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MAY 2017

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Six Things You Miss

Thomas was not there with the disciples when Jesus appeared to them (John 20:19-24). The disciples had seen the Lord. But there is something to say when we try to explain an experience when the other person who wasn't there. I want to use Thomas as an example of why we should come to church. If we take the last couple services there was so much you missed by not being there and no matter how someone relay's it or explains it something is lost in translation. We live in a time where we have found plenty of excuses not to come. It doesn't matter how we may adjust things, people who don't want to come don't want to come. But when we decide not to, I truly believe there is something we miss about Jesus that we don't get anywhere else. When we come together as the church to worship we experience something with Jesus, something special that doesn't translate to anything else. You have to be here to understand.

So why should we not miss church?

1. *You miss the Presence of the Lord. (v.19)*

In verse 19 we read that the disciples were behind locked doors in fear of the Jews. But it says Jesus came and stood among them. Jesus didn't need a key, he was just there. No barrier can keep him out. When you come to church you encounter Jesus. The fundamental truth is this: ***Jesus presence is the difference between a church gathering or a crowd gathering.*** It's not about the pastor being there, who is leading the music, who is there you like or don't like. It's about Jesus. When you come to worship with the body you are experiencing the Lord who is alive, no longer in the grave.

2. *You miss His Power. (v.19)*

This is after the death of Christ. They have put him in the tomb and rolled the stone in front of it. The simple fact that he is there shows His power. Jesus was given all authority and all power in his position as the Son of God. No power can keep him down, just listen to Ephesians 1:18-23. There are a lot of people who have positions but no real power. Jesus is far above any ruler or authority or power in this world and in the next. We encounter this power when we gather at church to worship. Imagine how it could change your life?

3. *You miss His Peace. (v.19)+.....*

There is no better place to go when you feel weary, sorrowful, weak, then to come and gather in the presence of other believers worshipping Jesus. We are faced with all kinds of situations and the very answer your looking for may be in the sermon you missed! When we miss church we may miss out on the way we will find peace for the situation we are in that day. In the midst of their fear Jesus shows up and gives peace. But remember what Jesus said about his peace: "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be

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troubled or afraid.” (John 14:27) The peace we need in this life is not something the world can give. Even in some of the common things, without God money can buy a house but not a home or money can buy a wedding but not a marriage. God has to put his peace in your situation to make whatever you put your hands on makes sense for you. Peace is what enables us to make sense of who we are. We can be satisfied because who we are is not wrapped up in what we own. Some people live in worry every day because of bills, because of kids, because of who likes us or doesn't like us. David tells us in Psalm 37 “Do not fret because of those who are evil, trust in the Lord and do good.” The Lord is our light and salvation or strength who shall be afraid? When we come to church we come to give God glory and sometimes we can't give praise because we don't have a peace inside.

4. You Miss his praises (v.20)

A glad heart makes a happy face (Proverbs 15:13). When the disciples realized it truly was Jesus they were glad. A glad heart leads us to give praise. When praise goes up blessings come down. You have to praise God like you've already got what you been praying for, even when it's not come, and continue to praise even if it doesn't. You can shout even when the battle isn't over. The Psalmist was glad when they said unto him lets us go into the house of the Lord (Psalm 122:1) Are you glad that you come to church on Sunday Morning? If the Lord wakes me up I intend to give my best praise. You are not showing God some favor by showing up. Even Jesus said the rocks would cry out in praise. Some people in this life need alcohol to make them feel good, some marijuana or other altering drugs to make them feel high but all I need to do is think about the goodness of Jesus and all he has done in my life and I can't help but praise Him.

5. You Miss his promotions (v.21)

Jesus gives a clear and defined purpose for the disciples. Go be me. What I am in the world go also and be. We have to first understand his presence, power, peace and praises before the promotion. The most dangerous people in the church are people who promote themselves and God doesn't have his hand on them. You've heard the saying “Cream rises to the top”. If you exalt yourself, God knows how to bring you down but if you humble yourself God will raise you up. In another way if you stay on your knees you may fall, but if you stay on your knees you don't have a long way to drop, and you are in the position of prayer to receive.

6. You miss his provision (v.22-23)

The Holy Spirit comes to make you live the life you pray about. Christ can make his presence known behind closed doors but he will not unlock them for us. Unless we step out we essentially deny his power to change lives; we limit what Christ could do through each of us. How do you need Jesus to breathe on you today?

Don't Miss what God wants to do through our encounter with Him!

With Love in Christ,
Pastor Jamie

SUNDAY SERVICES

Breakfast 9:00 a.m.
Pastoral Prayer 9:10 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:35 a.m.
Children's Quizzing 5:00 p.m.
September - April 1st Grade - 6th Grade
Pastoral Prayer 5:40 p.m.
Evening Worship..... 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY SERVICES

“Family Bible Study” 6:30 p.m.
1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Wednesday of each month

Missionary Service 6:30 p.m.
3rd Wednesday of each month

Children's Quizzing 6:30 p.m.
September - April 1st Grade - 6th Grade

Check out our Website and Facebook Page at www.annanaz.com



Nazarene Missions
INTERNATIONAL



The international dinner or celebration of missions was April 19th. The leaders were Jason Elkins, Verna Fuller & Yvonne Graham, Carla Ramage, Leonard & Connie Sadler. The message on anxiety was built upon Larry Fullers lesson on April 5th. Esther is a fantastic example of how we should face troubles.

April 24th some of you were gracious to go to the Marion First Church of the Nazarene. Larry Fuller once again served as our faithful driver. If you have never been privileged to ride with Larry, then you have missed out on his hospitality and service. He is always careful to drop everyone off at the door and pick everyone up when it is time to leave. We had the opportunity to hand deliver the cards that you made for Robert and Kolene Hintz.

We celebrated the life and service of Reverend Michael Ice and the legacy that still lives in this church on April 30th. Thank you to Joyce Johnson and Larry Fuller for taking the congregation down memory lane, Jessica Elkins for singing and Carla Ramage for managing another wonderful potluck. I hope everyone was able to rekindle old friendships or make new friends as we shared a few minutes together.

Thank you for the time to spend most of my life with many of you. I have seen some of you grow up to be the adult you are today. Some of you have been with me through thick and thin. Many of you came to visit me in the hospital when I had my surgery. Some have spent time with me in the waiting room for various loved ones. You were there when I graduated SIUE and was denied job after job. You helped shape me into the person I am today. You have demonstrated what a Christian walk looks like and how to form a relationship with my personal savior. I hope there is a place for me in the future. I always saw my future here, no matter how many times I told God I was ready to move on. He has a plan for this church and for my life. With my last newsletter article I wish you all the best.

Sarah Elkins, NMI President

2017 - 2018 CHURCH OFFICERS

TRUSTEES

Brad Clayborne
Matt Macy
Curt Lyerla,
Terry Wiseman Jr.
Robert Smith

STEWARDS

Carla Ramage
Wendy Wiseman
Lea Ann Wright
Lottie Smith
Kathy Modglin

DELEGATES TO DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Curt Lyerla
Tiffany McBride
Yvonne Graham

SDMI DIRECTOR-SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Stanley Elkins

DELEGATES TO SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

Curt Lyerla
Tiffany McBride
Yvonne Graham
Vonda Hill

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

Matt Macy
Carla Ramage
Nancy Smith
Kathy Modglin
Marva Wall
Lottie Smith
Marilyn Elkins

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL (NMI)

President: Tammy Vicenzi
Treasurer: Verna Fuller
Secretary: Carla Ramage

DELEGATES TO NMI CONVENTION

Curt Lyerla
Tiffany McBride
Yvonne Graham
Marilyn Elkins
Vonda Hill

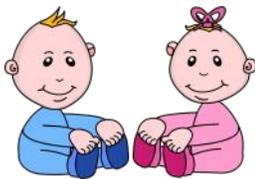
NAZARENE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL (NYI)

President: Randy Wright
Secretary: Abigail Barlow
Treasurer: Verna Fuller
Senior High Representatives: Abigail Barlow

DELEGATE TO NYI CONVENTION

Madison Wright

BABY DAY May 7, 2017



We will be honoring babies
0 - 3 years of age



A gift will be given to the oldest mother,
youngest mother and the mother
with the most children present.
Each mother present will be given a flower.

GRADUATE SUNDAY- MAY 28

**Our Church will be honoring
8th Grade, High School, College and other
higher degree graduates with a gift**



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS MAY 7

Special Music:	A.M. Children's Choir	P.M. Jack & Nina Shepard
Greeters:	A.M. Kathy Papa/Lottie Smith	P.M. Leonard & Connie Sadler
Projection:	A.M. Verna Fuller	P.M. Verna Fuller
Sound:	A.M. Brad Clayborne	P.M. Brad Clayborne
Video:	A.M. Michael Hill	P.M. Clayton Ramage

Ushers: Darrell Mowell, Esten Parks, Jacob Wright, Dorris Johnson
 Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Richard & Yvonne Graham
 Nursery Worker/Helper: Vonda Hill/Marie Mowell
 Finance Team: Jack & Nina Shepard, Carla Ramage

MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS MAY 14

Special Music:	A.M. Mother's Day Special	P.M. Ginger Morrison, Nina Shepard, Marilyn Elkins, Carla Ramage
Greeters:	A.M. Bryan & Ginger Morrison	P.M. Dorris & Joyce Johnson
Projection:	A.M. Verna Fuller	P.M. Verna Fuller
Sound:	A.M. Brad Clayborne	P.M. Stanley Elkins
Video:	A.M. Michael Hill	P.M. Clayton Ramage

Ushers: Curly Ralls, T.J. Macy, Noah Wiseman, Mark Smith
 Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Kathy Papa, Leonard Sadler
 Nursery Worker/Helper: Vonda Hill/Kerri Macy
 Finance Team: Jack & Nina Shepard, Carla Ramage

MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS MAY 21

Special Music:	A.M. Jaida Smith	P.M. Abby Barlow
Greeters:	A.M. Kathy Papa/Lottie Smith	P.M. Terry Wiseman Sr. & Noah Wiseman
Projection:	A.M. Verna Fuller	P.M. Verna Fuller
Sound:	A.M. Brad Clayborne	P.M. Stanley Elkins
Video:	A.M. Michael Hill	P.M. Clayton Ramage

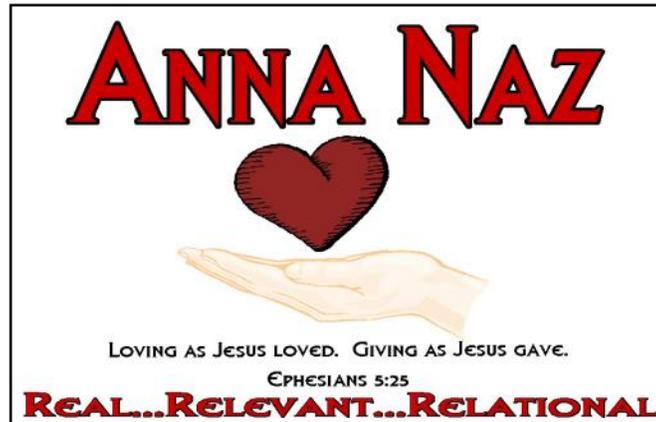
Ushers: Robert Smith, Logan Wiseman, Terry Wiseman Sr., Heath Brooks
 Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Richard & Yvonne Graham
 Nursery Worker/Helper: Vonda Hill/Marva Wall
 Finance Team: Jack & Nina Shepard, Carla Ramage

MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS MAY 28

Special Music:	A.M. Bryan Morrison	P.M. Randy Wright & Johnathon Cauble
Greeters:	A.M. Darrell & Marie Mowell	P.M. Richard & Yvonne Graham
Projection:	A.M. Jessica Elkins	P.M. Jessica Elkins
Sound:	A.M. Brad Clayborne	P.M. Stanley Elkins
Video:	A.M. Michael Hill	P.M. Clayton Ramage

Ushers: Matt Macy, Curt Lyerla, Curly Ralls, Phil Ray
 Pastoral Prayer Partners: Bryan & Ginger Morrison, Kathy Papa, Leonard Sadler
 Nursery Worker/Helper: Vonda Hill/Madison Wright
 Finance Team: Jack & Nina Shepard, Carla Ramage

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Anna First Church of the Nazarene May 2017 Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	4	5	6
7 BABY DAY PM Service Communion	8	9	10 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	11	12	13
14 MOTHER'S DAY	15	16	17 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	18	19	20
21 Pastoral Review	22	23	24 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm	25	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 GRADUATE SUNDAY	29 MEMORIAL DAY Church Office Closed	30	31 Family Bible Study 6:30 pm			