

Be not faith-less
but believing.
"my Lord & my God"
a true confession

not Present

John 20:24

"Thomas one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not there when Jesus came."

"not present" may mean much when said of some one. when some robbery is performed or when some ungodly amusement is put on.

It may also mean that some one has missed a blessing by not being present.

We have read to-night of one who was not present when Jesus came. A church service was going on and a certain man was not there. He had often been with these people.

Who was the missing man? He was one expected to be present. Our congregation is not always the same. We like the new faces. Many come who are pleasant surprises. But when the regulars - those expected to be there do not come you are disappointed.

The man expected was not Judas nor Pilate. Judas had let money become his ruin. They were ^{not} looking for him. Any man who goes to church to get money out of the members will sooner or later quit coming because some body will get dissatisfied with his goods & go some where else than his four doors and he quits. Pilate was looking after his political interest so he could not go to the meeting (The Plant).

The expected man "not present" was Thomas. At Logans death he said when Jesus started "it grows" let us also go that cut away this with them

not pres. when Jesus came
then came - the church 2 days
when some robbery is put on
when some ungodly amusement is put on

He was a good man but some things had happened to dampen his order. He had not sold Jesus. He had not let the mob hang Jesus. But he had lost his faith. He was discouraged.

He did not lose his faith because he wanted to. He did not want to doubt. Some folk think most to doubt. I am sorry for a man who doubts honestly. There is hope for him.

He was "not present" at very times he ought to have been there. we always miss some thing when we absent our selves from church.

He was not absent because of indifference. But there are those who do stay away for some jobs and independant - push it ahead - then they will want by force. He was "not present" not because he found satisfaction elsewhere. He was most dissatisfied among them. away from the place where Jesus is in no place to find satisfaction. you may try elsewhere. He had lost hope.

But what did the church do? It told him of the presence of Jesus. But he was in despair. Trouble embitter some it sweetens others.

The expected man, the honest doubter, the man with lost hope - the good man. Lost by not being present.

1. Hearing Jesus
2. The gift of Jesus - peace
3. The recommitment
4. Receiving Holy Spirit
5. Giving help to brethren.

He went back to church. He got the blessing.

"Matters not how little you believe if you will be loyal to what you believe - follow faithfully the light I have it will bring I into the brightness of day."

Horace Bushnell did not believe in Jesus while at Yale. He did not go to the way of Renewal sweeping Yale.

"What then do you believe?" a voice seemed to ask.

"I believe there is a difference between right and wrong."

"Have you ever put yourself on side of right?"

"I have not. But I will."

He knelt in his room and dedicated himself to service of right.

Result

After 47 yrs. as pastor in Hartford Conn. he said "Better than I know any man in Hartford I know Jesus Christ."

189