

## COMING LATE TO THE PARTY

### Introduction:

John 20:19-24 (NLT) <sup>19</sup> That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. <sup>20</sup> As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! <sup>21</sup> Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven. <sup>24</sup> One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came."

### THREE THINGS JESUS BRINGS TO THE PARTY

1. JESUS GIVES \_\_\_\_\_.

John 14:27 (NLT) <sup>27</sup> "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 troubled or afraid."

John 20:21a (NLT) <sup>21</sup> Again he said, "Peace be with you.."

2. JESUS GIVES AN \_\_\_\_\_.

John 20:21b <sup>21</sup> As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."

- The purpose of Jesus' appearance: \_\_\_\_\_ His disciples.
- Two significant things about the church's charter:
  1. Jesus needs the \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. The church needs \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1500 reformation was a reformation of the \_\_\_\_\_
- 2010 Reformation is a reformation of the \_\_\_\_\_

3. JESUS GIVES \_\_\_\_\_.

John 20: 22-23 (NLT) <sup>22</sup> Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

- Only God \_\_\_\_\_
- The church shares the Gospel of forgiveness with \_\_\_\_\_

### THREE THINGS ABOUT THE CHARACTER OF THOMAS

1. Thomas was \_\_\_\_\_.

John 11: 14-16 (NLT) <sup>14</sup> So he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there, for now you will really believe. Come, let's go see him." <sup>16</sup> Thomas, nicknamed the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let's go, too—and die with Jesus."

- A pessimist burns his bridges \_\_\_\_\_ he gets to them!

2. Thomas was \_\_\_\_\_.

John 14: 4-5 (NLT) <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going."  
<sup>5</sup> "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

- He was willing to ask \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Thomas was \_\_\_\_\_.

John 20:25 (NLT) <sup>25</sup> They told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side."

- A Palestinian "Missourian": \_\_\_\_\_!
- Faith cannot rest on \_\_\_\_\_.
- Two things happened in the disciples' response to Thomas
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_

### **CONCLUSION:**

John 20:26-29 (NLT) <sup>26</sup> Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said. <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!"

<sup>28</sup> "My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed. <sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

- Five observations
  1. You cannot shut out \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. God knows \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Your conditions disappear once you see \_\_\_\_\_.
  4. Once you see Jesus you want to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.
  5. You are not \_\_\_\_\_ late.

John 20:29 (TEV) "Jesus said to him, 'Do you believe because you see Me? How happy are those who believe without seeing Me!'"