

Hillcrest Life Groups

Sermon Discussion Guide

Sunday, November 22, 2020



Three Ways to Miss Jesus

Matthew 12:38-50

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Get to Know You

What is something you wish you had seen but never had a chance?

Study the Book

I have to see it to believe it.

Read Matthew 12:38-42

Here's the problem with the "I've got to see it to believe it" attitude: It rarely reflects a sincere and genuine desire to learn the truth by objectively examining the evidence. Most often, this attitude masks a willful determination not to believe—a stubborn refusal to take the risk that faith requires.

Pastor Tom

What is the difference between the Pharisees in this passage and doubting Thomas in John 20:24-29?

Jesus blesses those who will not see His resurrected body in verse 29. What have we "seen" that reveals the truth of Christ's resurrection and salvation?

I have to clean up my life first.

Read Matthew 12:43-45

Jesus is speaking symbolically here, as well as literally. He's talking about more than demonology. He's also talking about the futility of attempting to clean your life without filling it first with the presence of God. It just doesn't work.

Pastor Tom

Why is it detrimental for the house to be unoccupied in these verses?

Who should occupy the house/order our lives? (see below)

How do we continually submit to the occupation and control of the Holy Spirit?

I'll just watch from a distance.

Read Matthew 12:46-50

Though his mother doesn't fall into this category, some people in Jesus' family were not devout followers during his ministry on earth. In this story, we read that they wanted to speak to him, so they stood outside and called for him. This is interesting: Why were they outside? Why weren't they inside, listening to him teach? It's because he was their brother. They thought they knew him, and they didn't really take him

seriously. Because of their familiarity with Jesus, his brothers were somewhat cynical, somewhat jaded.

Pastor Tom

What comes to mind as you think about moving beyond watching and observation toward involvement in what God is doing?

How have you served God in the past, and how are you serving Him now?

Group Application and Discussion

What attitude do you struggle with in your relationship with Christ?

I have to see it to believe it.

I have to clean up my life first.

I'll just watch from a distance.

Personal Reflection and Application

How can you grow in your commitment to serve Christ? Can you grow in your current volunteer setting? Is there a particular area you would like to volunteer? What is your next step?