

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25

6. Gathering Together



\*Without Context.

## TODAY'S VERSES: Hebrews 10:24-25

Luke 14:26

Colossians 3:13

James 5:16

Proverbs 12:15

Matthew 26:36-38

Ephesians 6:10-16

## **RECAP & DISCUSSION STARTERS:**

Hebrews 10:24-25 ("not neglecting to meet together"), was frequently cited during COVID to argue for in-person church attendance. However, this misses the deeper Biblical context. In the New Testament era, churches were small house gatherings where everyone knew each other intimately (which is different from today's mobile, anonymous church culture where people can attend services while remaining essentially unknown). The passage is primarily about living in authentic Christian community. The modern church, while beneficial in many ways, has enabled people to hide behind programs and attendance rather than engage in true discipleship through relationships. Larry Osborne gives five forgotten truths:

- 1. We have a personal but not private relationship with God
- 2. We balance healthy privacy with being known
- 3. Some decisions are too important to make alone
- 4. Some trials are too hard to bear alone
- 5. Some temptations are too strong to resist alone

What we need are Gospel-centered communities.

- How has our modern mobility (cars, technology, choices) both enhanced and damaged our ability to form deep, lasting relationships? What have we gained and lost compared to less mobile generations?
- Where's the line between appropriate privacy and harmful isolation?
- When do helpful church programs, activities, or even spiritual disciplines become substitutes for authentic relationships rather than supplements to them?
- In what areas of your life do you find yourself managing your image rather than being authentic? What would change if people truly knew the "real you"?
- How do we discern which decisions need community input?
   What makes someone qualified to speak into your life?
- In Jesus' time, community was geographically forced you couldn't easily leave. Today it requires intentional effort to stay. How do we create the benefits of "forced" community (working things out, bearing with difficult people) in our choice-rich culture?