

When You Miss Someone in Heaven

Chris Fluitt - November 2, 2025 @ Disciples Christian Church Plano, Tx

Text: Hebrews 12:1-2; John 15:4-5

Big Idea: The ones we miss are not gone - they are safe with God, cheering us on, and their faith still speaks.

There's something about certain days that stir up memory.

We think of faces we miss, voices we can still hear, hands we wish we could hold again.

Maybe you've lost a parent, a grandparent, a spouse, or a friend.

And even though you know they're with the Lord, it still hurts - because love doesn't stop when life does.

Today's message is called "When You Miss Someone in Heaven."

Because the ache of missing someone is real - but so is the hope we have in Jesus.

All Saints Day isn't just about remembering who we've lost; it's about *thanking God* for the people who helped us see Jesus - and remembering that they're not gone - they're *with Him*.

Most people hear the word "*saint*" and think of someone else.

Someone holier. Someone from long ago.

But Scripture says otherwise. Paul called the messy, imperfect believers in Corinth *saints* - not because they were flawless, but because they were *connected* to Jesus.

So if *they* could be saints - why not *you*?

Saints aren't super-Christians. They're just followers who didn't quit.

They stayed close to Jesus, even when life got hard.

That's what we celebrate today - not perfection, but connection.

Let's look at Hebrews 12:1-2:

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”

We are *surrounded* - not alone, not forgotten.

There is a *great cloud of witnesses* around us.

Heaven isn't just watching - heaven is cheering.

What a wonderful promise we have in Jesus! Your loved ones who died in Christ are alive in His presence.

And somehow, in ways we can't fully see yet, their faith still echoes in your life.

When you run your race, they're shouting, "Keep going. Don't quit. We made it - and you will too!"

And the key to finishing the race is right there in the scripture: "*Fix your eyes on Jesus.*"

Every saint did that.

When they didn't know what else to do, they looked to Him.

That's what saints do - and that's what we can do too.

Now listen to Jesus in John 15:4-5:

"Remain in Me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine."

The saints weren't great because of their strength - they were great because they stayed *connected* to the source of life.

**And that connection doesn't stop at death.
They are still alive *in Him*.**

**Still connected. Still cheering. Still waiting
for the day when we'll all be together
again.**

OBJECT LESSON

**Now, I want to do something together that
helps us *feel* what this day is really about.**

(HAND OUT NOTE CARDS & PENS)

**On one side of that card, I want you to
write the name of someone you've lost -
someone who meant a lot to you.**

**It might be a parent, a grandparent, a
friend, a mentor - someone whose life left
fingerprints on yours.**

Take a few seconds and write their name.

Now, flip the card over.

On this side, write down what made them special.

Maybe they were forgiving.

Maybe they made you laugh.

Maybe they prayed for you.

Maybe they showed you what love looks like.

Hold that card in your hands for a moment.

That person mattered to you.

They mattered to God.

They made a difference.

Now, I want to show you mine.

Mine says *Hazel Fluitt*. She was my grandmother.

She was a woman of prayer. She cared for others. She helped single moms and adopted children. She loved people deeply.

And now, I'm going to do something that might feel uncomfortable.

[Rip the card in half.]

When I tear this card, it's jarring - it feels wrong.

Because that's what loss feels like.

When someone dies, it feels like their name and their goodness have been ripped away from us.

But let me ask you:

Is her name gone?

Does God forget her name?

Do the things she did - the love, the kindness, the faith - disappear?

No.

That card was just paper.

**Her life, her soul, her legacy - those are
*alive with God.***

**And it's the same with every name written
here today.**

**Our bodies wear out, but what we did in
God's name will last forever.**

**Our love, our prayers, our faith - they live
on in Him.**

That's what the saints remind us:

***We are known. We are remembered. We
are alive in Christ.***

**So what does this mean for you - especially
when the grief is fresh and the empty chair
feels too close?**

**It means we can be *grateful* instead of
hopeless.**

We can thank God for the people we miss, even as we feel the pain of missing them.

Grief doesn't mean you lack faith. It means you loved deeply.

But faith whispers, "*This isn't the end.*"

Today we pause to do two things:

1. Thank God for the saints who shaped us.

2. Take up the race they left behind.

Run your race. Keep your eyes on Jesus. Because one day the story that began in them will continue through you - and someone else will thank God for *your* faith.

As we close, here are 2 calls to action.

#1 - Thank God for the saints who helped you see Jesus.

Take time this week to whisper a prayer of thanks for those whose faith shaped yours.

And then, reach out to one living “saint” — someone who has encouraged your faith — and tell them, “*Thank you for showing me Jesus.*”

That one act of gratitude honors both heaven and earth.

#2 - Fix your eyes on Jesus and run.

For some of you, that means coming to faith for the very first time.

Maybe you’ve been around church, but you’ve never really *started* the race.

Today is your moment to look up and say, “Jesus, I want to run with You. I want to follow You.”

And for others, maybe your faith has drifted.

Today is your chance to fix your focus again.

This is your moment to say, “Lord, I’m still here. I’m still running. Help me finish strong.”

Let’s take a moment for both of those responses right now - as we stand together and sing our final song together.

CLOSING MOMENT

Let’s take a quiet moment.

Hold your card one more time.

Whisper the name written on it to God.

“Lord, thank You for them.

Thank You for the way their faith shaped mine.

Help me live in a way that keeps faith alive for someone else.”

Let’s pray.

“Jesus, thank You for the saints - those we’ve loved, those we’ve lost, those

who've gone before us.

Thank You that they are alive in You and part of that great cloud of witnesses.

Give us strength to keep running our race.

Help us stay connected to You, just like they did.

Turn our grief into gratitude, our memories into mission, and our hearts toward heaven.

Amen.”

BENEDICTION

May you go today remembering that the people you've loved and lost are not gone — they are alive with God, cheering you on.

May you carry their faith forward by living yours fully.

And as you leave this place, go run your race with gratitude, with hope, and with your heart set on Him.

Amen.

WORD OF INSTITUTION

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus instituted communion by taking bread, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me," and then taking the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.