

the missing man

Jan. 20, 24

Who was the missing man? It was not

a. Judas - he was not there to be true but he was not expected

v. Pilate - He had his chance of seeing Jesus

c. Caiaphas - He had stood in the presence of Jesus but had shouted - "Blasphemy!"

Read the text again - it was Thomas.

It is a sad day for any church when the members begin to absent themselves from its services - it is sadder for those who stay away.

Did you notice when it was that Thomas was absent? When Jesus came. Oh he would have been there if he had known what a wonderful service they were going to have.

The service was one filled

1. with present joys

2. with the glow of future possibilities

Jesus came then and always comes where there are hungry hearts.

Why was Thomas absent?

1. not because he was indifferent

2. not because he was satisfied

3. Because he had lost hope

{ He would give story of what he said - Kiss it

Some people are sweetened by sorrow
Some made bitter - "Oh I could curse
God if I knew there was a God for
letting little Mary die." Said a man.

What did Thomas miss?

1. Missed seeing Jesus.
2. Missed the glorious certainty of after life.
3. Missed the Thrill of a great joy.
4. Missed the gift of peace
5. Missed being re-commissioned
6. Missed the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Thomas was not proud of his doubts.
but wanted to be convinced.

After talking to the apostles I can hear
him saying "I will turn my face to the
east for if there is any light I need it"
so he went to church next Sunday

He became absolutely certain and I
am convinced that you may do the
same.

Ill. Horace Bushnell - unbeliever etc

