

# Honouring The House

Last week Sam spoke about '**Focusing on Jesus**' Today i want to help us to make that a reality when the rubber hits the road....

**Why is Focus on Jesus important?** Because we need to know where we are going! This might seem obvious but it needs to be said... just so that there is no doubt or confusion about it!....

if you give somebody a rifle or Bow... what are they going to hit? They will hit what they aim at... and how accurately they will do that is determined by their ability to focus.

We see this in other ways too. I was walking down the road the other day and the traffic was moving off after the gates had gone up... on man was driving along (phone in both hands...Texting) I waved at him... it caught his attention & he threw the phone down.' Texting & driving don't mix! Sadly many accidents and even deaths have been caused by people using their phone at the wheel.

When you go out in your car you usually know where you're going. You have an destination you want to go to. You need to Focus on in order to get to where you want to be.

**Heb 3:1 Hybrid** *Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus... He's the centrepiece of everything we believe...*

So That's something we need to ask ourselves not only individually but also as a church. I'm thinking of one of the Songs we sing.... '**My Focus is Jesus...** Who's the Alpha and Omega..

*2 Cor 4:18 NIV So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

**I have been thinking & reading a lot about the early church** over the last week or so... looking at what they did when they met together.... One thing has stood out. Let's look happened in that first week after the resurrection...

**John 20:19-29 NiRV** *On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the Jews. Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, "May peace be with you!"*

*Then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were very happy when they saw the Lord.*

*Again Jesus said, "May peace be with you! The Father has sent me. So now I am sending you." He then breathed on them. **He said,** "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."*

**Thomas** was one of the Twelve. He was also called Didymus. **He was** not with the other disciples when Jesus came.

This is the first time Jesus appeared to the gathered disciples....

All Except Thomas... who was absent... and he missed so much.....Due to his absence from that Gathering, he really lacked something. This chapter is full of glorious revelation....but Thomas missed it all. !

### What Thomas Missed...

- A Chance to SEE Jesus
- A chance to BE WITH Jesus
- A JOYFUL time with the other disciples
- The PEACE Jesus gives
- The IMPARTATION of the Holy Spirit.
- A chance for his FAITH TO BE STRENGTHENED
- The GREAT COMMISSION to PREACH THE GOSPEL

He was saved.. and he was a brother... but because he missed that meeting, he missed a great deal!

Every time we meet together we experience something of Jesus presence with us... His appearing.... But if you're not here... you will miss it! 'I don't want YOU to miss out on the Lord's appearing.

You can enjoy a good video sermon at home.... but it's only you....

Some will say. *'we should meet in homes like the early church did....* Well yes, in the first few weeks of the early church they did meet this way when numbers were small.... But who do you know that's got a house big enough for 50 people to meet... let alone 500 we are told that Jesus appeared to at one time.?

The Early church very soon began to meet in larger places. Within a month there were at least 8000 believers... so did they miss out because they weren't in the upper room house-group... Absolutely not. In reality the venue is unimportant. The FOCUS is Jesus.

Together, where two or three... or more.. 'gather' Jesus shows up... he's right there in the midst of it.... Praise & worship, Celebration singing, prayer, power, with prophetic words, revelations & insights, teaching, encouragement, friendship, support, & fellowship. These were the things the early church experienced when they met... but that was the Key... They Met.... Together because they were committed & focused on Jesus.

More than anything else when they met they wanted to meet with Jesus. That Was their focus.

**The true worth of a man is to be measured by the objects he pursues.** - Marcus Aurelius

What are You pursuing?

**1 Cor 2:2 Hybrid**      *I made up my mind to focus on only one thing while I was with you. That one thing was Jesus Christ and his death on the cross... Jesus and who he is; then Jesus and what he did—Jesus crucified. MSG*

Thinking about this area of commitment Jesus... how is it expressed? It's not only a personal, one on one relationship but also a corporate one with the Church... The Church is Body of Jesus Christ.

The body of Christ is represented by believers... to Value the body is to Value Jesus.

Do you VALUE the Church... What is worth to you.?

Is it Worthy of...

- Your LOYALTY
- Your FINANCIAL SUPPORT
- Your PRAYER
- Your ATTENDANCE
- Your SERVICE

Recently my family have been concerned for our future well-being. They suggested that we move closer to where they live... we said we would look at their suggestions... and think, pray about it. So we did. We looked at several possibilities...

But we also looked at what we would have to leave. We have lived in our flat for 40 years. All our friends & close relationships are in this area. This is where the church we have been part of,

We decided against moving.... Because This is the house we invested the greater part of our lives in... have served in sown seed in... and this is where I want to see the harvest I have taken part in sowing.... I Value this house... I value its Pastor & leaders... I value the people who come here.

'If you too value this house... you will want to serve it.' Because it is part of the Body of Christ.

In a physical body If the WILL doesn't tell the muscles 'exercise' then they will over time become weak to the point that it affects the heart... you get out of breath easily... your heart beats faster... or perhaps unevenly... you feel lethargic..

If you go without proper food & exercise or healthy relationships for a prolonged period the body can become sick... the heart may no longer supply adequate blood to the brain which may lead to death.

I don't know about you.... I look forward to being with the Lord.... WHEN I DIE... but i'm not in a rush to do that! Right now I'm focussed on what God has for us this year... I'm looking forward & working for, praying for... a supernatural breakthrough this year in the Lighthouse.

How's it going to be done? We have to take a step of Faith.

God rarely tells us to take leaps of faith; rather, he asks us to take Steps of Faith... small steps that grow larger as our faith grows larger.

But I have to... you have to... We have too... **take the first step** to get to all the other steps!

'You don't have to see the whole staircase.... **To take the first step.**

Once you make that first step, more faith will come. Because every journey begins with a single step!

It doesn't have to be a big step, but it does have to be taken...

**Phil 3:13-14 Hybrid** *I'm focussing on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I move on toward the goal to win the prize. God has appointed me to win it. The heavenly prize is Christ Jesus himself. I'm off and running, **and I'm not turning back.***