

Why Go To Church?

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What do you do when someone says, “I don’t believe you have to go to church to be a good Christian”? If you disagree and say that they have to go to church, people might accuse you of being judgmental and holier than thou. On the other hand if you agree, people might accuse you of being wishy-washy and not taking your faith seriously.

One response might be found in the parable Jesus told about two men who each went out and built a house. The first man built his house on sand and was very happy with his house until the wind began to howl and the rain began to beat against the house. The water washed away the sand underneath the house and the house came crashing down.

Meanwhile, the man who took the time to build his house on solid rock came through the storm safe and sound. The lesson is simple. You don’t have to go to church to be a good Christian. You can build your house on sand. You’d just better hope that the weather in your world is always going to be bright and sunny. The last thing you want is to find yourself in the middle of one of life’s storms and not have a foundation that will get you through that storm. The last thing you want is to find yourself having to shore up your foundation in the middle of such storms.

The reality is, I don’t go to church to be a good Christian. I go to church so I can be a better Christian. I go to church so I can be encouraged to be more than I think I can be. I go to church when the weather is good so my faith will be strong when the weather is bad.

A preacher once shared at a high school graduation, “Young people, you may not think you’re going to die, but you are. One of these days, they’re going to take you to the cemetery, drop you in a hole, throw dirt on your face and go back to the church and eat potato salad. Sooner or later everyone comes face to face with the potato salad promise. The question is do you want to face the potato salad promise alone or with God?”

I go to church because I want a faith that brings me closer to the God who is going to challenge me when life gets to be too comfortable and comforts me when life gets to be too challenging.