

“When Empty Places Become Holy Spaces”

Hebrews 10:19–22

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain... let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.”

1. THE EMPTY COURT –

Matthew 21:12-13 NKJV 12 Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 13 And He said to them, “It is written, *‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’*”

- Court of the Gentiles meant for worship.
- Jesus clears out noise, corruption, and distraction.
- **Lesson:** God removes what hinders our worship and relationship.
- **Scripture Callout:** *“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”* —
Isaiah 56:7 NKJV Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices *Will* be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

2. THE EMPTY HOLY OF HOLIES –

Matthew 27:50-51 NKJV 50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. 51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,

- Veil torn; the inner room found empty.
- Christ becomes the true Mercy Seat.
Romans 3:25 NKJV whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,
- **Lesson:** Access to God is open through Christ.
- **Scripture Callout:** *“Enter by a new and living way.”* —
Hebrews 10:19-20 NKJV 19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,

3. The Empty Manger

Luke 2:7 NKJV And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

- God does not force Himself into crowded hearts already full of pride, distraction, or self-importance. He comes into the ordinary where there is room—where humility has cleared a place, where emptiness waits quietly.
- The manger reminds us that emptiness is not absence; it is an invitation.

4. THE EMPTY TOMB *Matthew 28:1–6*

Matthew 28:1-6 NKJV 1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first *day* of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. 4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead *men*. 5 But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

- The empty tomb declares victory over death.
- Jesus is the First Fruits of resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:20 NKJV But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

- **Lesson:** Emptiness becomes new life.
- **Scripture Callout:** “*He is not here; He is risen.*”

5. THE GOD-SHAPED EMPTY PLACE

Ecclesiastes 3:11 NKJV He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

- God placed eternity in every human heart.
- People try to fill it wrongly—only God fits.
- **Lesson:** Christ fills the inner emptiness with purpose, identity, and hope.
- **Scripture Callout:** “*God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.*” —

Romans 5:5 NKJV Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- Empty places reveal what truly matters.
- God clears space so we can worship.
- Emptiness invites deeper fellowship with God.
- God turns emptiness into resurrection hope.
- Every empty place becomes a holy place when God fills it.

God transforms empty places into holy spaces—restoring worship, opening access, filling our hearts, and revealing resurrection hope.