

WHAT YOU MISS BY MISSING CHURCH!

TEXT: John 20:19-31

INTRO:

A. The account before us:

1. The glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. The appearing of Christ to His disciples as they assembled.
 - a. The blessing they enjoyed by their assembling together.
3. The noted absence of one disciple.
 - a. The blessings this disciple missed by missing church.

B. The reason for this message - to encourage you to attend church.

1. There are "valid reasons" for being absent in the assembly.
2. There are "poor excuses" for being absent in the assembly.
3. Christ KNOWS every case - (Rev. 2:1-2) - "I know"

C. Now let us consider ...What you miss by missing church!

I. YOU MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH THE SAVIOUR.

A. "Where the disciple were assembled ..came Jesus and stood in the midst" (v.19).

1. Jesus meets with his assembled disciple (Matt. 18:20; 28:16-20; Rev.1:12-13, 19-20; 2:1-2).
 - a. There is a sense in which Christ as God is every where.
 - b. But there is a "SPECIAL" sense of Christ being present when His disciples assemble.

B. The most important thing about being in church is MEETING WITH our Saviour.

1. It is "in the assembly" that we MEET with Christ.
2. It is in the assembly that we "see Christ" - " when they saw the Lord" (v.20).
3. They saw the crucified and risen Lord - and so do we!
 - a. We see HIM in the "preaching" (I Cor. 1:18, 21; 2:1-5)
 - b. We see HIM in the ordinances (I Cor. 11:23-26).
 - c. We see HIM in each other (I Cor. 11:1; Col. 1:27).

II. YOU MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE ENCOURAGED.

A. "Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord" (v. 20).

1. These disciples were discouraged.
 - a. Disciple are going to be discouraged in this world (John 16:33).

B. When you come to church you will be encourage!

1. You will be encouraged by "Hearing & Seeing Christ" - "THEN" where the disciple glad!
 - a. "THEN" you will begin to realize what it his passion means (Phil 3:10-11).
2. You will be encouraged by each other (Heb. 10:23-25; Col. 3:12-17; I Thess. 4:18).
 - a. We meet together because we NEED each other!

III. YOU MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET DIRECTION FOR YOUR LIFE.

A. "as my father has sent me, even so send I you" (V.21).

1. These disciples need Direction!
2. They found direction in the Word's of Christ.

B. We will find direction from Christ's word.

1. You NEED to be in the house of the Lord to hear the WORD'S OF CHRIST (Eph. 4:11-16).
2. It is in God's house that you find out what God's would have you do!

IV. YOU MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GROW IN FAITH.

A. "Except I see .I will not believe" (v.24-26).

1. Thomas needed MORE faith!
2. He missed an opportunity to grow in faith.

B. When we meet with Christ we can and will grow in faith. (Rom. 10:17; I Peter 2:2; II Peter 3:18).

1. Thomas had a second opportunity.
2. You may not!

CON:

A. What do you miss?