



SERMON NOTES

THE EMPTY CHURCH

WHAT NOW?

APRIL 12, 2020

Matthew 22:34-40; Revelation 2; Matthew 29:19-20

□ THE EMPTY QUESTION

- “Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying” – Matthew 22:35-36
- The question was empty because it wasn’t SINCERE
- “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”
- “Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’” – Matthew 22:37
- The first commandment is WORSHIP
- “And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” – Matthew 22:39
- The Second Commandment is SERVICE
- These are the first 2 of FIVE PURPOSES of *the* church; to love God and love others
- If we continue to ask “empty” questions, we’ll become an empty church; one without purpose

□ THEIR EMPTY CHURCH

- They Seven Churches in Revelation
 - **Ephesus** – The Loveless Church
 - **Smyrna** – The Persecuted Church
 - **Pergamos** – The Compromising Church
 - **Thyatira** – The Corrupt Church
 - **Sardis** – The Dead Church
 - **Philadelphia** – The Faithful Church
 - **Laodicea** – The Lukewarm Church
- Ephesus, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis and Laodicea were “*empty*” churches
- The churches represent different kinds of believers
- We need to check to see if we fit the description
- “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.” – II Corinthians 13:5
- Ask the LORD to search you
- “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.” – Psalm 139:23-24

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□ **THE EMPTIED CHURCH**

- “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” – Matthew 28:18
- Jesus rose with **ALL POWER**
- He has the **AUTHORITY** to rule in our lives
- With His authority, He gives COMMANDS
- “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...” – Matthew 28:19a
- The third purpose is **EVANGELISM**
- “...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” – Matthew 28:19b
- The fourth purpose is **FELLOWSHIP** (Philippians 2:1-6)
- “...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” – Matthew 28:19c
- The fifth purpose is **DISCIPLESHIP**
- So what now? We need to be emptied; **POURED OUT**
- Jesus was **poured out** on Calvary’s Cross
- “But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.” – John 19:34
- Paul was **poured out** as a drink offering
- “Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.” – Philippians 2:17
- “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.” – II Timothy 4:6
- We need to be poured out (emptied) in the **5 PURPOSES** of the church: **WORSHIP, SERVICE, EVANGELISM, FELLOWSHIP** and **DISCIPLESHIP**



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