would like to think of him as
“Missing Thomas.”

On the first day of the week, after Jesus had been crucified, placed in the tomb, and resurrected, He appeared to His disciples.

They were all there on that Sunday evening but one.

Thomas was absent.

What he missed by not being there is worthy of notice.

Thomas Missed The Fellowship Of Believers.

One of the great Spiritual Blessing is that of Christian fellowship.

Acts 2:42

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and prayers.

We are not to have fellowship with the world.

II Corinthians 6:14, 17

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.
For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness.

Come out from among them and be separate says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean and I will receive you.

Ephesians 5:11

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

The Apostles counted it great joy to be in fellowship
with each other.

I John 1:3-4

That which we have seen and heard we declare to
you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and
truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His
Son Jesus Christ.

And these things we write to you that your joy may be
full.

I Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore comfort each other and edify one another,
just as you also are doing.

I Corinthians 14:12

Even so, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it
be for the edification of the church that you seek to
excel.

Fellowship builds one another up.

Hebrews 10:25

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some, but encouraging one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching.

We should count it a blessed privilege to assemble with the saints.

Psalms 122:1

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord."

Thomas Missed Association With The Risen Lord.

John 20:19

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.”

One way that we have association with the Lord today is through the avenue of communion.

I Corinthians 11:26

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

But the communion service is not the only way we have association with the Lord.

We associate with the Lord through all acts of worship.

Through prayer.

Through song.

Through the contribution.

Through studying God's word.

Jesus is here with us today, and those who are forsaking the assembly this morning have missed a great blessing.

Matthew 18:20

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

What a great blessing it must have been, and what a tremendous joy must have been experienced as they felt the presence of the Lord

Matthew 28:20

Lo, I am with you always even to the close of this age.

Thomas Missed The Peace For A Troubled Heart.

John 20:21

So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to You! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ.

In a world of turmoil, the storms of trial had arisen in the heart of Thomas.

Storms that could have been stilled by the words of the master.

Jesus appeared to the disciples to reassure them of eternal life.

When we meet together, Christ through His word, endeavors to reassure us of eternal life.

John 10:10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

John 11:25

Jesus said to her, “ I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”

John 14:1-6

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

Thomas said to Him, “Lord we do not know where you are going, and how can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Like Thomas, when anxiety prevails upon us, as a result of trials and sufferings, it Jesus who can bring peace to a troubled life.

When we forsake the assembly, we are the losers.

It is when we have gathered with those of like hearts and minds in the name of Christ that real peace can be found.

Romans 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thomas Missed Being Commissioned And The Lord's Instructions.

John 20:21-23

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any they are retained."

Is it possible that God will hold us responsible for the truth we do not hear as a result of forsaking the assembly, whether it be Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Wednesday night, Bible Class, or even a Gospel Meeting?

Acts 17:30

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all men everywhere to repent.

I am not saying there are not justifiable reasons for missing the services of the Lord's church.

There is a difference between forsaking and being unable to attend.

Too often we see people missing the services to go to the golf course, or to the lake, or to a ball game, or just staying because they feel like it. This should not be so.

We have a choice, to attend or not attend. But notice what James says:

James 4:17

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

In the Old Testament, the people of God were commanded to “remember the Sabbath, and keep it holy.”

Could it be that God expects less of His children today?

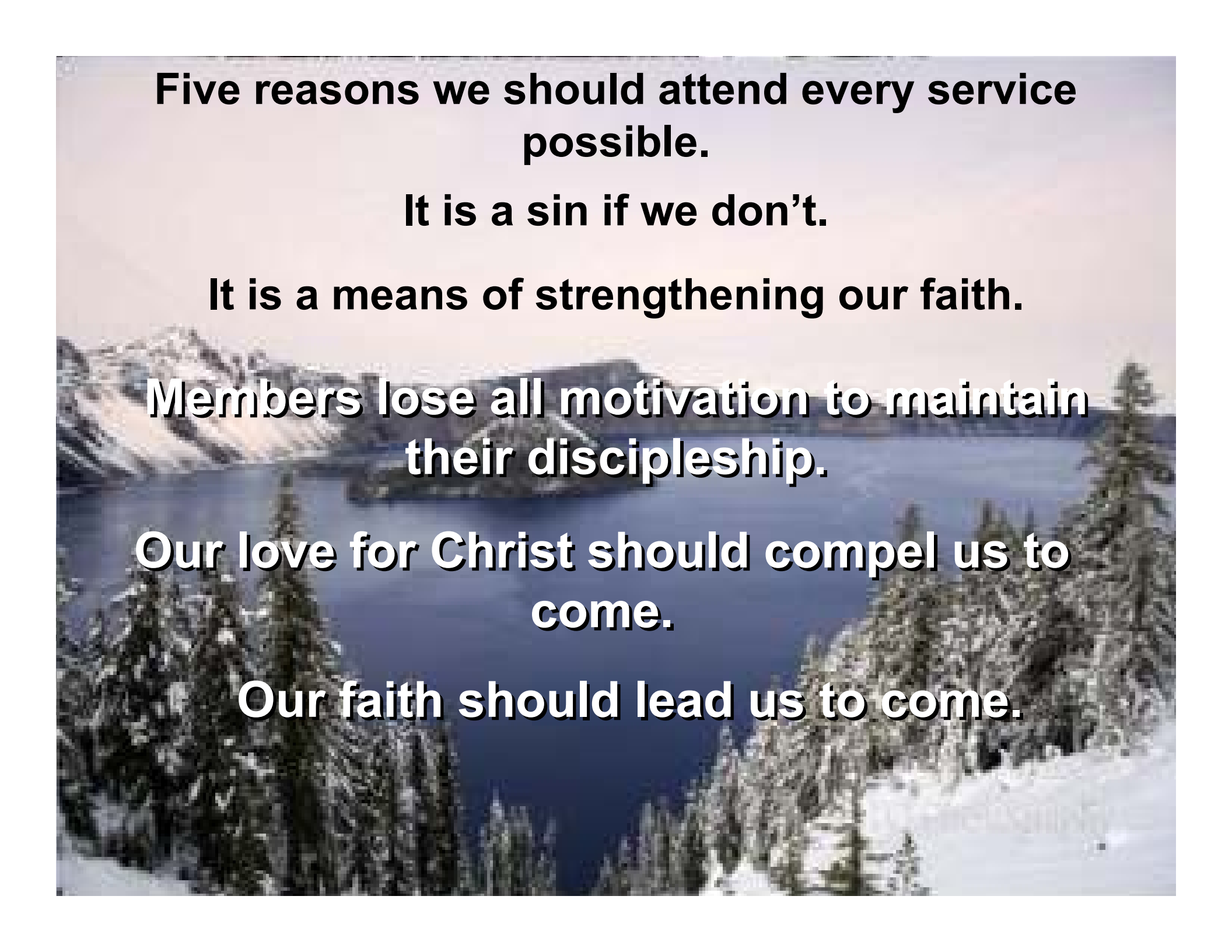
I see the early church as ones who counted it as great joy to meet together to in the name of Christ.

Hebrews 10:25 tells us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. Notice verse 26:

For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for our sins.

It should be said to credit of Thomas, that he was present the next Sunday.

Those who have been missing the services and missing out on the blessings from attending the worship services, should follow his example



Five reasons we should attend every service possible.

It is a sin if we don't.

It is a means of strengthening our faith.

Members lose all motivation to maintain their discipleship.

Our love for Christ should compel us to come.

Our faith should lead us to come.

Given by David Hamlin at the Hollister Missouri
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