

INTRODUCTION: John 20:24; "But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came."

THE MEETING

1. TIME OF THE MEETING: At evening, being the first day of the week. V. 19
2. WHEN THE DOORS WERE SHUT
 1. Many people unwittingly shut the door against Christ.
 2. It was not the mind of the disciples to shut the door in order to bar Jesus from the meeting.
 1. They were afraid of the Jews and acted only in self-defence.
3. THE CLOSED DOOR: THE TRAGEDY OF MANY A LIFE. How this is done:
 1. It may be engrossment in pleasure, in business, in friendship that bars the door against the entrance of the Saviour.
 2. It may be with us, as it seems to have been with the disciples on this occasion, that fear of the consequences of identification with Christ causes the doors to be tightly barred against Christ.
 1. We are afraid of the disfavour of men, and in shutting them out we really shut out Christ.
 3. Chiefly it is sin, sin persisted in that bars the door and shuts out Christ. from the life in which he seeks to be known and served.
4. JESUS CAME AND STOOD IN THE MIDST OF THEM 20:19.
 1. Christ is inevitable, unavoidable, you cannot stop or stay Christ.
 1. You have not choice but to decide for him, or decide against him. It must be one or the other.

WHY WAS THOMAS ABSENT? (The man who missed the meeting)

1. I do not know exactly why. Some reasons may have been:
 1. Because of the doubt that was in his heart concerning the death and the resurrection of Christ. Christ is dead: It is all over now.
 2. Then again:
 1. The roads were bad and it is still raining.
 2. He had a "splitting" headache caused by being out too late on Saturday night.
 3. Unexpected company came about the time he was ready to go to the assembly.
 4. He wanted to go make a call on friends himself. (Could he have been mad at one of the brethren)
2. Perhaps the real reason was:
 1. He was trying to walk by sight and not by faith. (2 Cor. 5:7).
 1. "Except I shall see...I will not believe." 20:25

WHAT HE MISSED BY HIS ABSENCE

1. In refusing to assemble with his brethren he missed:
 1. The strength that accrues to each one assembled. He violated the principle taught in Heb. 10:25.
 2. He missed the first discourse of the risen Lord. Luke 24:44-49
 3. He missed the opportunity to encourage others by his presence. His vacant seat became a preacher. His seat said:
 1. "I will not believe." Verse 25. He rejected the words of his brethren.
 2. Jesus said to Thomas, "be not faithless, but believing." Verse 27