

# The Servant



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*The purpose of this newsletter is to pass along information and ideas to help the Lord's servants as they minister to others. Feel free to use any of it in your ministry*

## "συναγο"

### The Place of Last Resort.

*"And Judas also, who betrayed him, knew the place; for Jesus often resorted there with his disciples" John 18:1*

Sometimes people go to church only as a "last resort." If that is the case, I hope they find, not only what they are looking for, but also what they need. Judas found what he was looking for, but not what he needed.

The Mount of Olives was the "place of last resort." The Bible tells us that "Jesus often resorted there." It was a beautiful "resort." What do people look for in a resort? The English dictionary defines resort as 1. A place to which people go often, customarily, or generally: especially, a place to which people go for rest or relaxation. 2. A person or thing that one goes or turns to for help, support, etc. 3. It comes from two words *re* "again" and *sortire* "to go out." A local church should be a kind of "resort". Judas went to church that night for all the wrong reasons, not realizing that he was destroying his own place of last resort.

In the original language, the word resort is συναγο sunago is derived from two words συν sun which means with or together denoting union as in association or companionship. The second word is αγο ago and means bring, take in, or gather. So συναγο means to gather together and a "resort" is a place of gathering together for rest and refreshment. Is not this what the local church should be?

Notice how this word "resort" has been translated in other places.

It means to gather (in) things

- 1) "And the kingdom of heaven is like a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind." Mat. 13:
- 2) "And six years thou shalt sow thy land, and shalt

gather in fruits of it;" Ex 23:10

- 3) "Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable." Mat. 3:12
- 4) "And not many days after that, the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living." Lk. 15:13.

It means to bring or call together

*(continued)*

### Gathered

Where two or three are gathered  
Together in his name  
He promised to be with us  
and this his word we claim.

We turn our eyes to Jesus  
and thank him that he came  
And shed his blood to save us  
sing glory to his name

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You Jesus  
Thank You for saving me  
Thank You, Thank You, Thank You Jesus  
Thank You for Calvary  
Thank You for the love you gave  
Thank You for the grace to save  
Thank's for victory o'r the grave  
Thank You for saving me

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(continued from front)

- 1) "Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers." Mat. 27:27
- 2) "For they are the spirits of demons, working miracles, that go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Rev. 16:14
- 3) "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were filled the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness." Acts 4:31

It means to be taken in "For I was hungry and ye gave me food; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and ye took me in..." Matt. 25:35 (συνηγάγετε).

The church is and can be called a "gathering place" as in James 2:2 where it is called an assembly.

This "gathering place" or assembly is a place of last resort for many people. When they come, may they find Jesus and not Judas. May they see warmth and not weapons (Jn. 18:3). May they find see disciples gathered around the one who is the Light and not find angry bands carrying a torch for any religion of sectarian error. May they find kisses that are sincere, kindness that is genuine, and love that is large enough for those who need it most.

Jesus himself asked the question "whom seek ye?" They were looking for "Jesus, of Nazareth." We know him to be more. He is Jesus (Savior) of the World. The second question Jesus asked is as important as the first. "Why are thou come?" In the quietness and stillness that should envelope us as we "gather" each Lord's day we should consider the mission of the church, the motive of the church and the method of the church. "Who seek

ye?" I look for Jesus the Lord of Glory. "Why art thou come?" (Matt. 26:50). I come to bow down and worship thee, oh, LORD. The third question Jesus asked is important if the church is to be a "Resort" where we can rest. "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matt. 26:53). When we consider the armies of the heavenly host dressed in battle array just waiting for the signal of the Commander and Chief, we may allow our feeble weapons to fall to the ground and rest in our Savior. We need not resort to carnal tool or worldly weapons to do the work of God.

"Judas knew the place" (Jn. 18:2), too bad he did not know the Grace. When we gather in our local assembly, may we know both the place to find him and the grace to mind him. □

#### Gal.4:4-5

*"In the fullness of time, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that are under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."* Gal. 4:4-5

"God sent forth his Son."  
That's God With Us  
"made of a woman"  
That's God Of Us  
"made under the law"  
That's God For Us  
"that we might receive"  
That's God In Us

That God would even think to walk where we walk is astounding. That he take upon himself the form of a man and would feel what we feel is incredible. That he would die for our sins is beyond human comprehension. That Christ would dwell in our hearts, is nothing less than—why, it is nothing less than faith

## Dwelling

*"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith..."*

How can the God that made the universe fit within this tiny sphere of the human heart? How can the Lord of all, of Heaven and earth, and things under the earth, dwell in such a little space you ask? The answer is, by faith.

Faith does not make God smaller, it makes us bigger. Large is the soul that would welcome such a guest. Small is the person and the life that turns him away. Faith throws open the door, and wide the gate to "Let the King of glory come in."

The widow who made room for God by faith, and was willing to give her last little handful of meal (1Ki. 17:15) to the prophet saw her store increase. Faith lets God in, and when God comes in a man he is always larger.

When we fill our minutes with God's word those minutes are not wasted. The one who gives God his time finds he does not have less of it, but more. "In the beginning," John says "was the Word." We are also told that "the Word was with God." When the Word is with us, then we are with God. In faith makes room for the Almighty.

*Of all the places God could dwell  
He would dwell within my heart  
And if He does my life will tell  
And faith is the way to start*



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