

JESUS IN THE SYNAGOGUE Text: Luke 4:16–22

Three Reasons to Attend Every Worship Assembly We Can

Introduction:

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1. Jim and Nadine used to volunteer at the hospital... and Jim invited a woman there to worship services, but she said: My parents made us go to church every Sunday, so I told myself when I get older I'm never going to church...
 2. Jim said, I know what you mean... My parents made us bathe every week... and I told myself, when I get older I'm never going to bathe again
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I. WHY DID JESUS ATTEND WEEKLY WORSHIP?

A. JESUS GREW UP IN NAZARETH...

1. Nazareth was a small, working class village in Galilee...
2. This is where Jesus was brought up...
3. and this is where It was His custom to worship in the Synagogue (Lk 4:16)

B. BUT WHY DID JESUS ATTEND WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES?

1. Remember that In those days It was the Scribes & Pharisees who were the Chief Teachers of the Law—
 - a) They did the majority of the teaching...
 - b) Conducted the Worship Services...
 - c) and held the leadership positions of Synagogues
2. There Were Also False Beliefs About the Messiah and His Mission...
 - a) We Know That By The Reaction of This Synagogue to Jesus Sermon!
 - b) They Were Looking for an Earthly King to Overthrow Rome and Free Them...
Rather than a Spiritual Kingdom with an Eternal King.
3. Jesus Would've Known... Their Lack of Spiritual Understanding...
or their Racial Prejudices against Gentiles...
 - a) Or the Hypocrisy of the Teachers and Leaders..
 - b) or Luke Warm Hearts of the People
 - c) Jesus Would've Known Everything!
4. Couldn't Jesus Have Just Stayed Home?
 - a) 'I already Know All That Stuff' Or, 'It's Just a Buch of Hypocrites Down There'
 - b) Or, They Don't Understand the Bible Correctly, Or, I Don't Like the Attitude of Some
5. But Jesus Also Knew Those Who Wanted to Honor God in Worship
 - a) Like The Widow Who Gave Her Last Cent... the Humble... the Merciful...
 - b) The Discouraged and Downtrodden... The Poor in Spirit and those Who Mourned
 - c) Those Who Hungered and Thirst for Righteousness
6. Jesus worshipped God with the assembly in the synagogue in Nazareth
even though He would've perceived it was far from perfect!
Jesus Chose to Honor God in Worship

II. WHY SHOULD WE ATTEND WEEKLY WORSHIP?

Let's Look At 3 CRITICAL REASONS Why WE Should Attend Every Worship Assembly We Can

A. FOR THE LORD...

1. WE ARE HERE TO HONOR GOD IN WORSHIP...

a) **During the Week we are working and busy and burdened...**

- (1) But This is When We Gather to Honor God
- (2) For Who He is and What He Has Done for Us

b) **This is the Example Jesus Gave Us—(Lk 4:16)**

- (1) AT THE TEMPLE: Jesus attended every major Feast at the Temple: to the Feast Days, the Passover, Pentecost— Even Traveling on Foot
- (2) IN THE SYNAGOGUE: Matthew 4:23; 9:35; Luke 4:16
–Jesus worshipped God with the assembly in the synagogue, even though He would've perceived it was far from perfect,
- (3) WITH HIS DISCIPLES: On the 1st day of the week after His resurrection.

c) **We Are Not Here Because Christians are Perfect—they're not...**

We Are Here to Honor God Who is Holy...

Illust. Lisa's Grandfather lived in a small town in Illinois, and the congregation was small and the preacher's sermons were so boring that he couldn't stand it... He thought his attitude may be wrong so he decided to devote 110% to concentrating on the sermon... he said that preacher preached some of the best sermons he'd ever heard when he actually listened!

2. THE LORD COMMANDS US TO ASSEMBLE

a) **The Lord Commands Us to Assemble on the First Day of the Week**

- (1) **(Acts 20:7)** The Lord's Supper Communion is a Memorial
Jesus said: "**Do This in Remembrance of Me**"
- (2) **(1 Corinthians 16:1–2)** Paul gave this instruction because they were gathering on the first day of week already

b) **In the OT Jews Observed the Sabbath—the Last Day of the Week...**

but in the N.T. We're Commanded to Assemble on the First Day of the Week

- (1) In Fact, After Jesus Rose from the Grave on Sunday Morning, Jesus Assembled on the 1st Day of the Week with His disciples!

c) **Thomas Missed 1 Sunday—Just one...**

and it Weakened His Faith & Hindered His Spiritual Growth!!

- (1) **(John 20:19–29)** Thomas Wasn't There...
- (2) His Faith Was Weakened—B/C He still doubted the truth of His Resurrection
- (3) His Spiritual Growth Was Hindered—Because He didn't Receive the HS

d) **(Hebrews 10:25) The Lord Commands that we Assemble for Worship**

3. OUR LOVE FOR CHRIST COMPELS US

a) Jesus: "**If you love me, you will keep my commandments**" **(Jn 14:15, 23)**

b) It Was His Love For US that He Went to the Cross...

c) His Blood shed at the Cross Purchased the Church **(Revelation 5:9–10)**

This is the worship around the throne in heaven!

The 2nd Reason Why We Should Attend Every Worship Assembly We Can

B. FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS...

1. GOD DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS INTO HIS KINGDOM (Colossians 1:12–14)

- a) But Not to Be Anti-social Isolationists—or Face Life Alone...
or to be Free-Range Christians [*would you want a free-range wife?*]
- b) But to be a Family of God, the Kingdom of God, the Pillar and Ground of Truth!
- c) (Acts 2:41–42; 46-47)

2. PAUL CALLS THE CHURCH THE BODY OF CHRIST...

Where each member of the body of Christ does its's share (1 Cor 12:12–22)

→ But imagine what the Body of Christ is like if half of the body no longer functions

- a) Like a stroke victim who cannot use one side of there face, or arm or leg
- b) So the church just limps along like the body of Christ had a stoke
- c) Is That How We Present Christ to the World? As a Stroke Victim?
- d) Does That Bring Honor or Dishonor to Christ in our lives?

3. WE ARE CALLED TO ASSEMBLE TOGETHER IN WORSHIP... AND HELP ONE ANOTHER THROUGH THE WEEK...

- Encourage One Another • Pray for One Another
- Rejoice with One Another • Weep w/ one another
- Forgive One Another • Build One Another Up in the Holy Faith
- Help One Another in the Battle! • Lift One Another Up

(Phil 2:2-4) fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. ³ Let nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

The 3rd Reason Why We Should Attend Every Worship Assembly We Can

C. FOR YOUR OWN SAKE...

HONORING GOD IN WORSHIP EACH LORD'S DAY WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE...

1. IT WILL STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH...

- a) The Disciples were overjoyed when they saw Jesus Sunday morning
risen from the grave... Alive from the Dead... (John 20:19–25)
- b) But Thomas Wasn't there—He Was Absent—He Missed One Sunday
- c) His Faith Was NOT Strengthened it was WEAKENED! He Wouldn't Believe!

2. IT WILL BLESS YOU SPIRITUALLY...

- a) When the Disciples Saw Jesus He Blessed Them
- b) Being in His Presence Gave them Joy and Peace
- c) And Jesus Breathed on them... giving them the Holy Spirit (John 20:21–23)

3. IT WILL BRING YOU CLOSER TO GOD

- a) Jesus said, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."
(Matthew 18:20)
- b) This is a Blessing from Jesus Given to those Who Gather IN HIS NAME.
- c) But this blessing is not given to those who stay home and do not gather in His Name

4. IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE COMFORT & ENCOURAGEMENT YOU NEED

- a) When Peter Was Imprisoned—the church was praying for him...
- b) Their Prayers were answered and an Angel Released Him from Prison
- c) The First Place Peter Went was to where the Church was Assembled!
- d) He Knocked on the door while they were still praying for His release!
- e) A little girl opened the door and Peter is standing there—she is so surprised she shuts the door and runs to tell everyone Peter is there!
- f) They Don't Believe their Prayers were answered so quickly! Somebody had to goon the doo for Peter! and They Were All Encouraged!

5. YOUR FAITHFUL ATTENDANCE IS YOUR LIVING SACRIFICE TO GOD

- And Will Help You GROW in HOPE, in FAITH, in LOVE and GOOD WORKS
- So You Can Find Your Gift and Use it to the Glory of God
- For YOUR Good and GOD'S Glory! (1 Peter 2:5)

**EX: There is a table set at Chik-fillet when you walk in... a Table set for a MIA soldier
It is set to Honor their Sacrifice... They Gave their Life to Defend Our Country...**

I think about that empty table set... when I think about empty pews that could be filled

I think about this table set for Jesus... in Honor of what He did For Us at the cross

Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of me."

CONCLUSION:

- 1. (Heb 12:2) Jesus went to the Cross 'for the joy that was set before Him'**
 - a. What Joy? He Was Going to the Cross!
 - b. The Joy for the Fact that He Was Doing the Will of the Father...
 - c. and that His blood would Set the Captives Free and create a redeemed family of God!
- 2. Jesus Went to the Cross for You and I...**
 - a. You are the Joy that Jesus Looked to Beyond the Suffering of Cross
 - b. The Joy the Angels Share Over 1 Soul who is saved!
 - c. Jesus Announced His Mission from Isaiah...
- 3. To Set the Captives Free, Give Sight to the Blind,
Freedom to the Oppressed, to Heal the Broken Hearted**

Jesus Read from Isaiah the Mission He Accomplished at the cross (Lk 4:17-19)
- 4. Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in My name,
I am there in the midst of them." (Mt 18:20)**