

I. Introduction

A. The primary purpose of the church is this: to make each other more like Jesus Christ in every way.

1. This leads to worship-Romans 12:1-2
2. This leads to holiness-1 John 3:1-3
3. This leads to evangelism-Acts 11:25-26
4. This leads to body-ministry-1 Corinthians 12:14-27
 - a) This is where each person, being made into the likeness to Jesus Christ, contributes, like organs in a body, to the whole being like Christ.
 - b) Therefore, each person has a two-fold goal in life:
 - (1) Become conformed to Jesus Christ.
 - (2) Contribute to others in the church being conformed to Jesus Christ.

B. But how do we do this?

1. How do I conform myself to Christ?
 - a) Study-1 John 2:6
 - (1) The only way to know how He walked is to examine His walking.
 - (2) 2 Corinthians 3:18
 - b) Prayer-Ephesians 6:18
 - c) Faithfulness-Hebrews 3:5-6
2. How do I conform others to Christ?
 - a) Speak truth-Ephesians 5:25
 - b) Admonish-1 Thessalonians 5:14
 - c) Obey-1 John 5:2
 - d) Pray-Ephesians 6:18

C. We learn these things, and there are more, from Jesus Himself.

1. Here is our lesson for the day: Thomas.
2. The way that Jesus works with Thomas is highly instructive for us as well.
- 3.

II. v. 16 “Therefore, Thomas, the one being called “Didymus,” said to the fellow disciples, “Let us also go away in order that we might perish (along) with Him.”

- A. For some reason, John highlights Thomas.
 - B. This is only one verse.
 - 1. Why?
 - 2. How does this affect Jesus’ raising of Lazarus?
 - C. The scene shifts from Lazarus, Martha, and Mary to Thomas.
 - D. Who was this man? (This will help us to understand why John refers to this outburst).
 - 1. “Didymus” = “Twin”
 - a) History tells us that he is called the “twin of Jesus.”
 - (1) That could be speculative.
 - (2) Scripture does not say.
 - b) He may have been a twin of one of the other apostles, but he is not mentioned as a brother to any of the apostles.
 - 2. He is often named with Matthew, the tax-collector, in the apostle lists of Matthew 10 and Mark 3.
 - 3. But not so in Acts 1.
 - 4. He is named most in the gospel of John, which makes it interesting to study.
 - E. What do we know?
 - 1. We know that he is highlighted in John
 - 2. We know that he was a twin to somebody.
 - 3. We know that he is seen in crucial moments in the gospels.
 - 4. We know that he was not a man of weakness, but of great conviction.
- Let’s see him as he grows in the gospels.
- 5. First mention: Matthew 10:3
 - a) He is often mentioned in the middle group.
 - b) There is little commentary.
 - c) He is chosen by Jesus in order to be His apostle, emissary.
 - 6. This means that all that is spoken of the disciples in the gospels is spoken of him.
 - a) He was to become a fisher of men-Matthew 4
 - b) He was to go out and preach, being sent out by Christ to do so in Matthew 11:1

c) He was full of weaknesses, just as the rest of the men-
John 6:18-19.

7. But notice the progression.

a) First mention in dialogue: John 11:16

(1) Here, Thomas is ready to die with Jesus.

(a) Just like the rest of the disciples, he does not know what Jesus is doing.

(b) He assumes that since Jesus is bent on returning to Judea, then He will die.

(c) Thus, seemingly a man of action, he resolves to die with Him.

(i) But, notice that he does not address the Lord,

(ii) Thomas addresses the other apostles.

(iii) He seems to be taking a leadership role here.

(a) This indicates a resolve that must have been characteristic of him.

(b) For one, besides Peter to speak up like this, shows leadership.

(2) Thomas, like the others, is bold, courageous, and strong...but misguided.

(a) He is still a self-made disciple.

(b) He is still a maverick.

b) The next mention is John 14:5

(1) Now, Jesus is promising to go away.

(2) Thomas wants to go to.

(3) He always wanted to go with Jesus.

(4) The answer as to the way had been in front of him all along.

c) Next, John 20:24-28

- F. Let's see Jesus as He is growing him, so we can learn.
1. Interesting.
 2. He was not with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them-v. 24
 - a) Why?
 - (1) Jesus was not there.
 - (2) Remember, he was tenacious.
 - b) He wanted to go where Jesus went.
 3. vv. 26-27
 - a) They convince Thomas to stay with them and stop being such a loner.
 - b) Jesus now appears to them all, on behalf of Thomas.
 4. v. 28 - Thomas' statement is one of the greatest in Scripture of the nature of Jesus Christ.
 5. v. 29 - Thomas' maverick faith is not nearly as blessed as the sightless faith of disciples who have not seen Jesus.
- II. The progression of obedience and maturity took a route like this:
- A. Simple acquiescence to Jesus.
 - B. Aroused solidarity to Jesus.
 - C. Bold confrontation of the enemies of Jesus.
 - D. Blind understanding of words of Jesus.
 - E. Humbled acknowledgement of the truth of Jesus.
- III. The rest of the NT:
- A. Does Jesus follow this same pattern in the church?
 1. Yes.
 2. As Jesus is building His church, He is doing so by the maturing of the saints.
 - a) Ephesians 4:11-16
 - b) Ephesians 2:19-20
 - B. This is the reason for trials and testing:
 1. James 1:5
 2. 1 Peter 4:15-19
 3. 2 Peter 2:4-9

III. Conclusion